

Salish Kootenai College Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2026
Big Knife Board Room

Members Present: Eldena Bear Don't Walk, Chair of the Board; Germaine White, 1st Vice Chair; Vernon Finley, 2nd Vice Chair; Jim Durglo, Selina Kenmille, ArriAnna Matt, Janeal McDonald

Members Absent: None

Other's Present: Michael Munson, President; Loni Grant, Board Recording Secretary; Audrey Plouffe, Vice President of Business Affairs; Antony Berthelote, Vice President Enrollment Management Services, Eva Oruste; and Steve Dupuis

Michael Munson started with a prayer.

Meeting Call to Order

Eldena Bear Don't Walk, Chair of the Board, called the SKC Board of Directors meeting to order at 12:35pm.

Open for Groups and Individuals

Update on Headwaters Tech Hub – STEP project – Dr. Antony Berthelote and Eva Oruste.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Germaine White to approve the agenda for the January 23, 2026 Board meeting. Second by JaNeal McDonald. Vote 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

Motion by Germaine White to approve the November December 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Second by JaNeal McDonald. Vote 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

Old Business

Updates:

1. Planning of the Catherine Mathias Hamel School of Nursing dedication is scheduled for
We will begin planning for a dedication in April, the morning of the Board meeting.
2. Per Board Request – Requested Financial Documents for the board to review (revisit in the future):
 - a) Assets by Category
 - b) List of GrantsThe board discussed what SKC will do with the land. (Food sovereignty)
3. Policies
 - a. Per a motion passed on 12.5.25, we returned to the Policy Committee process (165.00 Policy Review) will return to review the policies instead of hiring a contractor to update the policies.
 - b. SKC's Cultural Leave (253.00) policy will be reviewed by the SKC Policy Committee to be evaluated to align with CSKT's Ordinance 69D. After the SKC

Policy Committee reviews and determines amendments, it will bring the proposed amendment to the Board as soon as possible.

c. Employee Policies are being reviewed.

4. Building Sustainable Pathways for Native and At-Risk Youth at SKC – Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation grant received. Steve Dupuis gave a brief overview.
 - a) Beginning with hiring a 1-year Project Director to lead the facilitation, synthesis, and planning efforts for sustainable youth development and campus-wide efforts.
 - b) The grant will also hire an additional person for Admissions, Recruitment, and Early College efforts and sustainability, as these areas are reconsidered and expanded.
 - c) Gaps Analysis will help consider potential changes to the organizational structure.
5. Marketing and Communications Strategist position update
 - a) SKC held interviews and a candidate was offered the position.
 - b) Newsletter update (Loni/Tee working on it).
6. President's Report (SKC payroll deductions were shared with CSKT)
 - A. Consent Agenda – Quarterly Reports from Executive Council
 1. Human Resources Report: Rethinking the Exit interview process
 2. Business Affairs – Finance & Business Report
 3. Academic Affairs & Institutional Effectiveness – Accreditation & Quality Assurance
 4. Enrollment Management & Student Affairs
 5. Institutional Advancement

New Business

A. Review Board (& Executive Council) Priorities for 2026

B. Invited conversation with SKC's Board for Institutional Advancement (30 minutes) regarding Board Priorities for 2026 – The Institutional Advancement Board was unable to join the meeting today, but will be rescheduled for a future date.

C. Parking Lot (for items that we are holding onto but are not currently actionable)

- a) Transition to Semester System – News has been shared with campus through dissemination of Leadership notes upon faculty return in January. Also shared with campus during In-Person Employee Meeting on Wednesday, January 21st. Stakeholder conversations will begin in February. Michael also mentioned that transitioning to semesters after the accreditation is complete.
- b) Food Sovereignty and Services – Conversations continue. Tim Ryan is involved extensively. Tim has been invited to the February Board meeting to provide an update.
- c) Séliš Ksanka Qlispé University (SKQU) Rebranding – News has been shared with campus through dissemination of Leadership notes upon faculty return in January. Also shared with campus during In-Person Employee Meeting on Wednesday, January 21st. Stakeholder conversations will begin in February. Germaine brought forth the need to really think through the rebranding process with DBA (grants, etc)

What's Coming Up

A. Key Dates & Events

1. February 3rd – 5th – AIHEC Legislative Summit
2. February 22nd – 24th – SKC is hosting the TRIO Aspire Conference
3. March 2nd – 5th – Achieve the Dream's Dream Conference in Portland
4. March 10th – 13th – Celebrating Salish Conference
5. March 13th – 14th – 2026 Spring AIHEC Board of Directors Meeting
6. March 14th – 18th – 2026 AIHEC Student Conference
7. March 16th – 27th – SKC Students' Spring Break
8. March 26th – Faculty Return with Spring Inservice
9. March 27th – Spring New Student Orientation
10. March 30th – Spring Classes Begin

B. Upcoming Board Meetings decided by the Board:

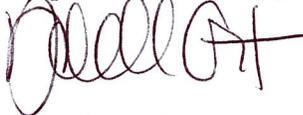
- a. February 20th
- b. March 20th
- c. April 10th

Meeting Adjourned at 3:05pm.

Motion by Germaine to adjourn. 2nd by Selina Voting 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions. Motion Carried.

Executive Session at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Yolanda M. Grant
SKC Board Recording Secretary

