



PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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

Physical Meeting Location: One College Drive, Blythe, CA - CS123/124

Livestream Meeting Location: PVC Needles Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA 92363

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Vice President/Acting President Gloria Copple.

1.2 ROLL CALL

- **Trustees Present:** Gloria Copple, Stella Styers, Angel Ramirez, Brad Arneson, Jon McNeil, Glenda Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz-Student Trustee(arrived at 5:00 p.m. for Open Session)
- **Administrators Present:** Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President, 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: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

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 4:05 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(d)(2) or d(3))

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

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:47 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 President Copple announced the following:

“We received a complaint from Ms. Irma Gonzalez on Board Member Gloria Copple. So an Ad Hoc committee has been formed, and they will do an investigation.”

4.3 APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Open Session Agenda for this meeting.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

4.4 APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2025, REGULAR MEETING/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the December 9, 2025, Regular Meeting/Organizational Meeting Minutes as amended.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

Discussion:

Ms. Alaniz explained that the amendment is to correct the name “Diana Rodriguez” to “Diana Navarro” in the Public Comment section of Agenda Item 13.6, including both the first public comment and the public comment provided by Elizabeth Cusick.

4.5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECUSAL FROM AGENDA ITEMS

No recusals were declared.

5. HEARING OF CITIZENS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Scott Dean

Scott Dean stated that he was speaking on his own behalf and not representing CDCR or any other agency. He informed the Board that UC Riverside will soon begin offering a master's degree program at Ironwood State Prison (ISP). Mr. Dean explained that this may significantly impact Palo Verde College's prison education enrollment, noting that many incarcerated students have historically earned multiple associate degrees through Palo Verde College over time. He shared that he has observed multiple graduations each year at ISP and stated that some incarcerated students have earned several associate degrees through Palo Verde College, with multiple degrees awarded at the same graduation or over the course of several graduations. Mr. Dean stated that this may no longer occur as frequently because students may choose to enroll in the UC Riverside master's degree program instead. He noted that participants would receive the same sentence-reduction benefit for completing the master's program as they would for earning an associate degree through Palo Verde College. Mr. Dean further shared that UC Riverside will provide face-to-face instruction on-site at ISP and stated that this change could affect the College's enrollment and revenue. Mr. Dean thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide the information.

Ger Xiong

Ger Xiong read the following statement as her public comment:

“My name is Ger Xiong, and I am speaking today on my own behalf.

I am here to formally express my concern regarding recent punitive and selective actions taken against administrators that raise serious issues of retaliation, bias, procedural irregularity, and governance overreach.

Within my ten years in higher education, I had never been a part of an investigation, nor the subject of one. However, within the past eighteen months alone, I have been involved in three investigations, including one in which I am the subject of. Now with the prospect of a fourth pending. This pattern is deeply troubling and suggests a misuse of district resources and also a departure from established administrative and governance norms.

In my professional judgment, these actions reflect a retaliatory response to administrators who hold programs and staff accountable, rather than a good-faith pursuit of institutional improvement. This pattern has contributed to a broader, more troubling institutional climate—one in which administrators are publicly mischaracterized, disproportionately scrutinized, and subjected to repeated investigations without clear cause. Such an environment undermines equity, shared governance, and organizational trust.

In December, a staff member made public allegations asserting coercion, racism, retaliation, favoritism, harassment, and other misconduct by administrators. The timing, breadth, and public nature of these allegations raises legitimate concerns regarding motive and retaliation. A review of the records obtained through a California Public Records Act request confirms that the following individuals were named.

Despite the scope of these allegations, the Board took selective and punitive actions against Associate Dean Irma Gonzalez alone. Notably, she was the only individual named

who was not recused from consideration, and the only individual subjected to adverse action, and a person of color among those named. This occurred despite her public rebuttal of the allegations and her submission of counter-allegations against that same staff member.

This selective action raises serious concerns regarding discriminatory treatment and is inconsistent with the Board's obligations under its own policies. Specifically, the Board's actions appear to conflict with Board Policy 2200. Further, the Board's actions contradict Administrative Procedure 3815, which clearly states that 'Complaints concerning employees of the Palo Verde Community College District should be directed to the employee's immediate supervisor...The Board of Trustees shall not intercede in such matters except on appeal of the final administrative decision.'

By intervening prior to the completion of established administrative procedures, the Board bypassed required procedures, thereby exceeding its governance roles and undermining due process.

Additionally, these actions raise concerns under California Ed Code, which establishes a clear distinction between governance and administration; it requires the board to act collectively, without targeting individual employees or engaging in personnel matters reserved for executive leadership.

From an accreditation perspective, these actions are also inconsistent with ACCJC Accreditation Standards.

Baseless accusations and repeated, unfounded investigations cause real professional harm and constitute career slander. While I welcome scrutiny of my own conduct and stand fully accountable for my own actions, I will not be

intimidated into silence when institutional integrity, equity, and lawful governance are compromised.

I urge the Board to reflect carefully on the precedent it is setting-one that erodes administrative authority, circumvents established procedures, exposes the district to legal and accreditation risk, and perpetuates a culture of retaliation rather than accountability. Thank you for your time.”

6. REPORTS

- 6.1 PVCCA/CTA - RICHARD CASTILLO, PRESIDENT OF PVCCA/CTA
Mr. Richard Castillo had no report.
- 6.2 ACADEMIC SENATE - SARAH FRID, PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC SENATE
Ms. Sarah Frid was not present at tonight's meeting.
- 6.3 CSEA, CHAPTER 180 - ALICE DEAN, PRESIDENT OF CSEA CHAPTER 180
Alice Dean stated that CSEA looks forward to a hopeful new semester and a new year. She stated that CSEA is excited about the new momentum. Ms. Dean stated that with all of the movement of staff, she hopes administration will ask employees for their input and ask what each department’s needs are, instead of formulating a blueprint of where they think employees should sit/work. She stated that departments have specific needs and requirements for documentation and other things and requested that administration keep this in mind when moving staff around in the next three months. Ms. Dean thanked the Board.
- 6.4 ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT - MELINA RANGEL-RUIZ, STUDENT TRUSTEE
Ms. Melina Rangel-Ruiz had no report.
- 6.5 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SERVICES - CLINT COWDEN

Mr. Cowden was not present at tonight's meeting.

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

Stephanie Slagan stated that her report was provided as an attachment.

6.7 SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT - DR. BRUCE MOSES

Dr. Bruce Moses reported that he had no report and welcomed everyone back.

6.8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Angel Ramirez welcomed everyone back and stated that he hoped everyone had a great New Year's and was ready to hit it hard, move forward, and make it the best year ever. He stated, "We can do it."

Trustee Brad Arneson had no report.

Trustee Stella Styers wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed her hope for a successful year for students. She extended New Year's greetings to administration, faculty, staff, and management. Trustee Styers thanked the executive assistants for their role in organizing the District's Christmas gathering and stated that it was beautiful and that the food was great.

Trustee Glenda Williams extended Happy New Year's wishes to everyone.

Trustee Jon McNeil stated that he was happy to be present and glad to be working closely with the College. He invited the Board and anyone interested to visit the Industrial Training Center in Kingman operated by Mojave Community College, noting it has been credited with helping bring a \$600 million steel industry into the area. Trustee McNeil stated that he scheduled a visitation for February 5 at 9:00 a.m. (Arizona

time) and expressed hope that bringing local dignitaries from Needles and others to see the Training Center would help spark a strategic plan for career and technology education and provide an opportunity to observe best practices.

Trustee McNeil reported that the Color Run will take place on March 21 to support the Foundation and scholarships and described it as a 5K event with multiple stations and strong attendance last year. He stated that the Needles community held holiday events, including a fun fair where Main Street was closed and the College served as the center of activities. He reported that local businesses displayed Christmas trees inside the building for voting and bidding and stated that there was terrific participation. Trustee McNeil stated that the College participated in a bike rodeo hosted in the parking lot and noted that a number of bikes were donated.

Trustee McNeil reported that during the month of December, the Needles Center serviced 117 people with special needs and stated that it was “only one person, our Patron Saint, Jacklyn Randall, who does all this.” He stated that meetings were held with Needles High School and that, as a result, many students currently enrolled at Needles High School are signing up for classes at the College. Trustee McNeil reported that the PVC Needles Center served 78 individuals during the month of December who were seeking help and information. He stated that he was excited about the increase in foot traffic and noted that it is due in part to the Center hosting a number of events.

Trustee McNeil stated that he and Dr. Mary McNeil hosted a Christmas party with 24 people in attendance and that he built a Christmas float for the parade. He stated that he remains very involved with the College and shared upcoming events, including a high school orientation and blood drive on January 21 and a new student orientation on January 22. Trustee McNeil stated that he is excited that

many things are beginning to happen.

Trustee Gloria Copple wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that she hopes it will be a great year. She stated, “By the way, it’s starting off,” and noted that the District needs to “turn it around” and have a good year for the College, the students, the faculty, and everyone involved. She stated that this includes everybody involved “here and in Needles,” including Jacklyn, the College, and the students, and stated that “we just have to work on it.” Trustee Copple stated that it is a small community and that everyone needs to work together.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 RISING SCHOLAR UPDATE

Dr. Sam Robinson, Dean of Instruction, provided a presentation titled *Rising Scholars Program Updates* and reviewed the purpose and impact of correctional education, noting that participation in correctional education programs reduces recidivism and supports student success. Dr. Robinson also discussed statewide changes impacting incarcerated education, including Proposition 57, Educational Merit Credit, updated memorandums of understanding (MOUs), and implementation of AB 928 (Cal-GETC and Associate Degrees for Transfer).

Dr. Robinson reported that approximately 50% of the College’s student population and funding is connected to justice-involved incarcerated students and shared revenue figures indicating that incarcerated student FTES represents a significant portion of the District’s overall revenue.

Dr. Robinson reviewed actions taken since Fall 2024, including establishment of a Rising Scholars Standing Committee and restructuring processes to improve collaboration and student-centered services. She stated that counseling and

advising assignments were restructured so that counselors/advisors are assigned by CDCR location and that the College has expanded use of technology to support student services. Dr. Robinson reported that the College identified a number of “super-users” with high accumulated units and described a shift toward education plans aligned with transfer pathways. She also reported that the College has significantly increased the use of Canvas-based instruction and reduced paper-based correspondence.

Dr. Robinson reported that the College was awarded the largest Rising Scholars grant in the state in the amount of \$1.1 million over three years and discussed the College’s plan to move from a category 1 program to a category 3 comprehensive education program, including expanded support for students who re-enter the community.

Dr. Robinson discussed program changes including rebranding the Distance Learning Office (DLO) to Rising Scholars, relocating Rising Scholars to the PE building, implementing a textbook inventory process, and continuing efforts to scale Canvas usage and reduce paper-based correspondence. She also reviewed spring 2026 data, noting that while headcount and sections decreased compared to the prior year, enrollment and FTES showed a slight increase.

Dr. Robinson reported concerns regarding the College’s in-person instructional obligations at Ironwood State Prison (ISP) and stated that the number of in-person sections offered at ISP has decreased. She stated that UC Riverside is expected to begin offering programming at ISP beginning Fall 2026 and noted that Norco College has expressed interest in providing in-person instruction at ISP. Dr. Robinson stated that CDCR could limit correspondence instruction unless the College increases face-to-face instruction at ISP.

Dr. Robinson also presented a new Rising Scholars check-in/check-out protocol for staff entering CDCR sites, noting the

protocol is intended to support accountability and safety and that feedback will be welcomed during implementation.

Trustee McNeil commented, “the sections, saving more than pays for that software.” Dr. Robinson agreed and discussed scheduling efficiency and the use of Ad Astra for modeling and efficiency. Trustee McNeil stated, “So, effectiveness.” Dr. Robinson stated that the headcount reflects CDCR changes and noted that students are no longer taking large numbers of units as “super users.”

Dr. Robinson reviewed CDCR enrollment by location and reported that Spring 2026 enrollment was 4,165 as of January 3, 2026, with approximately 41% at Ironwood State Prison (ISP). She noted that the CRC closure impacted enrollment at that location and stated the location totals may not equal 100% due to rounding and students being served across the state through the Rising Scholars network. Dr. Robinson provided an example of students at other institutions enrolling in a high-demand course being offered by Palo Verde College.

Dr. Robinson stated that the College is “not fulfilling our obligation to ISP and CDCR” regarding in-person instruction and noted the number of in-person sections at ISP has decreased. Dr. Robinson stated that UC Riverside will be present at ISP beginning Fall 2026 and that Norco College has expressed interest in teaching in person at ISP, with Chancellor’s Office and CDCR support. Dr. Robinson stated that if the College were to lose ISP, it would impact approximately 41% of correspondence headcount. Dr. Robinson asked if the Board wanted to return to the budget slide, and Trustee McNeil responded, “That’s the reason for this presentation, exactly what you’re talking about.”

Dr. Robinson stated that if the College does not increase in-person instruction at ISP, CDCR could determine the College should not continue instruction there. Trustee McNeil asked,

“So the reason you’re here doing this is because we already have that letter saying they’re talking about taking this away from us?” Dr. Robinson responded that she met with the Chancellor’s Office prior to the break and stated that Norco has “a well-oiled machine” and that Palo Verde College is not meeting the need. Trustee McNeil stated, “We’re not meeting the need,” and Dr. Robinson confirmed, “Palo Verde College is not meeting the need.”

Trustee McNeil asked whether the College would be “taking these people from Norco.” Dr. Robinson stated that Norco is willing to drive to ISP to teach in person and that if Norco becomes the home college for ISP students, the students would no longer need correspondence through Palo Verde College. Trustee McNeil stated, “But we need to meet the in person thing?” Dr. Robinson stated that Norco would be offering in-person instruction and would become their home college. Trustee McNeil asked, “Why wouldn’t they work for us.”

Trustee Styers stated, “We don’t have teachers to go out there and teach.” Dr. Robinson stated the College would have to hire instructors and noted that the College is not hiring at this time unless issues are resolved. Dr. Robinson stated that Norco wants to step into the operations and that the Chancellor’s Office is willing to make an arrangement with Norco. Trustee McNeil stated, “We don’t want that.” Dr. Robinson agreed. Trustee McNeil stated, “That’s why this presentation, because we want to hit that off. We want to keep that 50%.” Dr. Robinson stated that CDCR could limit correspondence instruction until the College increases face-to-face instruction.

Trustee McNeil referenced a prior report by Terri Long and stated that she had a plan and lined up teachers from Tehachapi who were willing to drive out. Dr. Robinson stated she could look into it.

Dr. Robinson reviewed a new Rising Scholars check-in/check-out protocol for staff entering CDCR sites and stated it is intended for accountability and safety. She stated that personnel will check in and check out with the Rising Scholars office each time they enter and exit a facility, and that the process will be implemented across sites, not only at ISP. Dr. Robinson stated that feedback is welcomed as the process is implemented.

Trustee Styers asked how many teachers are currently going to the facilities. Dr. Robinson stated that for Spring 2026 there are four in-person classes and three instructors, with one instructor teaching two classes.

Trustee McNeil asked whether the Chancellor's Office stated that Norco had "like 12 in person" classes and whether there is a number the College should strive for. Dr. Robinson stated she could ask, but that CDCR wants more in-person sections and would like classrooms as full as possible.

Trustee McNeil asked whether the College has a plan to save the program "by hiring enough people to go so they don't take this away." Dr. Robinson stated the College would like to hire more instructors to teach at ISP. Trustee McNeil stated, "But we're going to lose Ironwood, that's what the letter said," and referenced receiving the letter in October. He stated, "You got to get on it. That's why I asked for this presentation," and added that if ISP is taken away, it is likely "they would take everything." Dr. Robinson stated that her understanding is that the College should hire targeted faculty in key Cal-GETC areas and described the possibility of instructors teaching primarily at ISP, while also being able to teach correspondence and/or on the Main Campus, with ISP serving as their primary teaching location.

Trustee McNeil stated that he supports the purpose of the program, but emphasized the need to protect the College financially and requested a plan to save the program "which

in turn saves the college.” He stated that the Board needs a response plan and timeline and referenced the notice received in October. Trustee McNeil referenced Scott Dean’s earlier comments regarding a master’s program and stated it may be a good opportunity to work hand-in-hand with UC Riverside.

Dr. Robinson stated she has been meeting with UC Riverside regarding the bachelor’s program and discussed work related to Cal-GETC certification and crosswalking the previous general education pattern. Trustee McNeil suggested exploring collaboration and shared staffing or joint efforts with UC Riverside to increase face-to-face instruction and move the program forward. He expressed concern about the potential impact to the College if the issue is not addressed and stated he did not want to “send the alarm that the British are coming.”

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 STREAMING OF BOARD MEETINGS

Public Comment and Discussion:

Trustee Williams asked why the District could not simply use Zoom to connect and record meetings, stating that she could “open the computer and hit Zoom,” and questioned the benefit of the proposed programs and costs. Trustee Williams asked whether it would be feasible to record the meeting and upload it to YouTube immediately after the meeting rather than livestreaming.

Matt Pryor responded that the process is similar to what Trustee Williams described, but stated that livestreaming requires multiple moving pieces and staffing support both at the Needles Center and on the Main Campus. Mr. Pryor explained that one person cannot manage the livestream and also address other technology issues occurring at the same time, and stated that the proposal he previously presented was intended to provide an efficient and effective way to livestream while still supporting classes, students, staff, and

faculty during the meeting. Mr. Pryor stated that recording and uploading to YouTube could be an option, depending on how the Board would like to proceed.

Trustee McNeil commented on staffing limitations within the IT Department and stated that having a full department and a help desk position would support implementation. Trustee McNeil referenced being locked out of his District email and stated it took two days to regain access due to help desk staffing issues. Trustee McNeil thanked IT staff for their work and stated that additional staffing would help the process function effectively.

Trustee Cople asked how many IT staff are currently available. Mr. Pryor responded that there are currently three IT staff and stated that the District is in the process of hiring additional staff. Mr. Pryor also stated that recent carpet replacement required technology offices to be taken apart and that staff have been working to reinstall and set up technology in offices, and he thanked everyone for their patience.

Dr. Moses stated that even before staffing transitions, livestreaming would have required additional dedicated individuals to support the infrastructure described. Dr. Moses stated that recording and posting to YouTube is different from livestreaming.

Trustee Williams stated that recording and posting would be easier and suggested starting that way and working up to livestreaming later. Mr. Pryor stated that recording is an option that can be explored, depending on Board direction, and stated that security would also need to be considered, including the need for someone to manage access and prevent “nefarious things.” Trustee Williams commented that “with AI, they could change everything you say,” and Mr. Pryor responded that there are multiple layers to consider, some simpler than others.

Alice Dean asked how meetings were livestreamed during COVID-19. Mr. Pryor responded that the setup during COVID-19 was similar and still required multiple people to manage it, and stated that there would still be costs involved depending on the method selected, either through staffing or a product/service to assist.

Trustee McNeil stated that he supports transparency and emphasized that the discussion is not solely about finances but also public perception and “selling our college.” He stated that the College has “a perception problem” within the community and that broadcasting meetings and presentations would help highlight the good work being done. Trustee McNeil stated that the cost is worthwhile for the benefit to the community and encouraged promoting the College’s programs and achievements.

Trustee Cople agreed and stated, “We’re a community college, community.”

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 REPORT OF PURCHASES AND WARRANTS - DECEMBER 2025

9.2 PROGRAM REVIEW SUBMISSIONS

9.3 NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION – DR. THERESA BECKER, DEAN OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

Public Comment and Discussion:

Dr. Sam Robinson publicly recognized Dr. Theresa Becker for her service to the District and praised her commitment as a public servant. Dr. Robinson acknowledged Dr. Becker’s background in nursing, her perseverance and dedication, and noted that Dr. Becker earned her Ph.D. through determination and grit. Dr. Robinson stated that the District was fortunate to have Dr. Becker at a time when Palo Verde College needed leadership to establish its nursing and allied health programs. Dr. Robinson commended Dr. Becker for her care and support

of staff, faculty, students, and the community, and expressed appreciation for the foundation she helped build for the programs. Dr. Robinson stated she will miss working with Dr. Becker and requested that the Board recognize and honor her.

The Trustees thanked Dr. Becker for her service and time.

Dr. Theresa Becker thanked the Board and stated that her resignation was due to an opportunity for her and her husband and was not related to Palo Verde College. Dr. Becker stated, "I love Palo Verde College," and expressed that she is proud of the programs and grateful for the opportunity the college gave her to grow and learn. Dr. Becker stated that she still wants to help and stated, "I'm not letting go," and added that she would assist the District by finding someone to support the programs.

Trustee McNeil expressed appreciation for Dr. Becker's leadership and stated that quality programs are based on leadership. Trustee McNeil stated that Dr. Becker brought vision to the College and helped others believe in that vision, and he thanked her for her work and service.

9.4 IRS BUSINESS MILEAGE AND GSA PER DIEM RATES FOR 2026

9.5 ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO CONTRACT BID THRESHOLD
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE SECTION 20651

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 CURRICULUM ACTIONS – DECEMBER

10.2 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT - JANUARY 2026

10.3 APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

Public Comment and Discussion:

Trustee Copple stated that she was not aware that the District had volunteers and that she believed the volunteers were associated with Mr. Greg Snyder's class. Trustee Copple asked whether the volunteers would serve for the remainder of the academic year and whether there would be additional projects or events.

Dr. Robinson responded that the volunteers participate in a hike at the end of the semester and stated that the hike had already taken place in December. Dr. Robinson stated that another hike may occur in May, but the December hike had already been attended.

Alice Dean stated that she was also confused by the item wording, noting that the recommendation referenced the full academic year but included a December date. She asked whether the approval was intended for the entire academic year or only for the December event and stated that the recommendation could have been worded as approval of volunteers for that specific event.

Stephanie Slagan stated that volunteers are typically approved for the entire academic year for liability purposes, in case additional events occur. Alice Dean confirmed that the approval would be for the full academic year and not solely for the December event, and Ms. Slagan confirmed that it would be for the full academic year.

Trustee Copple confirmed that the school year ended in June and stated that if another event is held, the volunteers could serve as chaperones.

Public Comment and Discussion (Item 10.2):

During public comment and discussion for Consent Item 10.3,

public comment was received regarding Consent Item 10.2.

Scott Dean stated that he had a question about Item 10.2, Personnel Action Report. He stated that he had not read the report and that his question might be denied, but stated that he had heard rumors that, in the past, the Human Resources Department had hired people who did not meet the required qualifications for their job. Mr. Dean stated that individuals may have had other qualifications, and the department said, “Ok, we’re going to accept those qualifications instead,” or they “sort of bend the rules” and say, “Okay, you’re close, but you’re not quite there, but we’re still going to hire you.” Mr. Dean stated that if that was the case, then you’re not really meeting the 10.2 wording. Mr. Dean stated that he might not be on point and did not know if it was true, but that it was just a rumor he had heard.

Trustee McNeil stated that the comment was an accusation and should not be left unanswered.

Dr. Robinson stated, “That’s not what that is. That’s not what that report is,” and stated that she did not think it was “an appropriate comment to make and it was an accusation.

Scott Dean stated that it was “just a rumor” he heard and stated that he was not accusing anyone of anything.

Trustee McNeil stated that you “can’t make an accusation about people if you don’t have something to back that up,” and stated that while Mr. Dean may have heard that, “that’s not what we’re voting on tonight, we’re voting on this.” Trustee McNeil stated “So Scott, you’re always smart. You should do your homework before you start making accusations about people in a negative way.” Trustee McNeil stated that he still liked Mr. Dean.

10.4 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ELLUCIAN FOR THE CUSTOM

SOFTWARE EXTENDED MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (CESA) – CALIFORNIA STATE GRANT INTERFACE

10.5 APPROVAL OF CHILD EDUCATION AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH NEEDLES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

10.6 APPROVAL OF CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH DESERT CHILDREN’S URGENT CARE

10.7 APPROVAL OF STUDENT AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH HAZELDEN BETTY FORD FOUNDATION

10.8 APPROVAL OF CHILD EDUCATION AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH MADISON SQUARE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

10.9 APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS FOR JANUARY 2026

Motion: Approve Consent Items 10.1 through 10.8 as presented and/or amended.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Stella Styers

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

11. ACTION ITEMS

11.1 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ALLIED UNIVERSAL SECURITY SERVICES

Motion: Approve the agreement with Allied Universal Security Services to provide unarmed, uniformed security professionals.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

Discussion:

Trustee Williams asked if the \$49,000 was for two campuses and how many deputies that amount covered.

Stephanie Slagan responded that the agreement is for security guards on the Main Campus and stated that they work during the hours when the Blythe Police Department is not on campus, primarily on weekends, Fridays, and holidays.

11.2 APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AGREEMENT WITH MGI ADVOCACY, INC.

Motion: Approve the Legislative Advocacy Agreement with MGI Advocacy, Inc.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

Public Comment and Discussion:

Alice Dean asked whether the College has always had a legislative advocacy agreement and asked why the District needs the agreement.

Stephanie Slagan responded that the District has worked with Mark (MGI Advocacy, Inc.) since approximately 2019, prior to COVID. She stated that he provides advocacy support, assists with state funding matters, and communicates with legislators on behalf of the District.

Dr. Moses stated that MGI provides legislative and advocacy support related to community college interests and works with multiple community colleges, including Palo Verde

College, Copper Mountain College, and College of the Desert. Dr. Moses stated that MGI sets up meetings with legislative bodies and legislators and noted that he was instrumental in assisting the District with obtaining a \$500,000 grant, including a match from the Metropolitan Water District.

Trustee McNeil stated that MGI previously provided presentations and that he had not seen him in a couple of years. Dr. Moses stated that he will be coming this spring.

Trustee McNeil stated that MGI provides excellent presentations and described him as the District's "voice in Sacramento." Trustee McNeil stated that he believed MGI was involved with the cross-state enrollment program and stated that the District likely needs legislative advocacy support more than ever due to the projected \$3 billion state budget cut. Trustee McNeil stated that advocacy work in Sacramento is heavily based on personal contact with key legislators and stated that Mark is good at what he does.

11.3 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH GEORGE M. JOHNSON FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT ON FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Motion: Approve the agreement with George M. Johnson, through The Lavin Agency Inc., for a speaking engagement to be held on February 23, 2026.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

Public Comment and Discussion:

Trustee Copple stated that, as she read the agreement, it was a one-time engagement speaking engagement in the amount of \$15,000. She asked whether her understanding was correct. Following her comments, Trustee Copple asked whether any

Trustees or members of the public had questions regarding the item.

Dr. Robinson stated that the engagement includes a speaking presentation and a student workshop, and that Mr. Johnson will be on campus for the full day.

Trustee Williams asked if Mr. Johnson would be teaching art. Dr. Robinson responded that she did not believe he would be teaching a class.

Trustee Cople asked for clarification and confirmed that Mr. Johnson will be on campus for the full day and that it is not only a one-hour engagement. Dr. Robinson responded that the speech is one hour, but stated that there is more planned for the day, including an interactive workshop, and noted that they planned to have Dr. Moses provide an introduction.

Trustee McNeil asked if Dr. Robinson brought Mr. Johnson in. Dr. Robinson responded that she did not, and stated that Pride and Associated Students identified the speaker, with Umoja partnering, and that Pride and Associated Students took the lead.

Trustee McNeil stated that he reviewed information online and stated that the event looks cool and that it will have a huge impact on students.

Student Trustee Rangel-Ruiz stated that ASG President Robert Murillo found the speaker and has been working hard to bring original speakers to campus.

Dr. Robinson further clarified that the \$15,000 cost is all-inclusive and includes the speaking fee, travel, hotel, food, and related expenses, rather than separate payments for each

cost.

Trustee Styers asked whether the event is for students only. Dr. Robinson responded that it is for the community as well.

Alice Dean asked how the cost would be funded and inquired about the amount covered by student government compared to Umoja and Pride. It was stated that Pride would cover the majority of the cost, Umoja would contribute a portion, and ASG would be doing the legwork.

Trustee Styers asked whether lunch would be provided. Student Trustee Rangel-Ruiz stated that she was not sure and that the schedule is still being planned.

11.4 APPROVAL OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SIGNGLASSES, LLC

Motion: Approve the Service Agreement with SignGlasses, LLC.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

11.5 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH SIMPLE HIGHER ED FOR SIMPLE SYLLABUS PLATFORM

Motion: Approve the agreement with Simple Higher Ed.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

11.6 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES WITH THERESA BECKER, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE

Motion: Approve the Agreement for Consultant Services with Theresa Becker, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

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

11.7 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion: Approve the Board of Trustees 2026 Meeting Schedule as presented, with the meetings on Tuesdays.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez

Action: Motion Failed

Vote:

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

Board Discussion and Public Comment:

Trustee Copple stated that she had requested changing the Board's regular meeting day from Tuesday to either Wednesday or Thursday because many other community councils meet on Tuesdays, making it difficult for Board members to attend those meetings and for members of those councils to attend the District's Board meetings. Trustee Copple stated that Trustee Arneson had originally been in favor of changing the meeting day, and that Trustee Ramirez raised the need to check with Dr. Moses. Trustee Copple then stated, "But we are the Board. We make that decision."

Trustee Ramirez stated that he did not want to change the

meeting day.

Trustee Arneson asked if the people who attended the Board meetings were in class on Tuesday or Wednesday nights. Trustee Copple stated that she was unsure about class schedules.

Dr. Moses stated that when the matter was originally raised, he was asked to collect information regarding College and community scheduling conflicts. He stated that a one-page summary was provided to the Board, including information from Dr. Robinson regarding Wednesday evening classes this semester, and emphasized that the information presented was data requested by the Board, not his opinion.

Trustee Copple asked how changing the meeting day to Wednesday or Thursday would interfere with classes, noting that classes occur during the day and meetings are held in the evening. It was confirmed that the College has classes during the day and evening Monday through Thursday.

Trustee Arneson stated that he preferred to keep meetings on Tuesdays and stated that it best fits everyone's schedule.

Trustee Copple asked Trustee McNeil for his input. Trustee McNeil thanked Dr. Moses for compiling the information and stated that people are accustomed to Board meetings being held on Tuesdays and that, if a big item were to arise in the future, the public may assume the meetings are still held on Tuesdays. He stated that while he agreed with concerns about precedent, he did not agree with all of the scheduling conflicts cited.

Dr. Moses clarified that he was not expressing an opinion and reiterated that he was asked to gather information regarding activities occurring on Wednesdays.

Trustee Copple asked whether Thursday could be considered. Trustee McNeil stated that people are accustomed to meetings being held on Tuesdays and may not check their calendars if the schedule changes. Trustee Copple responded that community members would welcome the change, noting that school board meetings, hospital meetings, and City Council meetings are held on Tuesdays. Trustee McNeil stated that if it were the wish of the rest of the Board to move meetings to Thursday, he would support that option. Trustee Copple reiterated her request to consider Thursday if Wednesday was not feasible and directed the question to Trustees Arneson and Ramirez.

Trustee Arneson stated that he still preferred Tuesdays.

Trustee Copple addressed Trustee Ramirez, noting that he typically can only attend the first Board meeting of the month due to his work schedule, and asked whether another meeting day might work better if the schedule were changed. Trustee Ramirez responded that his work schedule is unpredictable and that he was fortunate to be able to attend tonight's meeting. Trustee Copple asked whether Thursday would be a working day for him. Trustee Ramirez responded that Thursday is a workday for him and stated that he begins work early in the morning and does not get off until 6:00 p.m.

Maria Gonzalez, President of the Blythe Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself and stated that Trustee Copple raised a valid concern regarding the Board meeting schedule. Ms. Gonzalez stated that many governing bodies in Blythe meet on Tuesdays, including the City Council, hospital meetings, and the College, making it difficult for community members to attend multiple meetings held on the same day. She acknowledged that a change may not be possible for the current year, but strongly encouraged the Board to consider a change in the future.

Ms. Gonzalez emphasized that Palo Verde College is a community college and stated that community involvement is important. She referenced comments made regarding the College's perception in the community and stated that providing greater access to Board meetings would help improve community participation and public perception. Ms. Gonzalez stated that residents cannot be in multiple places at the same time and recommended making meetings more accessible, either by changing the meeting day or through other means such as streaming.

Trustee Williams mentioned recording meetings. Ms. Gonzalez stated that recording meetings does not allow for public comment.

Trustee Copple addressed Trustee Ramirez and Arneson and stated that the request to change the meeting day was not solely her decision, that community members had approached her asking why the meetings could not be changed.

Trustee Styers asked Ms. Gonzalez if she had spoken to other entities about changing their schedule. Ms. Gonzalez stated that they had spoken with other entities about meeting schedules, but noted that those conversations did not occur in a formal setting where a vote and open discussion were taking place. She stated that Chamber members frequently express difficulty attending multiple meetings held on the same night and emphasized that business owners and community members want to be informed and involved but cannot be in more than one place at a time. Ms. Gonzalez stated that, given the current climate in Blythe and the number of important issues being discussed, it is especially important for residents to have the opportunity to attend meetings and stay informed about matters affecting the community.

Trustee Williams stated that meetings in Needles are also held

on Tuesdays. Trustee Cople responded that changing the Board meeting day would help.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that changing the meeting day would be very helpful, and acknowledged that while it may not be possible for the current year, it is something the Board should consider.

It was asked whether the City of Blythe had been approached regarding changing its meeting schedule and, if so, what the response had been. It was noted that prior discussions had taken place a year or two earlier, but that each entity has different factors affecting its ability to change meeting schedules.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that, as noted by Dr. Moses, many entities establish their calendars well in advance. She stated that while the Board was not required to consider her opinion, it would be very helpful for the community to have the ability to attend multiple meetings.

Alice Dean asked what information was included in the materials the Board was reviewing. Trustee McNeil provided Ms. Dean with the document for her review. She stated that she agreed with Ms. Gonzalez and noted that she has lived in the community for many years and has been able to attend some meetings, but is often unable to attend other meetings because many are held on Tuesdays, including Palo Verde Unified School District meetings. Ms. Dean stated that the community needs an option that allows people to participate more fully and expressed concern that public participation in local governance has declined. She stated that this is something the community has lost, not only locally but more broadly, and expressed concern that “we the people have not been a part of the people’s business”. Ms. Dean stated that public meetings “should be filled” so community members can tell their leaders what they want. Ms. Dean stated that opening meetings to Wednesday or Thursday evenings would

allow residents to attend more meetings and participate in the governance of the community, and stated that the reasons discussed were good reasons to consider a change.

Trustee McNeil asked whether Thursday could be considered. Trustee Copple reiterated that Thursday would be acceptable if Wednesday was not feasible and stated that changing the meeting day was a simple decision for the Board to make.

Trustee McNeil noted that there was a motion on the floor. Naomi Alaniz confirmed that a motion and a second had been made.

Scott Dean stated that he did not believe it was fair to select a meeting day based on the schedule of a single Board member, stating that the meeting schedule should serve the community as a whole.

Trustee Williams asked Mr. Dean whether he was opposed to changing the meeting day. Trustee McNeil responded that Mr. Dean supported the change.

Mr. Dean confirmed that he supports changing the meeting day, stating that he cannot attend multiple meetings scheduled on the same night, including school board meetings and the College's Board meetings. He stated that changing the meeting day would be helpful for community members and echoed comments made by other speakers.

Trustee Williams addressed Richard Castillo, an audience member and President of PVCCA/CTA, and asked for his perspective. Mr. Castillo responded that it was unusual for a Board member to solicit input from a member of the public and stated that he had not heard of that before.

Trustee McNeil proposed a compromise and stated that the

Board President has been working on transparency. He acknowledged Mr. Castillo's observation that the discussion taking place was unusual and expressed support for the President for allowing open and transparent discussion. Trustee McNeil suggested revisiting the meeting schedule in six months to assess whether a change would be workable for the Board. He stated that he supports moving meetings to Thursday and emphasized that he did not want to exclude any Board member. Trustee McNeil stated that the Board should work toward a compromise that functions for all members, but acknowledged that there was currently a motion on the floor that required a vote.

Following the vote, Trustee Williams suggested that the Board ask around and revisit the matter at the next meeting.

Trustee Arneson asked Trustee Cople whether she was aware that the Board meeting calendar must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office. Trustee Cople confirmed that she was aware and stated that this was the reason she had attempted to change the meeting day so that it could be submitted to a different day. She stated that, because the motion failed, the item would need to be brought back for consideration.

Mr. Dean commented that the question made it sound as though Trustee Arneson was not aware of the requirement.

Trustee Cople asked Trustees Ramirez and Arneson whether they were sure they did not want to change.

Mr. Dean addressed Trustee Arneson and stated that he should not question another Trustee's awareness, noting that Trustee Arneson voted as he did and Trustee Cople voted as she did.

12. CLOSING OF MEETING

12.1 POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule**, including the consideration of changing the Needles meeting to November.
2. Trustee McNeil requested an **update on the plan to save the prisons.**

Dr. Moses stated that they have been working on a plan. He referenced negotiations and stated that until some things are figured out, they could not come back and say exactly what the plan is. Trustee McNeil stated that interim updates would be helpful. Dr. Moses stated that another update would be provided.

12.2 ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m.

Bruce Moses

Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President

Minutes approved at February 10, 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.

1.13.26 BOT Regular Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-02-11

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