



**Detroit Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers
Board Meeting Minutes**

June 22, 2026 Meeting

Meeting Location

ACC Troy / ZOOM/ phone

Board Member Attendance- Murali Chandrasekhar, Dawn Cooper*, Jitesh Desai, Neil Fuenmayor, Bernd Henkelmann, Sandra McClelland, Tom Miller, Dave Okonski, Bob Petrach, Rob Philp, Tom Pickett, Armando Sardanopoli, Keith Siopes, Chris Surbrook, Sassan Tarahomi. **15/18 voting**

***Rob announced Dawn had been appointed to the board.**

Not present – Todd Hogan, Matt Parkinson, Laura Shereda,

Note Richard Umemoto has resigned. David Sheridan in attendance, starts term 2026-07-01

Emeritus Board (non voting) Norm Kakarala

Non board members – Greg Boston- General Polymers,

Meeting Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:17pm by President Rob Philp.

Role was called with 12 out of 18 members present, establishing a quorum at call of role, three more joined shortly thereafter. Rob announced Dawn's appointment to board.

Approval of the Minutes

Rob Philp

Minutes of May 11, 2026 Board Meeting were pending approval. Rob referenced copies Bob sent out for review. **Jitesh moved** minutes be approved as presented for 2026-03-0 May 11, 2026.

Bernd seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report

Dave Okonski

Two files are submitted for the Board's review – Performance to Budget for the time period 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026 and the Check Register for the time period 5/11/2026 to 6/19/2026.

The Detroit Section is presently financially solvent with a checking account balance of \$178,563.18 and an investment portfolio having a market value of about \$4.4M. For the period 7/1/2025 to 6/19/2026, income exceeded expenses by \$20,613.62

Financial Performance,	BUDGET (Entire Fiscal Year)	ACTUAL (7/1/25 – 6/19/26)
INCOME	\$ 1,138,000.00	\$ 531,588.85
EXPENSES	\$ 1,113,165.00	\$ 510,975.23
<i>Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026</i>		

For the period 5/11/2026 to 6/19/2026, income exceeded expenses by \$6,810.12

Financial Performance 5/11/2026 through 6/19/2026	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$ 94,866.67	\$ 30,798.00
EXPENSES	\$ 92,306.34	\$ 23,987.88

Neil moved treasurer's report be approved as presented. Sassan seconded. Motion passed. Budget approval was delayed until after presentation and explanation of Education budget as it is the bulk of the budget,

Education/ Scholarship Committee

Sandra McClelland

Rob had Sandra explain Education budget request as the next order of business. Education initiatives continue with PlastiVan® visits, essay contests, and scholarships, though budget and participation challenges remain.

Essay contest

Plan to proactively contact teachers outside of PlastiVan® visits.

Will need to have more members participate in judging.

Continue evaluating limiting AI use in writing of essays.

Increase the award amount either by upping the amount of the awards or adding another level

Scholarship

Funding includes TPO conference scholarship

Will look to include some additional community colleges

Actively pursuing scholarships with student chapters.

Additional funding for trades or after high school courses

One new program and one deleted program

Wayne County Career Center – **deleted** from budget

MSU student chapter outreach (multiple components)

Expansion of Junior Researcher program

Total budget request is \$234,600.

Next is snip of budget slide comparing previous five years of budget and spent figures to 2026-2027 proposal.

SPE Financials and Proposed Education Budget 2025-2026 calendar year

Education Budget	2021-22 Budget	2021-2022 Spent	2022-2023 Budget	2022-23 Spent	2023-2024 Budget	2023 Spent	2024-2025 Budget proposal	2024-2025 spent	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 spent	2025-2026 left	2026-2027 proposal
Scholarship	\$60,000	\$29,837	\$60,000	\$47,450	\$62,000	\$53,050	\$60,000	\$46,233	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0	\$60,000
Scholarship -Trades or after HS education												\$3,000
Plastivan **	\$57,250	\$44,275	\$57,252	\$57,250	\$75,000	\$75,600	\$75,000	\$74,025	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$86,100
Additional Plastivan (SME)									\$5,500	\$800	\$4,700	\$0
Plastivan modules	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0	0	\$0	\$0		\$0			\$0
National Support	\$4,000	\$4,080	\$4,000			\$0	\$0		\$0			\$0
Area Programs*	\$9,000	\$4,550	\$9,000	\$4,094	\$5,500	\$4,585	\$5,500	\$2,852	\$4,500	\$3,163	\$1,337	\$5,000
Administration	\$800	\$103	\$800		\$800	\$153	\$800		\$500	\$81	\$419	\$500
Future Student Chapters			\$900		\$500	\$0	\$500		\$500			\$0
SAE Foundation			\$0		\$4,000		\$4,000		\$0			\$0
SME Jr. researcher									\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$50,000
Wayne County									\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
MSU Student Chapter with SAE												\$5,000
Student Sections	\$35,000		\$35,000	\$15,358	\$32,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$25,000	\$12,878	\$12,376	\$25,000
Total	\$171,050	\$87,845	\$166,552	\$124,151	\$179,800	\$138,388	\$175,800	\$130,610	\$201,000	\$171,922	\$28,832	\$234,600

*Includes Future Cities.

** Includes 9,250 for MSU outreach in Lansing and 1,850 for ESD

General Business

Main Changes from last year

Student Chapters

- Ferris State
- Student chapter is struggling with reduced enrollment in the Plastic technology program
- Sponsored students to K fair
- 2 Kettering (both student chapters did a tour of the recycle center in their area)
- New student chapter established (Section B)
- Section A going well
- MSU
- Sponsored student to ANTEC to present paper and poster
- Worked with SAE to introduce lightweighting with plastics in elementary schools
- New program for next year to expand work with schools

Additional \$3,000 for scholarship for trade schools or after high school graduation education

Junior Researcher expansion

Positive plastic education with Junior Researchers

- Goal: The SPE Detroit Section and The SPE Foundation sought to bolster the SME Prime program with Positive Plastics Education through the PlastiVan® program.
- We have identified through the SME program (Brought to us by Armando) and worked with William D. Ford Career Technical Center.
- We funded the Junior Researcher Program through the Foundation for 2025-2026 school year for \$25,000 +\$1,850 for a PlastiVan® visit.
- There was one field trip arranged by the Detroit Section to the Ford AM center. The students also participated in the 2025 Innovative Awards Gala and the 2025 ACCE.
- **Of the twenty students, roughly half are seeking engineering programs at universities and half are interested in skilled trades programs through apprenticeships and community college programs.**

The William D Ford Career-Technical Center continues to be the star school in this program. Their Mechatronics and Manufacturing program has integrated plastic materials, CAD, and 3D printing curriculum for all students enrolled in the class. Next year, the 3D Modeling and Design class will also add this curriculum through cross-classroom collaboration thereby doubling the impact. Mark Richardson, SPE Foundation Director of Education, has now mentored 20 total students through fundamental engineering and materials education and has provided engineering mentorship on their various projects. He has spent roughly one day per week at the school over the past two years.

1. Due to the nature of the cross-classroom collaboration at WDF-CTC, it is necessary to double the number of students in the program, rather than increase it by only 50%.

2. **A class that focuses on design and 3D modeling has been identified as the candidate to increase the student count.** The Mechatronics and Modeling classes are already collaborating on parts of their curricula.

To accommodate the increase in student count per year, the following must change:

Days on-site will double to roughly 2 days per week, to accommodate the additional projects. It will be necessary to coordinate more schedules (students schedules vary based on the school district they are from and whether they are in the morning or afternoon class section). Student project allowances will double for the additional students.

Junior Researcher 2025/2026 Projects included:

1. Evaluation of recycled vs commercial “prime” ABS filament.

2. Design and 3D printing of an R/C drone frame based on existing hardware.**
 3. Design and 3D printing of an R/C boat hull based on existing hardware.**
 4. Evaluation of the microplastics from a typical PET single serving water bottle and design of a custom 3D printed drying rack with integrated fan.
 5. Integration of LED lighting directly into a 3D printed model of a lamp.
 6. Design and 3D printing of an R/C Car Chassis based on existing hardware.
- ** ** WDF-CTC had some RTR R/C kits donated last year, so the students are repurposing the hardware from those kits for their designs

To grow this program in the 2026/27 school year we are seeking an additional \$25,000. We will also add a PlastiVan® visit in the PlastiVan® funding.

● MSU student chapter proposal

1. Schools in Lansing area to be introduced to Essay Contest and possible Plastivan visit.

- MacDonald Middle School
- East Lansing High School
- Chippewa Middle School
- Lansing Technical High School
- Kinawa School
- Qkemos High School
- Lansing Christian High School
- Greater Lansing Islamic School
- St. Gerard Elementary School
- Lansing Catholic High School
- Sexton High School

2. Workshop with 3 schools K-4 grades in East Lansing area.

Purpose :introduce plastics and lightweighting at the SAE A World in Motion workshop. This workshop lasts about 1.5 months

Assuming each school would have a maximum of 20 pupils.

full straw rocket kits will be purchased from the SAE store

Awards: We will provide the most active kids (male and Female) at each school with gift card and a plaque.

With the size of the budget and decreasing income from primarily conferences there was considerable discussion of appropriate amount to spend on education budget as well as developing addition revenue generating projects.

This discussion was well over an hour including topics such as conference saturation, manpower availability and need for new ideas. More to come.

Rob noted a profitable Golf outing was a nice step though profit was small, it still was great to be profitable and thanked Dawn and team for a great effort.

Sassan moved to approve Education budget as Sandra requested, Keith seconded. Motion was approved by voice vote.

At this time Treasure's budget which included Education Budget was again reviewed.

Neil moved to approve Treasurer's report as Dave presented, Sassan seconded. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Next page shows entire budget. Note amount needed from investment funds to support which was reason for discussion on need for new revenue sources.

Sassan moved to approve 2026-2027 Budget as Dave presented, Bernd seconded. Motion was approved by voice vote.

SPE Detroit Section Proposed Budget_July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

7/1/2026 through 6/30/2027 Using 2026-2027 Budget

6/19/2026

Page 1

Category	7/1/2026 Actual	Budget	6/30/2027 Difference
INCOME	0.00	649,200.00	-649,200.00
03-Education Income	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00
04-Technical Meeting Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
05-Membership Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
06-Golf Outing Income	0.00	15,500.00	-15,500.00
08-Material Auction Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
11-Newsletter Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-TPO Conference Inc	0.00	330,000.00	-330,000.00
FROM Fifth Third Education Fund	0.00	302,600.00	-302,600.00
EXPENSES	0.00	649,200.00	649,200.00
01-Board Expenses	0.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
02-Awards	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
03-Education	0.00	234,600.00	234,600.00
03.1 Scholarships Totals	0.00	63,000.00	63,000.00
Scholarships	0.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
Scholarships - Trades_Post HS	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Everything Else	0.00	0.00	0.00
03.2 PlastVan Totals	0.00	86,100.00	86,100.00
PlastVan	0.00	86,100.00	86,100.00
PlastVan - SME	0.00	0.00	0.00
03.4 Area Programs	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
03.5 Administration	0.00	500.00	500.00
03.93 SME Jr. Researcher	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Everything Else	0.00	141,600.00	141,600.00
03.96 Student Sections Totals	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
All Student Chapters	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
MSU with SAE	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
04-Technical Meeting Expense	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
05-Membership	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
06-Golf Outing Expense	0.00	15,500.00	15,500.00
07-Intersociety	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
08-Material Auction Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
09-Councilor	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
Everything Else	0.00	55,700.00	55,700.00
10-Administration Expense	0.00	29,000.00	29,000.00
10.1 Office Supplies & Software	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
10.2 Special Items & Events	0.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
10.3 ACC Rent	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
11-Newsletter Expense	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
12-TPO Conference Expenses	0.00	313,200.00	313,200.00
13-Artex Expenses	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
14-Credit Card Fee	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Net Difference:	0.00	0.00	0.00

Board of Director Election Results**Neil Fuenmayor**

Neil reported that current board members Todd Hogan, Armando Sardanopoli, Keith Siopes, and Chris Surbrook were reelected and new board member Dave Sheridan was elected to three year terms running from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Again, note that Rob appointed Dan Cooper to a once year term ending June 30, 2027.

It was worth noting that we again had troubles running the elections and getting votes. Election and voting process is under review.

Dream Cruise Event**Bernd Henkelmann**

Event will be August 15. Bernd said invitations will be going out to members shortly.

Golf Outing**Dawn Cooper**

Dawn reported we had a very successful golf outing at Cherry Creek June 16, 2026. Minimum number of foursomes to break even was 18 and there were 22 foursomes. Expect a profit of \$700-\$1000.

Venue for next year is TBD. Rob commented that Cherry Creek is a great course and was a great host. Dawn has been invited to grand reopening of Pine Trace golf course where we had outing prior to Cherry Creek. So she'll review options for 2027.

Rob thanked entire Golf outing team especially Dawn and Karen for great work.

There are plenty of pictures and Rob is writing a newsletter article.

Next year NPE is May 3 through May 7. Golf outing planned again for mid to late June.

Old/New Business

Rob Meetings at colleges/student chapters – having great difficulty making it work, intention still is to have meetings with student chapters.

Rob – Newsletter article deadline is September 4. PLEASE submit article, we MUST restart newsletter. Greg Boston volunteered to help on newsletter.

Neil – noted RSVP s to Dream Cruise are very important.

Sassan made a motion to adjourn, Jitesh seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Next meeting is September 21, 2026 and will be in person at ACC and virtual.

Minutes respectfully submitted Robert V. Petrach, Jr. Secretary SPE Detroit.

Agenda from today's meeting follows.



**SPE Detroit Section –
June 22 2026 BOD Meeting
Proposed Agenda
ACC Office & Virtual**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97985101925?pwd=42CoSZibCj7fughH4FCecV3bWJov9M.1>

Meeting ID: 979 8510 1925 Passcode: 050725 One tap mobile: 305 2241 968,,97985101925#,,,,*050725# US

	5:30 PM Meeting Start	
5:30 PM	Meeting Call to Order	Rob Philp
5:35 PM	Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions	Rob Philp
5:35 PM	Approval of Minutes (May 11, 2026)	Bob Petrach
5:40 PM	President's Message	Rob Philp
5:50 PM	Treasurer's Report	Dave Okonski
6:10 PM	Education/ Scholarship Committee	Sandra McClelland / Tom Miller
6:20 PM	Budget Discussion	Rob Philp
6:45 PM	Membership/Next Gen – Status/Updates/Plans	Laura Shereda
	Nominations/Elections (Results)	Bob Petrach
6:50 PM	Dream Cruise	Bernd/Neil/Rob
7:00 PM	Annual Toy Program (2026) / Golf Outing Report	Neil / Rob / Karen / Dawn
7:10 PM	Old/New Business	All
7:15 PM	Meeting Adjourned	Rob Philp
7:30PM	Dinner	All

Next BOD Meeting: September 14, 2026 Planning Meeting - ACC Office & Virtual

**Dream Cruise Event - August 14th 2026 – 2pm to 8pm
August 15th 2026 – 10 am to 8pm (Official Cruise Day)
32889 Woodward Ave. – Royal Oak, MI**