



PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Board Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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

Physical Meeting Location: One College Drive, Blythe, CA – CL 101

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

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1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Gloria Copple.

1.2 ROLL CALL

- **Trustees Present:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli (arrived for the reconvening to open session)
- **Trustees Absent:** Glenda Williams
- **Administrators Present:** Edward "Ed" Knudson, Interim Superintendent/President

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: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

2. HEARING OF CITIZENS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

2.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Richard Castillo, President of PVCCA/CTA, addressed the Board regarding ongoing negotiations between PVCCA/CTA and the District. Mr. Castillo expressed concerns regarding the length and progress of negotiations and discussed outstanding issues related to salary, Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA), health and welfare benefits, and overload compensation. Trustee Camargo-Styers requested clarification regarding Mr. Castillo's reference to the proposed \$27,000 health and welfare benefits cap, and Mr. Castillo clarified that the amount included medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:05 p.m.

3.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957.60)

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

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

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:32 p.m.

4.1 FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4.2 REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Board President Gloria Copple reported that the Board took action to release a classified administrator. The action was approved by a 4-2 vote as follows:

- Trustee Copple – No
- Trustee McNeil – Yes
- Trustee Dean – No
- Trustee Arneson – Yes
- Trustee Styers – Yes
- Trustee Ramirez – Yes
- Trustee Williams – Absent

4.3 APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Open Session Agenda for this meeting.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

4.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECUSAL FROM AGENDA ITEMS

Board President Copple announced that she needed to recuse herself from all Consent

Agenda items. Trustee Ramirez announced that he needed to recuse himself from Item 9.18 – Consideration of Approval of the Absence of Trustee Angel Ramirez from the June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

5. HEARING OF CITIZENS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Beverly Mays addressed the Board regarding the Needles Educational Center and the recent flooding in Needles, California. Ms. Mays commended the Needles Center staff for their response to the flooding and their efforts to relocate classes and ensure that students could continue their education without interruption. She expressed appreciation for the services the Needles Educational Center provides to students in the remote community and thanked the Needles staff for their efforts.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 TITLE IX ANNUAL REPORT

Elena Rodriguez, Acting Vice President of Human Resources, presented the Title IX Annual Report. Ms. Rodriguez explained that the report is a new reporting requirement established this year and requires the District to report sex-based discrimination complaints received from employees and students to the Chancellor's Office. She reported that the 2025-2026 report included four reports and one formal complaint. The four reports were handled by Grand River Solutions and did not result in any findings. The formal complaint remained under investigation, with the outcome to be included in the following year's report. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the report was being presented for Board approval under Item 9.4 prior to submission to the Chancellor's Office.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

Public Comment:

Vanja Velickovska, Faculty, addressed the Board and expressed concern regarding the District's increased use of consultants, respectfully asking the Board to carefully review their use. Ms. Velickovska referenced several consultant agreements on the Consent Agenda related to Admissions and Records, including Item 8.5 – Jeremy Jones, Item 8.6 – Kyle Crider, Item 8.7 – Alcove Insights, and Item 8.8 – AG Data Solutions, as well as Item 8.13 – Paul Tran. She stated that the agenda included approximately \$385,000 in consultant agreements and questioned the need to bring back a former administrator as a consultant when the District had already retained multiple consultants to provide support in the area.

At the request of Trustee Brad Arneson, Item 8.12 – Approval of Personnel Actions Report – July & August 2026 was removed from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Following the removal of Item 8.12, Board President Copple recused herself from Item 8.12 and then withdrew her previously announced recusal from the remaining Consent Agenda items.

- 8.1 APPROVAL OF JUNE 9, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
- 8.2 APPROVAL OF JUNE 23, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
- 8.3 APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY PART-TIME FACULTY FOR FALL 2026
- 8.4 RATIFICATION OF WORK ORDER AGREEMENT WITH TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION FOR WATER DAMAGE REPAIRS AT THE NEEDLES EDUCATIONAL CENTER
- 8.5 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH JEREMY JONES
- 8.6 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KYLE CRIDER
- 8.7 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ALCOVE INSIGHTS, INC.
- 8.8 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AG DATA SOLUTIONS LLC
- 8.9 APPROVAL OF STUDENT ATHLETIC INSURANCE COVERAGE
- 8.10 APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027
- 8.11 APPROVAL OF PART-TIME TEMPORARY STUDENT WORKERS FOR SUMMER 2026 SEMESTER
- 8.12 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT - JULY & AUGUST 2026

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately at the request of Trustee Arneson.

Motion: Approve the Personnel Actions Report for July and August 2026.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Fails

Vote:

- **Yes:** Jon McNeil, Scott Dean
- **No:** Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez
- **Recused:** Gloria Copple

Board Discussion:

Trustee Arneson expressed concern regarding the proposed \$24,000 supplemental pay for the Athletic Director, questioning the additional compensation given his concern that additional athletic programs anticipated over the previous five years had not been developed. Interim Superintendent/President Knudson explained that the District had researched practices at other colleges and found varying approaches to additional compensation for athletic directors. He stated that the proposed supplemental pay was intended specifically for development of the athletic department, including development of a strategic plan and three new sports programs during the upcoming academic year. Mr. Knudson clarified that the supplemental pay was a one-time, non-precedent-setting payment and would not automatically apply in subsequent years or to a future Athletic Director.

Trustee Dean commented that he had spoken with the Athletic Director and understood that he had been working additional hours to organize and expand the athletic program. Trustee Arneson reiterated his concern that additional sports programs had been anticipated for several years but had not been developed. In response to Trustee McNeil's

questions, Mr. Knudson confirmed that the supplemental assignment included development of three additional sports programs, representing six teams with men's and women's programs. Trustee McNeil noted that the compensation was tied to specific, one-time work intended to expand the athletic program. Trustee Arneson reiterated his concern regarding the lack of additional teams developed in prior years.

8.13 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PAUL TRAN

8.14 APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS FOR AUGUST 2026

Motion: Approve Consent Items 8.1 through 8.14 as presented, excluding Item 8.12.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

Board Discussion:

Trustee Dean asked why the District had so many consultant agreements. Interim Superintendent/President Knudson responded that staff had reduced the District's use of consultants by approximately 50 percent compared to the prior year and anticipated further reductions in the following year. Mr. Knudson explained that Paul Tran, who left the District at the end of July, had agreed to provide temporary assistance for approximately 60 days because the District had not yet filled the position. He stated that Mr. Tran would assist with opening the academic year and required Admissions and Records reporting.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PVC PEER ONLINE COURSE REVIEW (POCR) PROJECT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Motion: Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Palo Verde Community College District and the Palo Verde Community College Association regarding the PVC Peer Online Course Review (POCR) Project for Academic Year 2026-2027.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.2 APPROVAL OF COLLEGE AND CAREER ACCESS PATHWAYS (CCAP) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH PALO VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Motion: Approve the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Partnership Agreement with Palo Verde Unified School District.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.3 APPROVAL OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Motion: Approve the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan Annual Certification.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.4 TITLE IX SEX DISCRIMINATION REPORT

Motion: Approve the Title IX Sex Discrimination Report

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.5 APPROVAL OF STUDENT TRAVEL

Motion: Approve the student travel as presented.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

Board Discussion:

Trustee Dean questioned the number of chaperones listed for the HACU 40th Annual Conference in Chula Vista, noting that 12 students were scheduled to attend and referencing a ratio of one chaperone for every six students. Interim Superintendent/President Knudson clarified that the individuals listed as chaperones included both required chaperones and District staff who would also be attending the conference. He explained that at least two individuals would serve as the required chaperones, while the remaining staff would be attending the conference in their capacity as District employees. Mr. Knudson also noted the importance of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) as a national organization for the District.

9.6 APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT CLINICAL SITE PLACEMENTS

Motion: Approve the out-of-district clinical site placements for Nursing and Allied Health students as presented.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.7 DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SALE OF A DISTRICT VEHICLE

Motion: Declare the identified vehicle as surplus property and authorize the Interim Superintendent/President to complete the private sale of the vehicle for \$600 in accordance with Administrative Procedure 6550.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.8 RATIFICATION OF ORDER FORM NO. CC-002 AND AGREEMENT WITH MODERN CAMPUS USA INC.

Motion: Approve the ratification of Order Form No. CC-002 and the associated Agreement with Modern Campus USA Inc. for the Modern Campus Curriculum, Catalog, and SIS Integration subscriptions.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.9 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH P2C SOLUTIONS, LLC

Motion: Approve the Consultant Services Agreement with P2C Solutions, LLC.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.10 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TYLER NGUYEN

Motion: Approve the Consultant Services Agreement with Tyler Nguyen.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.11 APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THERESA BECKER

Motion: Approve the Consultant Services Agreement with Theresa Becker.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

Public Comment and Discussion:

Vanja Velickovska, Faculty, addressed the Board and requested that Item 9.11 not be approved. Ms. Velickovska expressed concern regarding the continued use of Dr. Theresa Becker as a consultant and stated that nursing faculty and students needed stable and accessible leadership. She stated that Dr. Becker was participating in the recruitment of a permanent Nursing Director while also serving as a consultant and expressed her opinion that this appeared to present a conflict of interest. Ms. Velickovska emphasized the need for a permanent Nursing Director and questioned the continued use of consultants to provide remote planning and oversight of the nursing program.

Interim Superintendent/President Knudson explained that the District had been unable to recruit a permanent Nursing Director and that Dr. Becker was being retained to provide continuity and bridge the gap while recruitment continued. Dr. Sam Robinson, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, explained that a search firm specializing in healthcare professions had been retained to assist with recruitment and emphasized that the District must maintain a Nursing Director in order to continue operating the nursing program. Dr. Robinson noted the difficulty in identifying candidates who meet the Board of Nursing requirements, including nursing licensure, teaching experience, and supervisory experience, and reported that a candidate who had been scheduled for an interview that day had withdrawn. She stated that the District was also exploring the possibility of hiring an Assistant Director who could obtain the required supervisory experience and later qualify for the Director position. Dr. Robinson explained that continuing Dr. Becker's services would allow the District to maintain the nursing program while recruitment efforts continued.

9.12 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH FERRILLI FOR CORE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

Motion: Approve the agreement with Ferrilli for Core System Administration Services.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

Board Discussion:

Trustee Dean questioned whether there was overlap between the services provided under Items 9.12 and 9.13, noting that the two agreements appeared to provide similar services. Interim Superintendent/President Knudson explained that the agreements support different areas of technology and utilize different groups of personnel within the same firm. Mr. Knudson further explained that the District had reduced the consultant hours under the Ferrilli agreements by approximately half and was focused on training District staff and developing in-house expertise to reduce reliance on outside consultants over time.

9.13 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH FERRILLI FOR FLEXPART TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING SERVICES

Motion: Approve the agreement with Ferrilli for Flexpart Technology Consulting Services.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.14 APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ROVING SPORTS MEDICINE PROFESSIONALS FOR ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES

Motion: Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Roving Athletic Training Service, LLC dba Roving Sports Medicine Professionals for athletic training services.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.15 RATIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SERVICES

Prior to consideration of the item, Board President Copple publicly reported the compensation provisions of the proposed employment agreement for Dr. Sandra Robinson, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. Board President Copple stated that the term of the employment agreement is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, or until a permanent replacement is hired, unless otherwise terminated or extended in accordance with the agreement. The annual salary is

\$196,821, at Row 16, Step 9 of the Administrators Salary Schedule, with health and welfare and other benefits consistent with those provided to other educational administrators of the District.

Board President Copple noted that the employment agreement is available for public inspection and will be made available upon request in accordance with the Brown Act.

Board President Copple opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment on the item. Trustee Dean commented on a staff presentation led by Dr. Robinson that he had attended the previous day, which included music, musicians, and a "What's Your Superpower?" activity designed to help unify staff. Trustee Dean stated that he thought it was a good program and shared that, based on his conversation with Dr. Robinson, she was interested in bringing greater unity to the College and its various areas.

Motion: Approve the ratification of the Employment Contract for Dr. Sandra Robinson, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction & Student Services, as presented.

Moved by: Angel Ramirez

Seconded by: Stella Styers

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.16 RATIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

Prior to consideration of the item, Board President Copple publicly reported the compensation provisions of the proposed employment agreement for James Thomas, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services and College Advancement. Board President Copple stated that the term of the employment agreement is July 6, 2026, through June 30, 2027, or until a permanent replacement is hired, unless otherwise terminated or extended in accordance with the agreement. The annual salary is \$178,523, at Row 16, Step 6 of the Administrators Salary Schedule, with health and welfare and other benefits consistent with those provided to classified management of the District.

Board President Copple noted that the employment agreement is available for public inspection and will be made available upon request in accordance with the Brown Act.

Board President Copple opened the floor for public comment and Board discussion. There was none.

Motion: Approve the ratification of the Employment Agreement for James Thomas, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services & College Advancement, as presented.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.17 APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZED AGENTS AND RCOE CERTIFICATION OF SIGNATURES FOR PVCCD

Motion: Approve the Authorized Agents and RCOE Certification of Signatures as presented for PVCCD.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Grace Wehrli

9.18 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ABSENCE OF TRUSTEE ANGEL RAMIREZ FROM THE JUNE 9, 2026, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Motion: Approve the Absence of Trustee Angel Ramirez from the June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Grace Wehrli
- **No:** Scott Dean
- **Recused:** Angel Ramirez

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 10.1 FIRST READ OF BOARD SELF-EVALUATION
- 10.2 FIRST READ OF REVIEWED/REVISED BOARD POLICIES
- 10.3 REVIEWED/REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
- 10.4 PROGRAM REVIEW SUBMISSION
- 10.5 IRS STANDARD BUSINESS MILEAGE RATE UPDATE
- 10.6 REPORT OF PURCHASES AND WARRANTS - JUNE & JULY 2026
- 10.7 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL
- 10.8 APPOINTMENT OF ONE-YEAR TEMPORARY SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCREDITATION

11. REPORTS

- 11.1 ACADEMIC SENATE - JENNIFER FAUX-CAMPBELL, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC SENATE
Jennifer Faux-Campbell was not present, and no report was given.
- 11.2 PVCCA/CTA - RICHARD CASTILLO, PRESIDENT OF PVCCA/CTA

Richard Castillo, President of PVCCA/CTA, reported on ongoing negotiations between PVCCA/CTA and the District and discussed faculty concerns regarding the bargaining process. Mr. Castillo expressed concern regarding a recent proposed MOU involving prison programs and the implementation of selected tentatively agreed-upon contract language prior to completion of the overall agreement. He also discussed outstanding negotiations related to salary and wages, Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA), health and welfare benefits, and overload compensation. Mr. Castillo reported that the next negotiations session was scheduled for August 27, 2026.

11.3 CSEA, CHAPTER 180 - ALICE DEAN, PRESIDENT OF CSEA CHAPTER 180

Alice Dean, President of CSEA Chapter 180, welcomed everyone back for the new academic year and reported that CSEA and the District had negotiations scheduled for August 12 and August 17, 2026, regarding the health and welfare benefits reopener. Ms. Dean expressed hope that the parties would reach an agreement during the upcoming negotiations.

11.4 ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT - GRACE WEHRLI, STUDENT TRUSTEE

Grace Wehrli, Student Trustee, reported that Associated Student Government (ASG) elections for the vacant President and Vice President positions would be held in September. She announced that applications were due August 26, 2026.

11.5 INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT - ED KNUDSON

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Interim Superintendent/President Knudson reported on several instructional, student services, and administrative initiatives. He announced that 14 in-person classes would be offered at ISP and that in-person and interactive television course offerings at the Needles Educational Center were being expanded. He also reported that Instruction and Student Services administrators had established a rotating schedule to provide weekly on-site support at the Needles Center. Mr. Knudson discussed efforts underway to develop a hospitality services certificate program in partnership with California State University, Monterey Bay, with a potential pathway to a bachelor's degree, and reported that the fully online Communication Studies program would be scheduled through the Needles Center.

Mr. Knudson congratulated Dr. Robinson and her staff on activities held to welcome employees back for the new academic year and thanked Dean Jaclyn Randall and the Needles team for their rapid response to the recent flooding and efforts to reopen the Needles Center for students. He also provided an update on work underway within Administrative Services, including preparation for the interim year-end audit, securing athletic insurance, addressing outstanding payables, 50% Law reporting, participation in the Chancellor's Office budget workshop, and the delivery of new furniture and Building Trades equipment. Mr. Knudson noted that a written report had been provided and is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment A - VPAS Board Report 8.11.26.

In closing, Mr. Knudson thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the District and expressed his appreciation for the faculty and staff and their commitment to the College.

Attachments:

[Attachment A - VPAS Board Report 8.11.26.pdf](#) 

11.6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Board President Copple welcomed faculty and staff back for the new academic year and expressed her hope for a positive and collaborative year. She recognized Dean Jaclyn Randall and the Needles Educational Center staff for their hard work and response to the recent flooding and acknowledged the Flex Day activities coordinated by Dr. Robinson. President Copple expressed her hope that faculty, staff, and everyone at the College would work together, get along, and have a good year.

Board Vice President McNeil reported on his participation on the Superintendent/President Search Committee and recognized the 17 committee members for the significant time and effort devoted to the search process. He reported that the search began with approximately 60 applicants, with 39 applicants advancing to paper screening and nine candidates selected for virtual interviews. Following the interview process, three finalists were recommended to move forward for consideration by the Board. Trustee McNeil commended the committee members for their work and commitment to identifying strong candidates for the District.

Trustee McNeil also commented on the significant flooding in Needles and recognized Dean Jaclyn Randall for her leadership and efforts to ensure that the Needles Educational Center could reopen and continue serving students. He noted the extensive recovery work underway at the Center and commended Dean Randall for her continued service to students throughout the recovery efforts.

In closing, Trustee McNeil recognized Interim Superintendent/President Knudson for his leadership and contributions to the District during his interim appointment, thanked him for his service, and stated that he would be missed.

Board Clerk Dean read a prepared statement during his Board report. The statement is attached to and incorporated into these minutes as Attachment B – Trustee Dean Statement.

Trustee Arneson welcomed everyone back for the new academic year and stated that he looked forward to continuing to work with everyone throughout the year.

Trustee Camargo-Styers welcomed everyone back and read a prepared statement during her Board report. The statement is attached to and incorporated into these minutes as Attachment C – Trustee Camargo-Styers Statement.

Trustee Ramirez had nothing to report.

Attachments:

[Attachment B - Trustee Dean Statement.pdf](#) 

[Attachment C - Trustee Camargo-Styers Statement.pdf](#) 

12. CLOSING OF MEETING

12.1 POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were requested.

12.2 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.



Scott Dean, Board Clerk

Minutes approved at the September 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Minutes prepared by Naomi Alaniz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees. These minutes are a summary of reports, discussions, and actions taken at this meeting. Audio/video recordings of Board of Trustees meetings are available on the District's website for public review and may be consulted for a more complete record of meeting discussions.



PALO VERDE COLLEGE

WHERE KNOWLEDGE TAKES ROOT AND OPPORTUNITY GROWS

Memorandum

To: Ed Knudson, Superintendent/President

From: Jim Thomas, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of
Administrative Services and College Advancement

Subject: Report of Activities

Date: July 31, 2026

The following activities, in addition to our day-to-day responsibilities, were completed during July 2026 by the Administrative Services, Maintenance and Operations, and Marketing and Advancement Departments.

Administrative Services

- Compiled and coordinated responses to several public records requests.
- Our department continues to work diligently to complete year-end tasks in advance of Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) deadlines.
- We, in collaboration with other PVC departments, continue to respond to requests related to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 interim audit.
- Processed the fourth quarter G5 reimbursement drawdown from the Department of Education.
- Attended PVC's July 13, 2026, management staff training.
- Have been collaborating with our 50% Law consultant to ensure compliance.
- We screened and interviewed applicants for our Fiscal Technician II vacancy.
- Met via Zoom with our athletic trainer and insurance vendor to review our athlete insurance policy renewal options to determine which policy best meets PVC's need.
- Attended Chancellor's Office 2026 Annual Budget Workshop via Zoom.

Maintenance and Operations

- New classroom furniture has been installed in the Classroom and Laboratory (CL) Building classrooms. The previous furniture has been removed from the first-floor mall area of the CL Building, and the space has been prepared for the delivery and installation of additional new furniture, which is scheduled to arrive on August 3, 2026.
- Work is also progressing in the Building Trades area of the Technologies Building. Maintenance staff have been installing new equipment, including running new electrical service and installing a new dust collection system to support instructional operations.
- To support the Human Resources Department, a new 40-foot shipping container has been installed. A concrete foundation was poured to provide a stable and permanent base for the container.
- As part of our annual summer maintenance program, crews have been stripping and waxing floors throughout campus, as well as cleaning carpets to ensure facilities are clean, safe, and ready for students, faculty, and staff for the Fall Semester.
- The Maintenance & Operations team has been assisting with flood damage recovery efforts and repairs for our Needles Center. Staff continue to work diligently to restore affected areas and support the safe and timely reopening of the center.

Marketing and Advancement

- Continued evaluating and improving the College's marketing request and approval process by identifying workflow bottlenecks and implementing solutions designed to improve turnaround times while maintaining brand consistency. Began implementation of Canva Enterprise. The project will provide premium accounts to employees and students while introducing PVC branded templates, improving the efficiency of marketing request workflows, and empowering departments to create high-quality, on-brand materials independently. Campus-wide training is anticipated shortly after the start of the Fall semester and Week of Welcome.
- Began preparations for the Fall scholarship distribution process for students selected during the Spring Foundation Scholarship Cycle.
- Coordinated planning for the Foundation's biannual Laptop Award Program. Applications scheduled to open during the first week of August to support student technology access.
- Completed Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Admin 101, a professional development program designed to strengthen leadership skills and prepare new administrators for success within the California Community College system.
- Completed required year-end reporting for Foundation grant-funded programs, including the Finish Line Scholars Program, and prepared renewal applications to secure continued external funding opportunities.
- Began the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) Leadership Institute, a ten-month national leadership development program that will conclude with graduation at the 2027 NCMPR National Conference. The program focuses on strategic leadership, organizational effectiveness, and advancing marketing and communications within higher education.
- Continued providing photography and livestream production support for District events, including the FTVN Pinning Ceremony, ensuring events were documented and accessible to students, families, and the broader community.

For years, there have been problems not just with the college, but with the people who make it up and with the boards charged with governing it. I am not exempt from this. Everyone has problems, but how we handle them and how we treat others because of them make a huge difference. I attended Board meetings and addressed the Board, only to feel that what I said was not being heard. I observed, as many of you did, that others often felt the same way.

I agree with the philosophy of learning and unity. People should have the opportunity to learn, but with that opportunity comes responsibility—the responsibility to study, to work, and to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter they are studying.

As school begins, I hope we remember that students who study, work hard, and meet academic standards should be rewarded for doing so. Academic achievement should be earned. Our responsibility is not to lower the standard, but to give students the instruction, resources, encouragement, and opportunity they need to reach it.

Let us build a strong student body by helping our students succeed and take pride in their accomplishments.

I recently learned the story behind the song “Seven Nation Army.” It began as a rock song, but soccer fans in Belgium started chanting its simple melody. Italian fans picked it up, and when Italy won the 2006 World Cup, the chant spread around the world.

Today, people from different countries, cultures, and languages can hear those few notes and immediately join together. The repeating line “ is addictive, aFTER LISTENING TO THE SONG ONCE, THE REPATING LINE “Oh—oh-oh-oh-oh—ohhh—oh POPS INTO YOUR HEAD THROUGHOUR THE DAY and for many, it is the best part of the song. I think there is a lesson in that. Those people do not suddenly become the same. They still come from different countries, speak different languages, and may disagree about almost everything else. But for that moment, they have found something they share.

I think a college can work the same way. We do not have to agree on everything to work together. Students still have to do the work and earn their accomplishments, and we have the responsibility to give them the opportunity and support to succeed.

A college should always be a place where people continue to learn, grow, and improve. Unity does not mean that we will always agree. It means that we listen to one another, respect different perspectives, and work together toward our common purpose: serving our students and our community.

Stella Camargo-Styers

Statement regarding the Response to Uriel Avendano

Statement regarding Jon McNiel Censorship

May 26, 2026

The events surrounding these statements and publications raise serious concerns regarding the misuse of Board authority and the improper representation of the Board's position

On May 7, 2026, Uriel Avendano sent an email to all Board members requesting comments or statements for publication regarding the termination of former Superintendent/President Dr. Bruce Moses, the appointment of Stephanie Slagan as Acting and if Stella Camargo Styers was granted legal counsel for closed session, and questions raised by Academic Senate President Sarah Frid.

At no time did Board President Gloria Copple reach out to all Board members to discuss whether the Board should issue an official response, nor was there any collective discussion regarding the content of any statement being released publicly. My first expectation was that legal counsel would be consulted to ensure that any response protected the district from liability and accurately reflected authorized Board action. That did not occur.

I was later informed by Trustee McNeil that Jacqueline Randall, a Site Dean at the Needles Center, authored the article or statement in question. Trustee McNiel used his authority to direct Ms. Randall to write the article, Stated" She had experience because she had experience and was once an employee of the Palo Verde Times. Ms. Randall does not speak on behalf of the Board, was never authorized by Board action to issue statements representing the Board and had no authority to present personal opinions as official Board positions.

This is precisely why concerns regarding censorship and abuse of authority have been raised. Trustee McNeil does not solely represent the Board, nor does any individual trustee have the authority to direct District employees to prepare statements on behalf of the Board without formal authorization. Using a Board position to influence District employees into creating public statements that appear to represent the Board majority is an overreach of authority and a misuse of position.

This same board meeting, Jon's censorship was reversed so that he and Ms. Copple could be on the hiring committee for the search of a new president.

Gloria Copple to his defense read a Confidentially attorney privileged document in public and there is a video of these readings. Violates board policy and brown act

The Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950\ et seq.) Closed Session Confidentiality Violations: The Brown Act allows local agencies to meet in closed session with legal counsel to discuss pending litigation or confidential matters. The courts have established that this confidentiality is protected. Improperly reading, discussing, or disclosing privileged legal advice breaches this confidentiality. Potential Penalties: Violating closed-session laws can result in court injunctions, referral to the Grand Jury, or even misdemeanor charges for severe breaches.

Palo Verde Community College Board Policies (BP)BP 2715 (Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice):

This policy requires trustees to operate with integrity, accountability, and uphold the confidentiality of privileged discussions. An unauthorized review or disclosure of an attorney-client document is a direct breach of this code. Violating this policy subjects the Board member to potential disciplinary actions ranging from a verbal warning by the Board President to a formal resolution of censure, or if the Board member in question is the Board President, then by the Board Vice President or next ranking Board officer about the perceived violation.

An ad hoc committee appointed to investigate the allegations and make a recommendation to the Board President, or the Board as a whole.

The Board to hold a workshop on codes of ethics and the importance of upholding them.

The Board may, in a meeting, make a public statement of expected Board behavior, adopt a Board resolution, and/or publicly reaffirm the ethics policy.

The Board may issue a public Letter of Reprimand in which it expresses concern with an individual trustee's behavior.

Resolution of Censure by the Board of Trustees.

BP 3050 (Institutional Code of Ethics): Reinforces that trustees and officers of the district must follow Board-approved codes of conduct; failure to do so subjects them to disciplinary action.

The public deserves transparency and lawful governance procedures — not actions taken behind the scenes by individual trustees attempting to control narratives and speak for the entire Board without approval. This conduct undermines trust, damages the integrity of the district, and creates further division within the community.

Thank you

Trustee, Stella Camargo Styers.

