



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

SPECIAL MEETING/STUDY SESSION

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Open Session 4:00 p.m.

One College Drive, Blythe, CA – CS 209

(Livestream held at PVC Needles Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA)

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Stella Styers. Several members of the California School Employees Association (CSEA) were in attendance and silently held signs related to ongoing negotiations.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson

Administrators Present: Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President, Stephanie Slagan, Asst. Supt./V.P. of Administrative Services and College Advancement

Absent: Jon E McNeil, Glenda K Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz (*student trustee*), Clint Cowden, Asst. Supt./V.P. of Instruction and Student Services

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 Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

Approve the Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas

1.5 Announcement of Recusal From Agenda Items

There were no recusals declared at this time. Later in the meeting, during Action Item 4.5, Trustee Thomas recused himself from the item.

2. Hearing of Citizens on Agenda Items

2.1 Members of the public have this opportunity to directly address the Board on agenda items. Persons wishing to address the Governing Board under this item should fill out a Speaker Request Form available at the reception table. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes per topic. Fifteen (15) minutes shall be the maximum time allotment for public speakers on any one subject regardless of the number of speakers at any one board meeting.

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

3. Presentations

3.1 Puente Presentation

Ger Xiong, Dean of Student Services, was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, Dr. Sam Robinson, Dean of Instruction, provided an overview of the Puente Program. The Puente Program is a UC Berkeley-supported initiative designed to increase college access and success for Latinx and first-generation students. The program is built on a three-pronged model that includes culturally relevant English instruction, academic counseling, and mentoring. In addition to its academic components, the program features a student club that fosters social engagement and peer support.

Key Points from the Presentation:

- **Mission and Structure:**

The program integrates decolonial and multicultural pedagogies into English instruction, provides individualized counseling, and fosters mentorship. It requires a dedicated English instructor, counselor (with 50% release time), and clerical support.

- **Funding and Compliance Concerns:**

The program is funded on a three-year grant cycle from UC Berkeley. Despite receiving funding, the District has failed to consistently submit required reports since the program's inception, raising compliance issues. Approximately \$34,000 remains unspent from the current cycle.

- **Staff Turnover and Program Pause:**

Both co-coordinators—the English instructor and counselor—stepped down due to interpersonal conflicts and concerns over workload distribution. With no replacements available, the program was paused in Spring 2025.

- **Program Outcomes and Challenges:**

While early years showed promise in persistence and course success, recent years revealed declining success and retention rates, limited degree/certificate completions, and minimal transfers. Internal data reconstruction efforts suggest reporting gaps undermined program assessment.

- **Recommendation and Next Steps:**

It was recommended that the Puente Program be formally dissolved in collaboration with UC Berkeley due to the District's inability to sustain operations, fulfill program obligations, and ensure equitable student support. However, the Puente Club may continue independently in a rebranded form to preserve student engagement and mentorship opportunities. Discussions with UC Berkeley will determine the process for returning funds and closing out the program. Simultaneously, the college is exploring broader initiatives in culturally responsive pedagogy and AB 1705 implementation to more inclusively support all students.

Board Discussion and Q&A Summary:

Following the presentation, trustees and administrators engaged in a discussion regarding the current status and future of the Puente Program:

- Dr. Robinson confirmed that both co-coordinators (the English instructor and counselor) had stepped down due to interpersonal conflicts and workload concerns. Despite efforts, no replacements had been identified, and the program currently has no dedicated staff to manage its operations.
- Trustees inquired about the lack of required reporting and the implications of returning unspent funds to UC Berkeley. Dr. Robinson acknowledged the reporting lapses over multiple years and emphasized the importance of fulfilling obligations to both the funding agency and the students.
- Trustees expressed concern about the loss of opportunities for students, especially those who benefited from conferences and mentorship. They stressed the need to ensure that any replacement program maintains meaningful support for underserved student populations.
- Trustees recommended that any future student support initiative be thoroughly planned before seeking external funding to avoid similar implementation issues. There was also discussion about whether remaining Puente funds could be repurposed for a new, locally developed student support program—pending guidance from UC Berkeley.
- It was suggested that college leadership consult with UC Berkeley to determine the appropriate process for closing out the Puente Program, including returning unspent funds, and to explore options for establishing a new program or club that could serve a broader student population.
- Board members agreed on the importance of transparency, proper oversight of grant-funded programs, and maintaining support systems for students.

4. Action Items

4.1 Approval of Agreement with Tyler Nguyen for Data and Analytics Services for 2025–2026

Approve the agreement with Tyler Nguyen to provide data and analytics services for the 2025–2026.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas

4.2 Approval of Consulting Agreement with Marygrove Consulting, LLC – RPED Grant Evaluation and Strategic Advisory Services

Approve the consulting agreement between Palo Verde College and Marygrove Consulting, LLC.

Motion by George W Thomas, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas

4.3 Approval of Softdocs Premier+ Services Two-Year Renewal

Approve the two-year renewal agreement with Softdocs SC, LLC for Premier+ Services.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas

4.4 Approval of Lease Agreement with Pitney Bowes for District Mail System

Approve the 60-month lease agreement with Pitney Bowes, Inc. for the SendPro MailCenter 2000 mailing system, including Electronic Return Receipt (ERR) functionality.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas

4.5 Approval of Excusal for Trustee Dr. George Thomas – June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting

Approve the excusal of Trustee Dr. George Thomas from the June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson

Recuse: George W Thomas

5. Closing of Meeting

5.1 Possible Future Agenda Items

Trustee Arneson reiterated his request, originally made at the June 10, 2025, meeting, for a future agenda item to review and discuss the future of the Needles Center. Trustee Styers likewise reiterated her June 10, 2025, request for a future agenda item to review and discuss the Needles Center Commencement Ceremony and Pinning Ceremony.

5.2 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Bruce Moses

Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President

Minutes approved at August 12, 2025, 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.






6.24.25 PVCCD BOT Special Meeting Study Session Minutes

Final Audit Report

2025-08-13

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