



Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2025

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Landon Chavis (virtual)
Mr. Kurt Davis (Chair)
Dr. Elgin Dixon
Mr. Gary Evans
Mr. James Futch
Ms. Traci Martin
Ms. Kerry McCarty (Secretary/Treasurer)
Ms. Keri Orvin (Vice Chair)
Mr. Lonnie Roberts
Dr. Chris Roppe
Mr. Derrin Wheeler

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Sara Waters
Mr. Sidney Wildes

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Jessica Boatright
Mr. Matt Carter (virtual)
Dr. Ryan Flowers
Mr. Scottie Graham
Mr. Marty Mullis (virtual)
Dr. Sarah Beth Swain

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Kevin Ellis
Mr. Oakley Perry
Mr. Perry White

SPCCA STAFF

Ms. Jamey Collins (CEO)
Ms. Amanda Towns (On-site Coordinator)

GUESTS

Mr. Don Wilson (CPTC)
Miss Addison Towns (Emergency Medical Responder Student)
Ms. Futch

CALL TO ORDER

The Southern Pines College and Career Academy (SPCCA) Board of Directors met Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 1:38pm. Mr. Kurt Davis called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He introduced Dr. Elgin Dixon to the Board. Dr. Dixon will serve as the interim Superintendent of Appling County School System from October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. A quorum of voting members was present.

INVOCATION

The invocation was provided by Mr. James Futch.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion to approve by Mr. Lonnie Roberts, a second by Dr. Chris Roppe, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion to approve by Ms. Keri Orivn, a second by Mr. James Futch, minutes of the August 13, 2025, SPCAA Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

BOARD TRAINING

SPCCA staff introduced Mr. Don Wilson, CPTC Program Director for the Paramedicine Department. Mr. Wilson discussed the urgent need for EMS professionals in our region, the growth of the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) program, and how the program is helping to build a future workforce pipeline. He also emphasized the importance of recognizing EMS services as an essential service, something that is not currently the case in the state of Georgia. Mr. Wilson noted that there is ongoing legislative effort to change this and encouraged Board members to contact their legislators to share their support.

In addition, EMR student Addison Towns shared her experiences in the program and her future career goals. This presentation qualified as Board training for all members in attendance. Several Board members asked follow-up questions and expressed their appreciation to Mr. Wilson for his time and his efforts to address EMS workforce shortages in our communities.

BUDGET UPDATE (Handout Provided)

Ms. Kerry McCarty provided a budget update through August 31, 2025. At 16.67% of the year, we have encumbered 17% of the budget. As noted, the power bill is significantly higher than anticipated, reflecting the increased rates affecting everyone.

SPCCA staff members are doing their best to conserve energy; however, unless conditions change, we will need to utilize some carryover funds at the end of the year to cover the Georgia Power overage costs.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/SPCCA STAFF REPORT

Update from Regional Workforce Summit

Ms. Jamey Collins reported attending the *Regional Workforce Summit: Aligning Education, Workforce & Economic Development*, hosted by Coastal Pines Technical College and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. Key takeaways included the projection that 4.5 million jobs in Georgia may be impacted by automation, highlighting the importance of preparing skilled laborers for careers that are not easily replaced by technology.

Regional indicators reviewed at the summit emphasized the strength of dual enrollment opportunities and the number of college credits earned by students at graduation, positioning our region well in terms of resources and opportunities. High-demand careers identified include

skilled labor, healthcare, and manufacturing, which rank among the top five for 2025 and are projected to remain in the top five through 2050.

It was further noted that current programs offered at SPCCA align well with long-term workforce needs. Apprenticeship programs through CPTC were highlighted as a proven strategy for training and retaining quality employees, offering participants the opportunity to earn while they learn, while providing employers with a pipeline of highly skilled workers trained to meet specific industry needs. Ms. Collins informed the Board that Ms. Halie Parker with CPTC will be conducting a training session at the December Board meeting on the Apprenticeship Program and its benefits to both students and employers.

Parent/Community Open House Event (flyer)

Ms. Jamey Collins shared that SPCCA will cohost a Parent and Community Open House with Coastal Pines Technical College on October 9th at 6:00 PM. She invited Board members to attend and noted that the event has been shared with all three of our partner school systems, which are promoting it within their communities. Ms. Collins expressed hope for strong attendance and emphasized that the event will provide an opportunity to engage parents and raise awareness of the dual enrollment opportunities available to students.

Geometry Pathway Update

Dr. Ryan Flowers reached out at the end of the summer to inquire about the Carpentry course numbers being submitted to align with high school course numbers. This request followed the state's new approval allowing students to fulfill their Geometry requirement for graduation by successfully completing and passing all courses in the Carpentry pathway. Coastal Pines Technical College submitted the request to have the course numbers added to the course directory, and it was approved. This now provides an additional option for high schools to utilize, if needed.

SPCCA Lunch and Learn

Ms. Amanda Towns reported that SPCCA will host its first annual Lunch and Learn event. Attendees will include high school CTAE Directors, dual enrollment coordinators, and other school staff identified by the high schools. Representatives from Coastal Pines Technical College will also participate. The event will take place on October 21st and will serve as a platform for discussion, suggestions, and collaborative planning for SPCCA.

Marketing and Promotional Updates

An update was provided on efforts to promote and market SPCCA programs. Board packets included a QR flyer designed to help students, families, and the community easily connect with SPCCA through Facebook and the school website. The SPCCA Facebook page now has over 500 followers.

Staff participated in Bacon County's Parent Dual Enrollment meeting earlier this month and are preparing for the upcoming Open House event. In August, half of Appling County's 9th-grade class toured SPCCA and CPTC. Upcoming visits include Jeff Davis High School's 10th-grade class, with half attending in November and the remainder in January.

In addition, Nate with CPTC has been on campus this week filming additional program videos featuring Carpentry Fundamentals, Salon and Spa Specialist, Criminal Justice Specialist, and Basic Electrical Technician. SPCCA staff will share those videos as soon as they are available.

OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no additional discussion.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Submitted by:



Ms. Kerry McCarty
Treasurer/Secretary