

MINUTES
TENNESSEE C/PS ASSOCIATION OF SKILLSUSA
ANNUAL BUSINESS / BOARD MEETING
STATE LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS CONFERENCE (SLSC)

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
9:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M. EST

Roll Call: Members Present

- Michael Tinsley, Member
- Josh Kirkman — Nissan, Member
- Jake Self — Hiller, Member
- Philip Schnepf — Magna, Member
- Ernestine Peete, Member
- Dr. Sharon Couch — Pellissippi State Community College, Member
- Mike Mercer, Member
- Cynthia Rutledge, Member
- Joshua Higgins — TCAT Hartsville, Member
- Daphne Brown, State Director

Members Present via Video Conference

None

Members Present via Telephone

None

Members Absent

None

Guests Present

- Advisors
- State Officers
- Postsecondary Members
- Business and Industry Representatives

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. EST by State Director Daphne Brown.

Purpose of Meeting

State Director Daphne Brown stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide organizational updates regarding the revised bylaws structure and review operational progress and execution of the 2026 State Leadership and Skills Conference.

Bylaws Implementation Update

The Board reviewed implementation progress regarding the revised SkillsUSA Tennessee College/Postsecondary bylaws previously approved by the Board of Directors.

Discussion included:

- Advisory Board integration
- Officer title restructuring
- Governance alignment
- Regional advisor leadership responsibilities
- East, Middle, and West Tennessee Business and Industry Liaison structure
- Continued organizational sustainability efforts

Board members discussed positive progress regarding communication, accountability, and statewide representation following implementation of the revised governance structure.

2026 State Leadership and Skills Conference Update

State Director Daphne Brown provided an operational update regarding the 2026 State Leadership and Skills Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Discussion included:

- Conference operations and logistics
- Collaboration with the high school division
- Technical Chair and Cluster Chair coordination
- Competition execution and scoring
- Student participation and engagement
- Employer and industry participation
- TECHSPO and Meet the Employer activities
- Volunteer coordination and conference support

Board members expressed appreciation for the efforts of advisors, volunteers, technical committees, business and industry partners, and conference staff supporting the event.

Future Planning Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding:

- Continued statewide workforce development partnerships
- Expansion of employer engagement opportunities
- Growth of postsecondary membership and participation
- Future conference planning and sustainability initiatives
- Alignment with national SkillsUSA priorities and workforce expectations

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held during the 2026 National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M. EST.

MOTION: Peete

SECOND: Mercer

VOTE: UNANIMOUS