



# PALO VERDE COLLEGE

WHERE KNOWLEDGE TAKES ROOT AND OPPORTUNITY GROWS

## **Palo Verde Community College District**

February 23, 2026

Melynie Schiel

Vice President and Accreditation Liaison Officer

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)

Dear Ms. Schiel,

On behalf of Palo Verde Community College District, I am submitting the enclosed governance context and clarification materials in response to the complaint received by the Commission in January 2026. These materials are provided in accordance with the ACCJC Policy on Complaints Against Member Institutions and are intended to support the Commission's review by offering clear institutional context regarding governance practices and roles.

This document is intended to clarify governance structures, delineate the distinction between Board oversight and administrative authority, and acknowledge areas where reinforcement of governance practice may be beneficial.

This submission is not offered as a judgement of individual allegations, nor as an assignment of intent or fault. Rather, it reflects the district's commitment to transparency, role clarity, and continuous improvement in governance aligned with accreditation standards.

Palo Verde Community College District remains committed to working collaboratively with ACCJC to strengthen governance effectiveness and ensure full compliance with all applicable standards. Please do not hesitate to contact me should additional clarification or documentation be helpful.

Respectfully,

*Bruce Moses*

Dr. Bruce Moses

Superintendent/President

Palo Verde Community College District



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## **Palo Verde Community College District Response to ACCJC Complaint Governance Standards 4.3, 4.5, and 4.6**

This response is submitted pursuant to the ACCJC Policy on Complaints Against Member Institutions and is intended to provide governance context related to a complaint received by the Commission in January 2026. The district recognizes that the Commission does not intervene in the internal procedures of institutions, does not function as a regulatory or adjudicatory body, and does not serve as a forum for resolving individual grievances or reviewing dissatisfaction with institutional outcomes.

Accordingly, this response does not seek Commission review, determination, or action regarding specific personnel matters, investigative processes, or employment decisions. Rather, it is provided to support the Commission’s assessment of institutional compliance with accreditation standards by clarifying the governance environment and Board practices reflected in the official records of the Palo Verde Community College District (PVCCD) Board of Trustees meetings held on December 9, December 17, December 22, 2025, and January 13, 2026 and related documented actions.

The purpose of this narrative is limited to identifying how documented Board actions and public statements intersect with ACCJC Standards 4.3, 4.5, and 4.6. The response is impartial, unbiased, and based exclusively on meeting minutes and official records. It does not assess the merits of allegations, determine credibility, or attribute intent.

### **Governance Context by Standard**

#### **Standard 4.3 – Trustee of the Public Interest and Role Clarity**

The institution’s decision-making structures are used consistently and effectively. Institutional decision-making practices support a climate of collaboration and innovation that advances the mission and promotes successful outcomes for all students.

#### **Documented Board Actions and Statements**

During Board meetings on December 9, December 17, and December 22, 2025, a staff member presented whistleblower allegations during public comment and requested that the Board investigate multiple administrators and take immediate personnel action.

During the December 9, 2025, meeting during Board member remarks, the Vice President doing the duties of the Board President through a written document publicly characterized internal administrative practices as retaliatory, intimidating, and fear-based, asserting direct Board responsibility for addressing these matters.



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## **Governance Context**

These actions provide relevant governance context regarding role delineation between Board oversight and administrative management. Public discussion and action related to internal personnel matters, particularly when undertaken selectively or outside established administrative processes, raise considerations regarding the consistent application of governance protocols and role clarity contemplated under Standard 4.3.

## **Standard 4.5 – Delegation of Authority to the CEO**

The governing board selects and evaluates the institution’s chief executive officer (CEO). The governing board gives the CEO full authority to implement board policies and ensure effective operations and fulfillment of the institutional mission.

## **Documented Board Actions and Context**

During Board meetings on December 9, December 17, and December 22, 2025, a staff member presented whistleblower allegations during public comment and requested that the Board investigate multiple administrators and take immediate personnel action.

On January 8, 2026, the Board directed Human Resources to place the administrator implicated in the whistleblower allegations on administrative leave pending the investigation; however, no parallel Board action was taken in response to the counter-allegations raised by another administrator on December 17, 2025, Board meeting.

As detailed in the complaints and recorded in the Board meeting minutes of December 9 and 17, 2025, these actions were taken outside established Board policies, administrative procedures, and Human Resources led processes, and were implemented without prior administrative review or notice to the affected administrator.

## **Governance Context**

This sequence of events provides context for evaluating the degree to which operational authority was exercised in a manner consistent with Standard 4.5. Action taken by some Board members in response to public comments, rather than referral to the CEO for administrative handling, underscores the importance of reaffirming protocols that preserve the CEO’s authority over personnel administration and operational decision-making.

## **Standard 4.6 – Collective Functioning and Board Effectiveness**

The governing board functions effectively as a collective entity to promote the institution’s values and mission and fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities. The governing board demonstrates an ability to self-govern in adherence to its bylaws and expectations for best practices in board governance.



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## **Documented Board Functioning**

During the December 9, 2025, Board meeting, a member of the Board of Trustees publicly acknowledged Board dysfunction during provisional trustee deliberations and discussions. Trustees publicly acknowledged governance challenges during provisional trustee deliberations, and the Board did not appoint a provisional trustee despite the presence of qualified candidates.

The Board was unable to elect a Board President during the December 9, 2025, during the Organizational Meeting portion of the regular board meeting, resulting in a leadership vacancy and suspension of officer elections.

The Board was unable to approve a full twelve-month Board meeting calendar and instead adopted a partial calendar, as a majority was not reached due to an unwavering attempt to change the regular meeting day. To date a full calendar for the year does not exist.

## **Governance Context**

These conditions provide relevant context regarding collective Board functioning, leadership continuity, and adherence to governance processes. Challenges in organizing leadership and achieving consensus may affect the Board's ability to consistently apply governance to best practices as intended in Standard 4.6.

## **Summary Statement**

This response is submitted solely to support the Commission's review of governance practices in relation to applicable accreditation standards and in accordance with the Commission's complaints policy.

The Palo Verde Community College District remains committed to continuous improvement in governance, including reaffirmation of role clarity, effective delegation of authority, and adherence to best practices aligned with ACCJC Standards.

Respectfully,

*Bruce Moses*

Dr. Bruce Moses  
Superintendent/President  
Palo Verde Community College District