EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

February 2, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Public Safety Institute – Building 8
3rd Floor – Board Room 301
Melbourne Campus

Present: Ronald Howse, Chair; Dr. Edgar Figueroa, Vice Chair; Dr. Kristine Zonka, and Dr. James H. Richey, Secretary
Absent: Bruce Deardoff, Winston Scott

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Howse called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and acknowledged three trustees present, verifying a quorum. Mr. Howse introduced Dr. Kristine Zonka and announced her trustee appointment by Governor Ron DeSantis. Mr. Howse gave a brief overview of Dr. Zonka's educational and professional background. Dr. Zonka stated that she is excited to offer her contributions to the Eastern Florida State College Board of Trustees. The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Figueroa so moved. Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. ***Action:*** motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A. Minutes, Board of Trustees Meeting – October 13, 2025

Mr. Howse inquired whether anyone had any comments or changes to the minutes and asked for a formal motion to approve the Board of Trustees minutes dated October 13, 2025. Dr. Figueroa motioned for approval. Dr. Zonka seconded the motion. Mr. Howse asked if there were any nays or abstentions. Dr. Zonka stated she would abstain. ***Action:*** motion carried with a 2-0-1 vote. Those voting in favor: Figueroa and Howse.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were two (2) public comment request forms timely received prior to the Board meeting requesting to address matters unrelated to agenda items:

1. Reverend Lynne Hartmann, 325 Banyan Way, Melbourne Beach, Florida. The speaker's comments pertained to the EMS program and vaccine religious exemptions.
2. Pastor Elizabeth Hunt, 3184 Lago Vista Drive, Melbourne, Florida. The speaker did not appear when called to make public comments.

Thereafter, Mr. Howse closed the public comments section of the meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Summary of Income and Expenditures through December 2025
B. Approval of Ratification of 2025-26 Prior Year Operating Budget Amendment
C. Approval of Board Reaffirmation of the College Mission Statement/Revision to Board Policy Governance Manual
D. Approval of Student Housing Fees/Charges FY 26/27

Mr. Howse inquired whether anyone wished to discuss or remove any of the consent agenda items. Hearing no requests, Mr. Howse asked for a motion to approve items A – D listed. A motion was made by Dr. Figueroa and seconded by Dr. Zonka. ***Action:*** motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025/2026 – Annual Presidential Performance, Employment Review

Mr. Howse opened the discussion, describing the latest projects over the last year, including the opening of the CITE Building at the Melbourne campus, the Tigers to Titans Welding Program at the Cocoa campus, and the ACE Building on the Titusville campus. Next, Dr. Figueroa referred to the 2025 Accomplishments booklet highlighting the growth and development of the College, the increasing number of students, and the Foundation giving $1.2 million in scholarships over the last year. Dr. Figueroa commended Dr. Richey on a job well done and emphasized his ability to embrace challenges that put him in situations to learn, adapt, and grow. Next, Dr. Zonka highlighted the need of workforce and stated the importance of continuing that mission. Dr. Zonka also recognized the leadership put forth by Dr. Richey and emphasized the importance of showcasing the accomplishments that EFSC has achieved, the organization's great impact on the community, and how the programs have expanded to meet the necessary educational needs. Mr. Howse noted there have been no tuition increases for 14 consecutive years, along with the continued growth the college has seen.

Mr. Howse asked Dr. Richey if he would consider staying an additional year as President. Dr. Richey stated he would be very honored to accept another year on his contract to serve as EFSC President and continue to move forward to get things done. Dr. Richey concluded by accepting the contract extension and thanking the trustees for their generous words and incredible support.

Mr. Howse then asked for a motion from the board granting authority to Mr. Howse as Chair to extend the president's contract through 2031 and to make any other revisions that are prudent and necessary in keeping with the contract's original intent and obligations. A motion was made by Dr. Figueroa and seconded by Dr. Zonka. Action: motion carried unanimously. Those voting in favor: Figueroa, Zonka, and Howse.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. EFSC Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Richey invited Dr. Phil Simpson to give the presentation on the 2025-2030 EFSC Strategic Plan.
Dr. Simpson reported that the previous 2022-2025 plan achieved numerous positive outcomes showing continued progress toward the set goals, while strengthening EFSC's position within the community and the Florida College System. Dr. Simpson explained the plan moving forward will remain firmly anchored to the EFSC mission and has been designed to intentionally support Dr. Richey's four critical priorities: to enhance the collegiate experience, foster student success, strengthen workforce readiness and cultivate collaboration and financial readiness. Dr. Simpson invited Dr. Mark Quathamer to speak on the implementation process of the new strategic plan.

Dr. Quathamer presented a slideshow detailing the planning stages and implementation of the strategic plan. Initial planning began in fall 2024 with campus-based meetings, which were followed by college-wide surveys to gather information, and culminated in a 30-page report presented to the strategic planning team. Next, in May 2025, a two-day planning retreat was held and bringing together staff, faculty, students, and community members to finalize the details for executing the new strategic plan for fall 2025. Dr. Quathamer emphasized the value of each of the four pillars and outlined the next steps for success.

Dr. Quathamer concluded the presentation by thanking everyone involved with the creation of the new strategic plan, taking leadership roles, and helping develop these initiatives.

B. Dental Program Expansion Update

Dr. Richey invited Mr. Jack Parker to give the presentation on the dental program expansion. Mr. Parker began with an overview of the current legislative funded projects. Next, Mr. Parker discussed the need for the expansion of the dental training facility, detailing the need to train more dental assistants and hygienists since the community is growing. The current facility is located on the Cocoa campus in a small 7,000 square foot space in building 20. The plan would be to relocate the program to building 3 on the Cocoa campus, doubling the space to 14,000 square feet. This will allow for as many as 30 training stations compared to the current 12 stations. The project would total $7.8 million, requesting $3.3 million from the State of Florida, $3.3 million from federal money, and $1.2 million from local community match. Mr. Parker concluded the presentation by sharing several quotes from community leaders expressing their support for the project.

C. Aerospace Center of Excellence (ACE) Update

Ms. Laura Maxwell introduced Mr. Russ DeGraw to give the update on the ACE project. Mr. DeGraw began with a brief overview of the building layout, and explained that the two programs associated with the ACE project are Aviation Maintenance and Aerospace Technology. The aviation side has received four classrooms, seven labs, an aircraft simulation, a computer lab, and a library. On the aerospace side, there will be one additional classroom and three labs. In the hangar, there will be two new classrooms and a tool room. Next, Mr. DeGraw detailed the timeline and reported that the project is on schedule and within budget, set to be completed March 31, 2026. Classes are set to begin for the fall 2026 semester. Mr. DeGraw completed the presentation with progression photos and gave details of each.

Dr. Richey expressed his excitement for the future of the programs, growth, and expansion at the Titusville campus.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Howse stated there was no old business.

VIII. DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION TRUSTEE REPORTS

A. EFSC Student Housing Corporation

Mr. Howse invited Mr. Jack Parker, Vice President of External Affairs, to give the report for the Student Housing Corporation. Mr. Parker began with an update regarding the most recent Housing Board of Directors meeting held on January 21, 2026. The board approved a recommendation of the fee changes. The board also received an excellent summary of the annual financial report by Carr, Riggs, and Ingram given by Christine Noll-Rhan.

Next, Mr. Parker reported that all rooms were fully occupied and facilities personnel were very responsive to all maintenance requests for the building. Facilities personnel were also conducting their bi-monthly AC filter changes. Periodic and frequent housing inspections were ongoing, which has reduced the number of damage reports. Health and safety inspections were conducted collaboratively by RAs, housing staff and facilities team.

Mr. Parker also reported that the recreation areas, game and theatre rooms, and sports courts continue to be very well utilized by the students. Mr. Parker thanked Dr. Sidoran and her Student Affairs team for moving forward with the student activities concepts. The upcoming events included a variety of cultural food events, a Valentine's Day event, spring-related activities, and special movie nights.

Lastly, Mr. Parker reported that Ms. Michelle Herrnkind was preparing to open summer contracts to get an early start on securing rooms for upcoming students.

B. EFSC Foundation

Dr. Figueroa invited Ms. Victoria Jones, EFSC Foundation Interim Executive Director, to give the report on the Foundation. Ms. Jones began with an update on the 12th Annual Golf Classic, held on November 7, 2025, at Duran Golf Club, which raised more than $158,000 for student scholarships. Mid-Florida Steel was the first-place team, second place was Merrill Lynch Coleman, and third place was Ajax Corporation. Ms. Jones thanked all the sponsors, players, and volunteers for a successful day. Next, Ms. Jones announced the 10th Annual Foundation Bar-b-que to be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, and invited everyone to attend. Ms. Jones also mentioned other activities to be offered at the event included a kid's zone, food trucks, drawing for baskets, and the band Hot Pink would be performing. The Collegiate Veterans Society would return for the Red, White, and Wheels Car Show. Ms. Jones thanked the community partners including Community Credit Union; Glover, Orndorff, and Flanagan; Orlando Health; and Ajax Corporation for their support.

Next, Ms. Jones reported on other planned events, starting with the Alumni, Fans, and Friends Night at the women's and men's basketball games. Ms. Jones gave special recognition to Community Credit Union for their continued partnership and hosting these events and thanked the athletics department, cheerleaders, and pep band for their participation in coordinating the halftime activities. The next scheduled event Ms. Jones announced was the Alumni Friends and Family Beach Cleanup, slated for April 4, 2026 and partnered with the Sea Turtle Preservation Society at Melbourne Beach. Lastly, the Titan Scholarship Reception, an event highlighting scholarship recipients and donors, will be held April 9, 2026, in the Student Union on the Melbourne Campus.

C. King Center for Performing Arts

Mr. Howse invited Bob Papke to give the report for the King Center. Mr. Papke began with a brief overview of the events and shows hosted since the last meeting highlighting *Sesame Street Live* and three performances of *The Nutcracker* which included an additional performance with The Space Coast Ballet. Other notable shows included *Justin Willman*, *Diana Krall*, and *Larry the Cable Guy*. Mr. Papke announced a few upcoming shows– *Cheap Trick*, *Il Divo*, *Beach Boys*, *Gary Owen*, *Dirty Dancing in Concert*, *Theresa Caputo*, and the *Classic Albums Live* lineup.

Next, Mr. Papke discussed facilities projects and operations. The projects included the Titan Suite, resurfacing and painting the parking lots, and painting the exterior of the building. Mr. Papke announced that Brittany Travers had transitioned into her new role as Director of Finance from her previous position as Senior Accounting Manager. Mr. Papke stated that Brittany has been with the King Center for three years and has been the glue that has held the department together. The marketing team continues to assist presenters with their advertising needs and continues to work on audience development, branding, sponsorships, and making the Space Coast community aware of the King Center's happenings.

Mr. Papke also announced that according to year-end reporting by *Pollstar*, the industry go-to publication, the King Center was ranked 115^{th} worldwide in ticket sales with seating capacity of 5,000 or less. Lastly, Mr. Papke announced his upcoming retirement, set for April 2026, after 35 years with ASM Legends and 45 years in the industry. Mr. Papke expressed his appreciation for the support from the administration, Dr. Richey, and the board over the last five years. The Trustees congratulated Mr. Papke on his retirement and thanked him for all his work.

IX. TRUSTEE'S CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Howse highlighted the support the College had received from both Governor DeSantis and Education Commissioner Anastasios Kamoutsas.

X. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING COMMENTS

Dr. Richey addressed the Board and thanked them for their unwavering support throughout the past 14 years as president. He also thanked all staff and faculty, full-time and part-time, and all community volunteers for their dedication and hard work they put forth every day. As he begins year 15 as president, Dr. Richey proclaimed that he is looking forward to working with everyone to make the College even more impactful for our very deserving community. Dr. Richey concluded with special appreciation and gratitude to both Governor DeSantis and Education Commissioner Anastasios Kamoutsas for their leadership and steadfast support for Eastern Florida State College.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

APPROVED: ______________________________
Chair, District Board of Trustees

APPROVED: ______________________________
Secretary, District Board of Trustees