



**PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Closed Session: 4:00 p.m. | Open Session: 5:00 p.m.

Physical Meeting Location: One College Drive, Blythe, CA – CS 209

LiveStream Meeting Location: PVC Needles Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA

Page

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Before the meeting started, Vice President/Acting Board President read the following statement:

"Before we begin tonight's meeting, I would like to note for the record that Trustee Scott Dean has taken the oath of office prior to this meeting and has completed all required documentation. We welcome Trustee Scott Dean to the Palo Verde Community College District Board of Trustees and look forward to moving forward as a full Board in the best interests of the College, our students, and the communities we serve. Trustee Scott Dean is now seated and will participate as a full voting member of the Board."

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by Vice President/Acting President Gloria Copple.

1.2 ROLL CALL

- **Trustees Present:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz-Student Trustee(arrived for the reconvening to open session)
- **Administrators Present:** Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President, Dr. Sam Robinson, Acting Assistant Supt./VP of Instruction and Student Services, Stephanie Slagan, Assistant Supt./VP of Administrative Services and College Advancement

Note:

- *In accordance with California Education Code, the Student Trustee's vote is advisory and does not count toward the final Board action.*

1.3 APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Closed Session Agenda for this meeting.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean

2. HEARING OF CITIZENS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Public comment on items listed on the Closed Session agenda will be heard prior to the Board adjourning to Closed Session. Each speaker is limited to five (5) minutes, with a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes per topic, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. The Board cannot take action on items not listed on the agenda.

2.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no public comments offered regarding the items on tonight's Closed Session agenda.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:00 p.m.

3.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957.60)

- Agency Representative:
 - Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President
- Employee Organizations:
 - CSEA Chapter 180
 - Palo Verde Community College Association/CTA

3.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957)

- 2 cases

3.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957(B))

- Superintendent/President

3.4 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION; SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION (GOVERNMENT CODE 54956.9)

- 5 cases

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:48 p.m.

4.1 FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4.2 REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Vice President/Acting Board President Copple reported that the Board took action in Closed Session to issue a March 15 notice to the Assistant Superintendent. The motion

carried with the following 4/3 vote:

- Trustee McNeil — Yes
- Trustee Williams — Yes
- Trustee Dean — Yes
- Trustee Copple — Yes
- Trustee Styers — No
- Trustee Ramirez — No
- Trustee Arneson — No

4.3 APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Open Session Agenda as amended with the removal of Item 7.1.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

4.4 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the February 10, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

4.5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECUSAL FROM AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Gloria Copple recused herself from Item 11.2.

Trustee Scott Dean recused himself from Item 11.5.

5. HEARING OF CITIZENS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment on matters not listed on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the District will be heard during this section only. Each speaker is limited to five (5) minutes, with a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes per topic, unless otherwise determined by the Board President. The Board cannot take action on non-agenda items but may refer matters to the Superintendent/President for follow-up or place them on a future agenda.

5.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

27

Christina Felix read a statement during public comment. The statement is included as Attachment A.

[Attachment A - Public Comment \(C. Felix\).pdf](#) 

Jaclyn Randall, Dean of the Needles Center, shared information regarding the upcoming Needles Center 5K Color Run scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at the

Needles Center. She noted that the event will raise scholarship funds for Needles Center students. The registration fee is \$25, and sponsorship opportunities are available. The event will include five color stations, three water stations, and an approximately 3.2-mile course.

6. REPORTS

Reports are limited to a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes, unless otherwise determined by the Board President.

- 6.1 PVCCA/CTA - RICHARD CASTILLO, PRESIDENT OF PVCCA/CTA
Richard Castillo reported that he had no report.
- 6.2 ACADEMIC SENATE - SARAH FRID, PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC SENATE
Sarah Frid was not present at tonight's meeting.
- 6.3 CSEA, CHAPTER 180 - ALICE DEAN, PRESIDENT OF CSEA CHAPTER 180
Alice Dean, President of CSEA Chapter 180, welcomed the new Board member and thanked the Board for its patience. She shared that CSEA had reached an agreement with the District regarding job descriptions and requested the Board's approval of Item 11.5. She noted that the agreement will support employees awaiting job description updates and assist the District with related hiring. She concluded by expressing appreciation and a commitment to continued collaboration on future issues.
- 6.4 ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT - MELINA RANGEL-RUIZ, STUDENT TRUSTEE
Student Trustee Melina Rangel-Ruiz stated that she had no report.
- 6.5 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SERVICES - CLINT COWDEN
OR
ACTING ASSISTANT SUPT./VP OF INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SERVICES, DR. SAM ROBINSON
Dr. Sam Robinson referenced her attached report and shared that the theme of her report was collaboration, outreach, and community engagement. She expressed appreciation for the Instruction and Student Services team for their continued efforts across departments to support students and strengthen connections with the community.

She highlighted interdepartmental collaboration, particularly within Student Services, and acknowledged the work of the Financial Aid team in implementing BankMobile to allow students to receive financial aid through electronic deposit rather than paper checks. She recognized staff for their efforts in improving service delivery to students.

She also highlighted the work of Job Placement Coordinator Artemiza Lujano in organizing the 10th Annual Job Fair, scheduled for March 31 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the gym. She noted that Ms. Lujano has been actively recruiting participants and that the event will provide an opportunity for the College to serve as a hub for workforce development, job placement, and community engagement.

Trustee Jon McNeil expressed appreciation for Dr. Robinson's themes, noting that they

provided greater clarity for him. He also expressed appreciation for her vision, leadership, and work in taking over the department and guiding it in its current direction.

6.6 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT - STEPHANIE SLAGAN

Stephanie Slagan referenced her attached report and highlighted the release of the First Principal Apportionment (P1). She reported that the District will receive approximately \$4.9 million, including about \$3.4 million in state apportionment, approximately \$700,000 in Educational Protection Account funds, and the remainder in various categorical funding sources.

She noted that the District received four new categorical funding allocations, including Credit for Prior Learning, Emergency Financial Aid, a Nursing Education Grant, and a Student Support Block Grant. Ms. Slagan also provided an update on prior deferrals, stating that approximately half of the previously reported \$4.6 million in deferrals has been received, with the remaining balance expected later in the fiscal year.

Trustee Jon McNeil commented on the challenges associated with state funding and deferrals, noting the difficulties in managing funding delays and uncertainty. He expressed appreciation for Ms. Slagan's diligence.

6.7 SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT - DR. BRUCE MOSES

Dr. Bruce Moses highlighted key activities that occurred over the past several weeks. He reported on a recent campus visit by Dr. Nina Thomas of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), which included a campus-wide meeting and presentation emphasizing the importance of the District's partnership with CDCR. He noted that CDCR accounts for approximately 50% of the District's enrollment and full-time equivalent students (FTES) revenue. Dr. Moses emphasized that this long-standing partnership is critical to the District's stability and future, and that the District is actively working to sustain and strengthen the relationship moving forward. He also shared that improvements have been made to processes such as admissions, registration, and book distribution, while noting that additional work remains, particularly in expanding face-to-face instruction at Ironwood State Prison. He acknowledged the contributions of the Rising Scholars team, Instruction and Student Services staff, and counseling faculty who support the program.

Dr. Moses also reported that Melynie Schiel, Vice President of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), recently visited the campus and held open office hours, meeting with various campus constituents. He noted that the visit was initiated by Ms. Schiel. He stated that her visit occurred while she was in the region for an accreditation site visit at Imperial Valley College, which is similar to the on-site visit PVCCD will undergo in the upcoming spring semester. Dr. Moses stated that he expects to receive follow-up feedback from Ms. Schiel in the coming weeks regarding her observations and discussions, and that he will share that information with the campus community at the next board meeting.

Dr. Moses concluded his report by thanking Tina for her comments.

6.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Jon McNeil highlighted the upcoming Needles Center 5K Color Run scheduled for March 21, noting that the event supports the Palo Verde College Foundation in raising scholarship funds for Needles Center students.

Trustee Jon McNeil welcomed Trustee Scott Dean to the Board and expressed that having a seventh member will support the Board's ability to move forward and take action. He noted that he looks forward to the Board and the College moving forward.

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that "baseless claims" are really important to him because being 100 miles away poses challenges on keeping "a finger on the pulse of the college. However, he shared that he regularly communicates with students and was "ripped" last year from a student because of the lack of support that she was getting but that he was able to support her. Trustee Jon McNeil stated that he has other students who come and speak with him, and that he forwards those concerns to the Superintendent, who is able to address them. He stated that he makes it a point to visit the Needles Center weekly so that he can maintain "a finger on the pulse," but noted that he does not have a handle on what occurs on the Blythe campus. He further stated that he has said repeatedly that he follows the lead of those on the Blythe campus.

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that there are many wonderful things happening at the Needles Center and noted that he would speak further on those during the graduation discussion. He shared that he has students who frequently tell him that the person who has made the biggest difference in their lives is Jaclyn Randall and stated that she is "up for sainthood" in the Needles community.

Trustee Glenda Williams expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Needles Center 5K Color Run, sharing that her family is excited to participate. She also welcomed Trustee Scott Dean to the Board and expressed that she looks forward to the year ahead.

Trustee Scott Dean stated that it is an honor to serve on the Board and described public service as an opportunity to serve, not as ego fulfillment or a position of authority. He stated that he is there to serve the community, the College, its employees, students, and taxpayers.

He expressed his desire to build a positive working relationship with everyone including his fellow Board members and to help the College progress in a positive manner. Trustee Dean also stated that he is his own person and will not seek to replicate his predecessor, noting that he will vote based on what he believes is in the best interest of the College, its employees, students and the taxpayers.

Trustee Stella Styers referenced Dr. Moses' comments regarding the District's partnership with CDCR and expressed appreciation for the Rising Scholars staff. She thanked staff for their work in maintaining connections between the College and correctional facilities and acknowledged their efforts as "boots on the ground" supporting students. She noted the importance of this work, stating that CDCR accounts for approximately 50% of the District's funding, and expressed concern about the District being the only college in the State of California offering correspondence education.

Trustee Styers commented that the CDCR presentation was informative and expressed

that she felt faculty gained a better understanding of the issues presented. She emphasized the importance of sustaining the prison programs, stating that if we don't get more faculty in more classes we don't have a Rising Scholars program.

Trustee Styers also shared that she attended a recent Black History Month event, describing it as well-attended and highlighting the guest speaker and overall positive experience.

She concluded by welcoming Trustee Scott Dean to the Board.

Trustee Gloria Copple stated that she had no report but welcomed Trustee Scott Dean to the Board, offering her congratulations.

Trustee Angel Ramirez stated that, as he was recovering from surgery, he would keep his remarks brief. He congratulated Trustee Scott Dean and welcomed him to the Board.

Trustee Brad Arneson welcomed Trustee Scott Dean to the Board and offered his congratulations. He also expressed appreciation to Christina Felix for her comments.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 PROFESSIONAL PROBLEM SOLVING: A POLICY-BASED APPROACH TO ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE RESOLUTIONS

This item was removed from the agenda as part of the approval of the agenda as amended.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 FIRST READ OF REVIEWED/REVISED BOARD POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Trustee Jon McNeil expressed appreciation for the formatting of the Board Policies and Administrative Procedures, noting that the highlighting made the materials easier to review. He commented on BP 5500 – Standards of Student Conduct, raising a minor concern regarding the definition of a student subject to discipline, specifically language that includes individuals who have applied for admission or expressed intent to enroll. He noted that he questioned whether such individuals could be subject to suspension or expulsion. Trustee McNeil concluded by stating that aside from this minor observation, the policies were in order and well done.

8.2 NEEDLES EDUCATIONAL CENTER GRADUATION CEREMONY

29

Board Discussion:

Trustee Copple stated that she would like to begin the discussion and read the following prepared statement into the record:

“I would like to speak briefly regarding the discussion item concerning the graduation ceremony for our students in the Needles Educational Center. First, I want to be very clear that I fully respect the distinction between the board's governance role and the administration's responsibility for day-to-day operations. The Board does not manage the logistics of college events. However, it is our responsibility as trustees to ensure that the policies and the decisions of the district reflect fairness, access and responsiveness to the communities we

serve.

The Needles Educational Center is not simply an extension classroom. It serves a community nearly 100 miles from our main campus in Blythe. For many years, the district has recognized this geographic reality by holding a graduation ceremony and Needles so that students and their families could celebrate this important milestone with their own community.

Recently, students in Needles were informed that they would not be having a ceremony in their hometown and would instead need to travel to Blythe to participate in commencement. As we have heard from members of the Needles community, this creates a hardship for many families. Not all parents, grandparents and community members have the ability to travel that distance.

Graduation is one of the most meaningful moments in a student's educational journey. It represents the culmination of hard work, sacrifice and perseverance. For many families, especially in rural communities, it may be the first time a member of their family has graduated from college.

For this reason, I believe it is appropriate for this board to have a thoughtful discussion about whether our current approach reflects our commitment to serving all parts of our district equitably. This is not about interfering with administrative operations. Rather, it is about ensuring that our institutional practices recognize the unique needs of the communities we serve. I believe our students in Needles deserve the same opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments in their own community, just as students at the main campus do.”

Trustee McNeil stated that, as the representative for the Needles area, the situation regarding the Needles graduation ceremony is a “PR catastrophe” in Needles. He stated that community members are very upset and that students are crying, with some indicating they will not attend a ceremony held at the main campus. He further stated that he believes the situation originated from actions by the Board that were not well intended and asserted that it came from two Board members who were being “mean spirited” toward others.

Trustee Styers stated that Trustee McNeil was out of order in referring to Board members as being “mean spirited” and directed him to rephrase his language.

Trustee Copple encouraged Trustee McNeil to continue speaking, noting that he appeared hesitant.

Trustee McNeil stated that he believes the situation came from “not a good place” on the Board and that there was a lack of intent to be collaborative. He stated that the Board is not working well together and expressed a desire for improved collaboration. He described the situation as a “PR piece” that is tearing the Board apart and noted the distance between campuses, stating that it further divides the communities.

He reiterated that students have indicated they will not attend a ceremony at the main campus and stated that approximately 130 individuals attended the

Needles ceremony the prior year. He further stated that he does not believe the issue is financial, referencing that the District has over 40% in reserves. He also shared that upset community members have come forward and expressed a willingness to pay for the ceremony due to their concerns. Trustee McNeil stated that the Board did not formally vote to eliminate the ceremony, but rather that the matter was discussed, and two Board members expressed opposition. He concluded by emphasizing the need for peace, unity, and improved collaboration among Board members.

Public Comment:

Student Trustee Rangel-Ruiz read a statement on behalf of Associated Student Government (ASG) President Robert Murillo. The statement is included as Attachment B.

[Attachment B - Public Comment \(R. Murillo\).pdf](#) 

Alice Dean expressed support for continuing to hold a graduation ceremony at the Needles Educational Center, noting that it has been a meaningful event for the community. She referenced prior attendance and stated that the Needles ceremony has been well attended, while also noting that the main campus ceremony was at capacity and that additional attendance could present safety concerns. She urged the Board to maintain a local graduation ceremony for Needles students.

Elizabeth Berry, ASG Needles Representative, spoke on behalf of Needles Educational Center students regarding the graduation ceremony. She referenced the College's mission, values, and commitment to student success, equity, and inclusion, and emphasized the importance of being student-centered and respecting student voices. She stated that Needles students have expressed a preference for holding their own graduation ceremony and noted that it has been an established tradition for over 10 years.

Ms. Berry also expressed concern that students who are unable to travel to the main campus in Blythe would miss the opportunity to participate in graduation, which she stated would be unfair. She referenced budget considerations, noting that it does not make sense to try to add more students to the main campus graduation.

Evelyn Davis, a Needles Educational Center student, expressed concern that she would be unable to attend a graduation ceremony held at the main campus. She stated that she has worked hard during her time at the College and would be disappointed to miss the opportunity to participate in graduation, along with her family.

Ms. Davis also expressed concerns about feeling excluded from campus events, noting that activities held at the main campus are not offered at the Needles Center. She stated that it is difficult for students to become involved when they are not receiving the same opportunities in Needles. She shared that, as she prepares to transfer, she wants to be able to represent Palo Verde College but

expressed that she currently feels embarrassed by her experience.

William Boschelli, a community member, spoke in support of holding a graduation ceremony at the Needles Educational Center. He referenced attending the prior Needles ceremony and noted that it was well attended, with strong support from the community. He emphasized that graduation is intended to celebrate students and expressed the view that such recognition should take place within their local community.

Mr. Bocelli stated that effective leadership involves recognizing and celebrating students where they are and allowing their community to participate in that recognition. He encouraged the Board to support the Needles community and its students.

Jaclyn Randall, Dean of the Needles Educational Center, spoke regarding the importance of continuing the commencement ceremony at the Needles Educational Center and its alignment with the purpose of the center and commitments made to the Needles community. She provided historical context, noting that Palo Verde College assumed responsibility for the Needles Educational Center in 1999 and that local commencement ceremonies have been held since 2014, with limited exceptions when there were very few or no graduates. She stated that students have historically chosen to participate in a local ceremony in order to be recognized and supported by their families and community.

Ms. Randall emphasized that the commencement ceremony represents more than a tradition, describing it as a recognition of student achievement and community support. She stated that the establishment of the Needles Educational Center was based on a commitment to provide accessible higher education and meaningful services to the region, referencing the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) proposal that supported the conversion of the site to an educational center. She noted that this proposal outlined the expectation that the District would serve the Needles community, and that holding a local commencement ceremony aligns with that purpose.

Ms. Randall also referenced the Board of Trustees who approved the annexation of the Needles Educational Center, noting that they understood the purpose of the center in serving the Needles community. She referenced Trustee Brad Arneson's father as a member of that Board and stated that he understood the center's purpose. She further stated that Trustee Stella Styers had previously attended commencement ceremonies at the Needles Center, including the inaugural phlebotomy ceremony, and had "raved" about the support from the Needles community and how special it was to attend. Ms. Randall stated that Trustees Arneson and Styers "owe the Needles community and students an explanation" as to why they would "discount and minimize the recognition of their accomplishments" where they earned them in the Needles community.

She highlighted geographic considerations, noting that the Needles Educational Center is located approximately 100 miles from the main campus, and that travel to Blythe can present barriers for students and their families, including

transportation limitations, financial constraints, work obligations, and health concerns. She stated that the travel time of approximately one and a half to two hours each way, in addition to the length of the ceremony, may prevent participation, and that a local ceremony removes those barriers and allows the community to celebrate student success.

Ms. Randall also addressed fiscal considerations, stating that the Needles commencement has historically been conducted in a fiscally responsible manner. She provided examples of prior costs, including approximately \$384 for flowers and less than \$300 for printed materials, and noted that a local photographer had offered services free of charge. She further stated that employee costs are not incurred as the ceremony is held during regular working hours on a Thursday. She reported that local businesses have offered financial support, including a \$1,000 contribution from Blythe's Rotary, and stated that financial concerns should not be a reason to cancel the ceremony.

She noted that significant time has been spent addressing the issue, including drafting proposals and communicating with students, and stated that this time could instead be used to plan and execute the ceremony. She emphasized that the Needles Educational Center serves a rural and geographically isolated community and that recognizing student achievements locally reflects the District's commitment to access, inclusion, and student success.

Ms. Randall concluded by stating that students have completed their coursework and achieved their goals within the Needles community, and that the institution should ensure they are recognized where their educational journey took place, among the community that supported them.

During Ms. Randall's public comment, William Bocelli held up a photograph of the Board members who approved the Needles Educational Center.

Further Board Discussion:

Board members commented on the photograph held by Mr. Bocelli, identified the individuals depicted, and noted that those Board members supported the establishment of the Needles Educational Center.

Trustee Williams stated that Needles has a 99 to 100 percent high school graduation rate and that this is not likely to change. She expressed that there is "huge potential" if those students can be brought into the College.

Trustee Dean stated that he believes the students deserve to have their graduation ceremony in Needles and should not have travel to the main campus. He noted that since their school is in Needles, that is where they should graduate.

Trustee Styers stated that each Board member has a fiscal responsibility and that "someone convinced me that I shouldn't look at this as a fiscal responsibility," but that she disagrees with that position. She stated that her position is based on reviewing costs and noted that some colleges and universities require students to travel for graduation.

She stated that the Needles Educational Center operates at a deficit of approximately \$400,000 to \$600,000 and referenced additional costs associated with the Needles graduation, including transportation, faculty, and staff. She also stated that the District is currently facing financial challenges, including complaints and potential litigation, and described this as a concerning time.

Trustee Styers stated that she wants students to have a graduation and is “not mean spirited,” but emphasized that her position is based on looking at the budget closely and fulfilling her fiscal responsibility as a Board member.

Trustee McNeil asked whether support for a Needles graduation would change if the community covered 100 percent of the cost through donations. Trustee Stella Styers responded that there would still be costs associated with faculty, administration, and transportation, including the use of vans, and stated that those logistical costs remain a concern. Trustee McNeil reiterated his question, stating that he could cover the cost of the vans, flowers, and other expenses, but noted that faculty and staff would already be working that day and those costs would not need to be covered.

Trustee Copple stated that the Board’s responsibility is to ensure that all students in the District feel their achievements are valued equally, regardless of location. She emphasized that Needles students work just as hard as other students and that their families deserve the opportunity to celebrate those achievements in their own community. She also stated that the College is a smaller, community-based institution and should not be compared to larger universities that require travel.

Trustee Styers reiterated that she is not opposed to students having a graduation ceremony, but stated that she believes students should attend the ceremony at the main campus. She questioned the financial impact of the Needles Educational Center and stated that she would need to be convinced otherwise regarding the costs in order to support a separate ceremony.

Trustee McNeil stated that he had requested an updated budget presentation for the Needles Educational Center, noting that current enrollment has increased and that the Center may be closer to breaking even. He stated that the previous budget contained errors, including faculty being counted against Needles who do not teach there but reside in the region, as well as inaccuracies in student counts. He noted that an updated budget had been promised and expressed that it may show a more favorable financial position. Trustee McNeil stated that he agreed with Trustee Copple that the Board should not have to have this argument. He further stated that he is attempting to “bridge the gap” and improve his working relationship, noting that he believes personal issues are affecting the discussion.

Trustee Styers responded that her position is not personal, stating that she has served on the Board for nine years and has not taken personal attacks on anyone. She emphasized that the matter is not part of a personal agenda.

Trustee Arneson stated that he supports Trustee Styers’ position, emphasizing that decisions should be based on the numbers. He stated that graduation

should be held at the designated location of the College and that students should attend the ceremony where it is scheduled. Trustee Copple responded by again raising the question of why Needles students should not be able to celebrate in their own community.

8.3 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION (CDCR)
PARTNERSHIP – PRISON PROGRAM UPDATE

Dr. Sam Robinson, Acting Assistant Superintendent/VP of Instruction and Student Services, stated that she provided a handout to each Trustee, with additional copies available on the back table, summarizing the recent CDCR presentation. She noted that Dr. Moses had already addressed much of the information in his report, but that she would provide a brief overview.

Dr. Robinson stated that it was valuable to have Dr. Nina Thomas, Associate Superintendent with CDCR, visit the campus and present directly to the College community. She noted that Dr. Thomas acknowledged the progress the College has made over the past two years, while also identifying areas where additional work is needed.

She stated that the District has an in-district MOU with Ironwood State Prison and out-of-district MOUs with the other institutions it serves, which has required adjustments to processes such as registration. She further stated that it was important to hear that Palo Verde College is currently the only community college among 21 prison education programs that is not prioritizing face-to-face instruction with its partner institution.

Dr. Robinson stated that it was valuable to hear directly from CDCR and that they gave the College a clear “charge” regarding what needs to be done. She stated that CDCR indicated the College must improve in-person instruction and services at Ironwood State Prison, and that they could, at any time, determine that the College may no longer offer correspondence courses if improvements are not made. She noted that CDCR currently accounts for approximately 50 percent of the District’s enrollment and budget, and emphasized that the College clearly heard the direction provided by CDCR.

She expressed appreciation for the broad participation at the campus meeting, including faculty, staff, administrators, and Trustees, noting the importance of having a diverse group engaged in the discussion. She also shared her personal commitment to serving incarcerated students and advancing this work.

Dr. Robinson announced an upcoming Palo Verde College and Ironwood State Prison program summit, open to the campus community, which will focus on identifying solutions and planning next steps. She stated that the effort will involve collaboration across the College, including both instructional and support services, and will be part of an ongoing process to strengthen the College’s partnership with CDCR.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 REPORT OF PURCHASES AND WARRANTS - MARCH 2026

9.2 311Q QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

10. CONSENT ITEMS

All Consent Items will be considered for approval in a single motion. A total of 15 minutes will be allotted for questions or clarifications from Board members and for public comments on Consent Items. Following this period, any Board member may request that one or more items be moved to the Action Agenda

10.1 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT - MARCH 2026

Public Comment:

Alice Dean referenced the five names listed and encouraged the Board to approve Ariel Reyes, Margaret Robertson, Elizabeth Pope, and Melanie Neal. She questioned why management or administration are receiving additional duties pay, stating that managers and administrators typically complete the work as part of their role, and asked the Board to approve only the four individuals she mentioned.

Board Discussion:

Trustee McNeil asked a question regarding the additional duties pay Ms. Dean referenced in her public comment. He asked whether Ger Xiong is receiving additional duties pay due to covering responsibilities in the absence of the Assistant Superintendent and whether that assignment is temporary. He also questioned the timing of the additional duties pay in relation to a potential salary increase in July.

Elena Rodriguez responded that there are vacancies within the District that Ger Xiong is stepping in to fill temporarily. She stated that the additional duties stipend is temporary and is intended to account for those roles so that District operations can continue while recruitment is underway.

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that he assumed the additional duties were due to the Assistant Superintendent being out, with Dr. Sam Robinson filling that role, and asked for clarification as the item does not indicate that the assignment is temporary.

Ms. Rodriguez responded that it is a reallocation and is temporary, stating that once the positions are filled, the additional duties will end.

Trustee Jon McNeil asked whether, if the Assistant Superintendent returns from leave in April, May, or June, the employee would revert back to her previous salary schedule.

Ms. Rodriguez responded that there are several positions currently open and that the employee is taking on responsibilities across approximately four positions, stating that the additional duties stipend is intended to compensate for those responsibilities.

Trustee Jon McNeil asked for clarification, stating that if the Assistant Superintendent returns, the employee would revert back and the additional 5 percent would no longer apply.

Ms. Rodriguez responded that the change would occur once the positions she is assisting with are filled, noting that she is currently taking on responsibilities across approximately four positions.

Trustee McNeil asked if the employee would return to her previous role, and Ms. Rodriguez confirmed that she would. He then asked whether, if the Assistant Superintendent does not return, she would remain in that role, and Ms. Rodriguez

responded that she would until the positions are filled.

Trustee McNeil further clarified that once the positions are filled, including the Assistant Superintendent position, the employee would revert back to her previous role. He also inquired about the scenario in which Dr. Sam Robinson is selected for the position.

Trustee Scott Dean asked which four positions were being covered.

Ms. Rodriguez responded that she did not know the specific positions off the top of her head.

Dr. Bruce Moses clarified that the employee is taking on responsibilities that span across four positions, but is not taking over four full positions. He explained that responsibilities are currently divided between Instruction and Student Services, with Dr. Sam Robinson focusing primarily on Instruction and accreditation, and Ger Xiong focusing on Student Services, as the Assistant Superintendent oversees both areas.

10.2 APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

10.3 APPROVAL OF PART-TIME TEMPORARY STUDENT WORKERS FOR SPRING 2026 SEMESTER

10.4 APPROVAL OF ENERGY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIMATEC

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that he has a long-time professional relationship with Climatec and described the company as “excellent,” noting that they do “fabulous work.” He also stated that he knows the individual who signed the agreement and described her as “terrific.” He stated that they are expensive but excellent, noting that those are the trade-offs.

10.5 APPROVAL OF THE 2026–2027 PROTECH ACADEMIC CALENDARS FOR CTE FACULTY

10.6 APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS FOR MARCH 2026

Motion: Approve Consent Items 10.1 through 10.5 as presented and/or amended.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

11. ACTION ITEMS

11.1 APPROVAL OF FACULTY TENURE AND TENURE-TRACK STATUS

Motion: Approve the recommendation to grant tenure and to continue tenure-track appointments for eligible faculty based on satisfactory evaluations. Bring back...discussion to grant tenure.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

Public Comment and Board Discussion:

Richard Castillo, Faculty Senator (speaking in an individual capacity), addressed the Board and stated that the Academic Senate unanimously supported all faculty listed for tenure or continuation, with two faculty members receiving unanimous support for early tenure based on exemplary performance. He noted that Renee Roedel, also a Faculty Senator, stood in support.

Mr. Castillo identified Christina Granillo (Alcohol and Drug Studies), noting that she, along with Araceli Alvarez, revitalized the program and brought it back from the brink of decertification within approximately two years. He stated that although Ms. Granillo began in the spring and is not yet formally at the four-year mark, she has effectively served close to that timeframe and was unanimously supported by the Senate for early tenure.

He also identified Professor Anna Thelen (Economics), stating that she has gone above and beyond her duties, contributed to Academic Senate work and divisional initiatives, and is well respected by faculty. He noted that faculty unanimously supported her for early tenure due to her contributions.

Mr. Castillo reiterated that he was speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the Senate, and requested that the Board consider what the Academic Senate recommended to the administration regarding early tenure for the two identified faculty members.

Trustee Gloria Copple asked for clarification, stating, “We need to move them up, is what you’re saying?” and noted that they are currently in their fourth year.

Mr. Castillo responded, “Tenure them,” and stated that the Board has done this in the past. He referenced a prior instance during Bob Miller’s time when multiple third-year track faculty were recommended to skip the fourth year and be granted tenure, and that the Board approved those recommendations. He stated that the current request is for two faculty members, Christina Granillo and Anna Thelen, and that faculty unanimously supported early tenure for both through the Academic Senate. He added that the Board can grant tenure to anyone at any time.

Trustee Stella Styers asked what the District’s liability would be, if any, in approving early tenure.

Dr. Sam Robinson responded that she was not aware of a specific liability concern but explained that the issue relates to how tenure is granted under Education Code and Title 5. She stated that faculty are on one-year contracts in their first and second years, during which tenure could be granted between contracts. She explained that in the third year, faculty are placed on a two-year contract, and from the District’s perspective, without a local policy or established process, early tenure cannot be granted in the middle of that contract.

Dr. Robinson stated that this matter had been reviewed, including discussions with

Human Resources, the Academic Senate President, and Dr. Moses, as well as conversations with the two faculty members. She emphasized that the issue is not related to the merit of the faculty, but rather the lack of a local policy or formally approved process to allow early tenure during an active contract period.

Rene Roedel stated that she was one of the faculty members who was granted tenure early, moving from the third year to the fourth year. She shared that she was granted tenure based on her work at Ironwood State Prison and her efforts in rebuilding the ASL program.

Trustee Gloria Copple asked for clarification as to whether Ms. Roedel had to wait until the end of her contract.

Ms. Roedel responded that she did not have to wait and stated that the Board at that time approved her early tenure.

Trustee Arneson stated that he has no problem doing it. Trustee McNeil asked for clarification, confirming that tenure does not affect a faculty member's movement in step or pay. Dr. Robinson responded that she did not know the payroll implications. Ms. Rodriguez clarified that faculty are entitled to their step increases, but that tenure is a separate process.

Trustee Copple stated that once faculty are tenured, they then look to receive their step increases.

Ms. Rodriguez responded that faculty earn their step increases while they are earning tenure, noting that step increases are part of their contract and a separate process.

The Board discussed options for moving forward with the item, including whether to approve all faculty as presented or to separate out the two faculty recommended for early tenure for additional consideration. Following discussion, the Board reached consensus to move forward with approval of the item as presented, granting tenure and tenure-track status accordingly, and to bring back the two identified faculty members, Christina Granillo and Anna Thelen, at a future meeting for further discussion regarding early tenure.

11.2 APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS (6)
MOTION TO SEPARATE THE SIX EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

Motion: Trustee Dean made a motion to separate the six Educational Administrator contracts so that each contract could be voted on separately.

Moved by: Scott Dean

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **No:** Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – SANDRA “SAM” ROBINSON, DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

Motion: Approve the employment contract for Sandra "Sam" Robinson, Dean of Instruction.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – GER XIONG, DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES

Motion: Approve the employment contract for Ger Xiong, Dean of Student Services.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **No:** Jon McNeil, Scott Dean
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT -

IRMA GONZALEZ, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF COUNSELING

Motion: Approve the employment contract for Irma Gonzalez, Associate Dean of Counseling.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers
- **No:** Scott Dean
- **Abstained:** Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT - RYAN COPPLE, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Motion: Approve the employment contract for Ryan Copple, Athletic Director.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **No:** Angel Ramirez, Stella Styers
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT - JACLYN RANDALL, DEAN OF NEEDLES CENTER

Motion: Approve the employment contract for Jaclyn Randall, Dean of Needles Center.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Glenda Williams

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **No:** Angel Ramirez, Stella Styers
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT - OMAR PENA, DIRECTOR OF EOPS/CARE/NEXTUP

Motion: Approve the employment contract for Omar Pena, Director of EOPS/CARE/NEXTUP.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

Public Comment:

Alice Dean stated that she was speaking on Item 11.2 in an individual capacity. She shared that since May 15, 2025, she has experienced multiple stressful challenges related to two administrators listed, Ger Xiong and Irma Gonzalez, and stated that it has been difficult for her to find a place to share those concerns. She described herself as personable and a team-oriented employee, but stated that events beginning in May 2025 changed the trajectory of her experience at the College.

Ms. Dean stated that she felt staff were being treated and spoken to as if they were not present. She stated that one of the individuals had never come back into her office to speak with her directly, but continued to communicate through email in ways she described as challenging and not accurate. She stated that she was then supervised

under the person who “walked off” her supervisor at the time, Staci Lee, and that this was already a hostile situation because that person affected the relationship.

Ms. Dean stated that she does not want the Board to approve the contracts for Ger Xiong, Dean of Student Services, and Irma Gonzalez, Associate Dean of Counseling. She referenced that Irma Gonzalez had received votes of no confidence from groups including CTA and the Academic Senate, and stated that she believed ASG had also taken similar action. She questioned why the Board would extend a contract for someone who is currently out, and who has votes of no confidence against them. She also questioned approving what she described as six-figure contracts while other expenditures, such as the Needles graduation, were being scrutinized. She stated that administrators already receive good salaries and questioned why additional duties pay is being provided, stating that managers are expected to complete their work as part of their roles.

Ms. Dean stated that she has seen managers and administration receive additional pay for additional duties while classified staff took 18 months to reach a contract with the District. Speaking as a classified employee, she stated that this is not right and emphasized that the College is here for the staff and the students. She further stated that classified staff have taken on additional responsibilities during vacancies and questioned why they are not the ones receiving additional duties pay for that work.

Ms. Dean stated that she supports the approval of the remaining administrators listed and noted that her concerns were specific to her experiences with the two identified individuals. She stated that she has heard similar concerns from others and expressed that approving those two contracts would be a detriment to the College.

Ms. Dean reiterated that she does not want the Board to approve the contracts for Ger Xiong and Irma Gonzalez. She stated that she feels confident in the other administrators listed and noted that she is still getting to know Dr. Robinson but feels comfortable with that. She stated that her concerns are based on her experiences with the two identified individuals and that she is aware of similar concerns expressed by others.

Ms. Dean stated that she believes the Board needs to listen to both staff and students and consider the concerns being raised. She acknowledged that not all staff share the same perspective, but stated that some have expressed relief at the absence of the two individuals. She concluded by stating that she believes approving those two contracts would be a detriment to the College.

Board Discussion:

Trustee Dean asked whether the item could be separated, stating that he could not rightfully vote for all six at the same time. Trustee Jon McNeil responded that he could make a motion for the ones he wanted to vote for. Trustee Dean clarified that he wanted to vote for all six, but not all at once. It was stated that the item could be broken out and each one voted on separately.

Student Trustee Rangel-Ruiz stated that she had a question, noting that she is still new to serving as a trustee. She referenced a “whistleblower” related to Irma Gonzalez,

asking whether that should be considered, stating, “Doesn’t that go against something?” She referenced a prior meeting in January where the “whistleblower” was discussed and expressed that the Board should reconsider and allow for further discussion, stating that she did not feel the situation was fair.

Dr. Moses stated that he would ask Ms. Rodriguez to address the matter before further discussion to ensure that a mistake is not made. Ms. Rodriguez responded that allegations had been brought forward against Ms. Gonzalez and that, to her understanding, an investigation is being conducted and no findings have been made. She stated that making an employment decision based on allegations could be considered discriminatory in nature and could create liability for the District and advised caution. Trustee Jon McNeil thanked Ms. Rodriguez and stated that it was good advice.

Trustee Glenda Williams asked whether the Board could wait until all of the information is available. Ms. Rodriguez responded that the contract is being presented now because it expires in June. She stated that if something were to come from the investigation, it would be handled as a separate process and evaluated by the Board at that time. She further stated that, based on the current status of the allegations and the process, no action could lawfully be taken against Ms. Gonzalez.

Motion:

Trustee Dean made a motion to separate the six Educational Administrator contracts so that each contract could be voted on separately. Trustee McNeil seconded the motion.

Further Board Discussion and Public Comment:

Trustee Stella Styers stated that she needs more information on Ryan Copple, Athletic Director, noting that it is a 12-month contract. She questioned how many programs he oversees, referencing the basketball program and asking how long the season lasts, and asked what his duties are outside of that. She also asked whether the contract should be amended to reflect a part-time Athletic Director, stating that she has concerns.

Trustee Gloria Copple mentioned that he has been serving in the role for five years and questioned why concerns are being raised at this time.

Trustee Angel Ramirez responded that it has been a concern for some time and that he has raised it previously. He stated that he does not believe the position should be full-time and suggested that the Board consider a part-time Athletic Director.

Trustee Gloria Copple asked whether this type of discussion about employees should occur in open session. Trustee Stella Styers responded that similar discussion had just occurred regarding two other contracts.

Peter Martinez stated that the Board was in violation, expressing concern that discussion regarding employees and related matters should occur in closed session. He stated that the discussion was being recorded and that a rule had been violated, and apologized for speaking up. Trustee Gloria Copple responded that she agreed.

Trustee Angel Ramirez acknowledged the concern regarding the discussion and

apologized, stating that, without referencing a name, he believes the District does not need a full-time Athletic Director. He stated that there is not enough work to support a full-time position and suggested that a part-time Athletic Director could handle the responsibilities, noting that this was his opinion.

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that he does not have a connection to the Athletic Director but has held a similar role, noting his experience working with colleges and at Cal Poly Pomona as a coach and assistant to the Athletic Director. He stated that, while it may be a larger program, he understands the point being made and sees some merit to it. However, he also stated that responsibilities such as recruiting occur during the summer and that issues in an athletic department arise year-round, not on a limited basis. He expressed that there is a need for the position to support the growth of the program and that the College would benefit from maintaining a strong athletic program.

Trustee Stella Styers referenced the basketball programs and questioned how many student-athletes are currently participating on the men's and women's basketball teams.

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that there have been discussions about expanding the athletic program to include baseball, noting that there is a strong baseball presence in the community. He stated that, based on his background in sports, he believes the individual has good ideas and an interest in expanding the program. He further stated that having a strong athletic program helps create a strong sense of community within the College.

Trustee Gloria Copple stated that athletics help bring students to the College and increase enrollment. Trustee Jon McNeil added that, beyond enrollment, athletics also contribute to positive morale within the student body.

Discussion occurred regarding the process for separating the item and the implications of recusal. Clarification was sought to ensure compliance with applicable requirements. Peter Martinez also expressed concern regarding potential Brown Act and conflict-of-interest considerations and urged the Board to proceed cautiously.

Richard Castillo, speaking as a member of the community, referenced a prior situation and noted that, under certain circumstances, an educational administrator who has served in good standing may be entitled to retreat rights to a faculty position if their contract is not renewed. He encouraged the Board to consult with legal counsel and Human Resources regarding this consideration.

The Board discussed the procedural steps for the motion to separate the item and the implications for voting and recusal. Clarification was provided that the pending motion was to separate the contracts for individual consideration and that, until the item was formally separated, it remained a single item for purposes of recusal and voting. The Board then proceeded to vote on the motion to separate the item.

Following approval of the motion to separate the item, the Board considered each Educational Administrator contract individually and conducted roll call votes for each.

Prior to the vote for Dean Ger Xiong's contract, Dr. Robinson spoke in support of Ms. Xiong, stating that her success as Dean of Instruction is due in part to their partnership

and expressing that Ms. Xiong is an outstanding leader who has contributed significantly to the College.

Prior to the vote on the employment contract for Jaclyn Randall, Trustee Styers stated that, based on her view of fiscal responsibility, she would not be in favor of the contract.

11.3 APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Motion: Approve the employment contract for the educational administrator.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

11.4 APPROVAL OF REVISED MANAGEMENT JOB DESCRIPTION

Motion: Approve the revised Management job description as presented.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

11.5 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PVCCD AND CSEA
CHAPTER 180 - JOB DESCRIPTION AND POSITION ADJUSTMENT

Motion: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between PVCCD and CSEA Chapter 180-job descriptions and position adjustment as presented in the attachments.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Melina Rangel-Ruiz
- **Recused:** Scott Dean

11.6 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE PALO VERDE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION AND THE PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT – EXTRA DUTY COMPENSATION FOR PART-TIME UNIT MEMBER PARTICIPATION
IN SENATE EQUIVALENCY HEARINGS

Motion: Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Palo Verde Community College Association and the Palo Verde Community College District regarding extra duty compensation for part-time unit member participation in Academic Senate Equivalency Committee hearings.

Moved by: Angel Ramirez

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

11.7 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION AND THE PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – SPECIAL EXTRA DUTY ASSIGNMENT: SENATE HUB DESIGNER

Motion: The agreement between Palo Verde Community College District and the Palo Verde Community College Association is effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees and shall end on May 31, 2027.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

11.8 APPROVAL OF 2025–2026 FIRST PRINCIPAL (P1) APPORTIONMENT REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS

Motion: Approve the 2025–2026 First Principal (P1) Apportionment revenue adjustments as presented.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

11.9 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH CAMBRIDGE WEST PARTNERSHIP, LLC FOR 5-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN AND SPACE INVENTORY SERVICES

Motion: Approve the Agreement with Cambridge West Partnership, LLC for the formulation and management of the District’s 2026 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan (5YCP) and Annual Space Inventory (Report 17).

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that he would like to see the report once it is completed, noting that the firm is excellent.

11.10 APPROVAL OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH KONICA MINOLTA PREMIER FINANCE FOR A KONICA MINOLTA BH C651i DIGITAL COPIER

Motion: Approve the State and Local Government Lease-Purchase Agreement with Konica Minolta Premier Finance for the lease-purchase of one (1) Konica Minolta BH C651i Digital Copier with attachments.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Scott Dean, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

Dr. Robinson addressed the faculty, noting that the copier referenced in the agreement is a new unit located on the second floor, explaining that previously, there was only one copier in the building, requiring faculty to go to the first floor. She stated that, with support from Facilities and Information Technology, there is now a copier accessible on the second floor and encouraged everyone to spread the word.

11.11 BOARD POLICY 2310 – REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE REVISION)

It was explained to the Board that any change to the meeting day would require a revision to Board Policy 2310. The policy would need to go through the District's internal revision process before returning to the Board for final consideration. Following discussion, the Board determined to leave the policy unchanged at this time and continue holding meetings on Tuesdays through the end of the year.

No action was taken on this item.

11.12 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion: Approve the 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, as amended, to move the Needles meeting from April to May.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

12. CLOSING OF MEETING

12.1 POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Jon McNeil reminded the Board that he would like to bring back the two faculty members previously discussed under Item 11.1 for further consideration of early tenure.

12.2 ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President

Minutes approved at April 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Minutes generated by Naomi Alaniz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees. These minutes are a concise summary of reports, discussions, and actions taken at this meeting. For detailed comments and discussion, a tape is available to the public for 30 days after the date of this meeting.

Draft

It has come to my attention that, once again, a student is being used to attack Palo Verde College and the ARC program. At the last board meeting, a student came forward to speak without an interpreter. A comment was made that he could not be understood, and the question was raised regarding the location of his interpreter. A board member then exclaimed, “That’s the point—he does not have one.”

Let me be very clear, if a student needs an accommodation outside of the classroom, it is the student’s responsibility to request it through ARC with enough advance notice for it to be provided. ARC does not have an in-person interpreter on campus on standby 24/7.

On the day that this student came to speak at the meeting, he should have been in classroom using the accommodation provided to him in his class. His new accommodation, which is an online interpreting service, had not yet been implemented because we had not received the tablet that he needed for classroom use that day; it arrived the next morning. I immediately set it up, ensured he understood how to use it, and stayed after work on my own time to make sure his instructor understood the process and that everything was running smoothly before I left.

To be clear, this student knew a week in advance that this accommodation was coming. He and I had met with the interpreting service, they thoroughly explained the process, confirmed that he understand how it worked, and instructed him on how to request help if needed.

It is unfortunate that this student is unknowingly being used as a pawn to further others’ agendas. Students are being weaponized against staff and administration, and this board is allowing it to happen.

This board allows anyone to come in and say anything—true or not—and then uses those comments to make decisions without ever stopping to fact-check what is being said. The disruption on campus is being driven by employees who lack the integrity to raise these issues themselves and instead use these students to speak for them.

At the January 13, 2026 meeting, Trustee McNeil said to a member of the public speaking about Item 10.2, which happen to be Scott Dean, *“You can’t make an accusation about people if you don’t have something to back that up... you should do your homework before you start making accusations about people in a negative way.”*

Yet on numerous occasions, individuals have come in this room with wild—often baseless—accusations, and no one stops them or questions why these attacks are happening. Personal vendettas are being used as ammunition for professional attacks that are harming real people, and no one is being held accountable.

On December 22, 2025, at the Special Board Meeting, ASG President Robert Murillo stated, and I quote, “If individuals want to take down what’s part of me, then I will take away what is important to them, which is their job,” and that he would “aim for it.” He concluded that staff who are “scared” and “worried about their position should stay like that.” This board allowed a student to openly threaten staff, and nothing was done. Then at the February 10th meeting, he followed through on his threat and made baseless, slanderous claims against Irma and Clint—claims that can harm them personally and professionally. Again, he was allowed to do so without challenge.

My work environment has gone from a place I loved to a place that breaks my heart daily. Students are hurting. Staff are hurting. And no one seems to care as long as their getting their way. No one cares about the impact of their words, the harm they are causing, or the irreversible personal and professional damage that is being done. This has turned into a bad reality TV show, and everyone involved—from the top to the bottom—should be ashamed of themselves.

Thank you,
Christina Felix

Statement by Robert Murillo
President, Associated Student Government (ASG)
Palo Verde College

3/10/2026

Good afternoon, Board members and members of the Palo Verde College community.

Due to privacy reasons, I am unable to deliver my remarks in person at tonight's board meeting. However, that does not diminish my commitment as your ASG President or the strength of my voice as a student leader.

Today, I stand before you if only on paper on behalf of the students I serve and represent. Lately, I have felt as if I am caged and silent, waiting day by day to see action on the issues I raised in my last board address. It has become clear that, at times, my advocacy is met with resistance sometimes even fear. But my dedication to the students of PVC has never wavered. I am here to speak for them, to fight for them, and to ensure their voices are truly heard.

In particular, I want to speak about the students at our Needles Center. Too often, when Needles students express their concerns, their voices are dismissed or ignored. When they ask for help, we should support them. When they ask us to stop interfering with their graduation plans, we must listen. It is not enough to offer funding or gestures Needles students want and deserve to be heard, respected, and celebrated on their own terms.

The smaller number of graduates at Needles should never be used as an excuse to deprive them of a meaningful graduation ceremony in their own community. I am prepared and honored to travel to Needles to deliver a commencement address. In fact, I am so committed to this cause that I would rather walk the stage in Needles than at the main PVC campus, so I can stand in solidarity with those students and their families.

I urge this board and our college community to do what is right for all students, in all locations. Let us live up to our mission and values by honoring every student's journey and achievement, wherever they may be.

Thank you for your attention and your commitment to our students.

Respectfully

Thank you

Robert Hope Murillo ASG president 2025-2026