



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

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

**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**

**Trustee Dr. George Thomas participated in the meeting from the following location: 331  
Bristlecone Avenue, Blythe, CA 92225**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

**1.1 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Board President Stella Styers.

**1.2 Roll Call**

**Trustees Present:** Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, Glenda K Williams, George W Thomas (*arrived at 4:03 p.m. from a remote location*), and Student Trustee, Melina Rangel-Ruiz (*arrived at 5:00 p.m. for Open Session*)

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

**Absent:** None

*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**

Approve the Closed Session Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, Glenda K Williams

Not Present at Vote: George W Thomas and Melina Rangel-Ruiz

**2. Hearing of Citizens - Closed Session Items**

**2.1 Members of the public have this opportunity to directly address the Board on any Closed Session 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 Closed Session agenda. The Governing Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:03 p.m.

**3. Recess to Closed Session**

**3.1 Conference with Labor Negotiator; Pursuant to Gov. Code 54957.6 - CSEA Chapter 180, and Palo Verde Community College Association/CTA**

**3.2 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release Pursuant to Government Code 54957**

**3.3 Public Employee Performance Evaluation; Pursuant to Gov. Code 54957(b)**

### **3.4 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation; Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Gov. Code Sec. 54956.9; 1 (one) Case**

#### **4. Reconvene to Open Session**

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:39 p.m. Board President Styers began by welcoming back students, staff, faculty, administrators, and fellow Board members, and wished everyone a successful fall semester.

Steve Garcia, representing Cambridge West Partnership, attended the meeting via TEAMS to answer any questions the Board had regarding Item 12.8.

#### **4.1 Flag Salute**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **4.2 Report on Any Action Taken in Closed Session**

Trustee Styers announced that no action was taken in Closed Session

#### **4.3 Approval of Open Session Agenda**

Approve the Open Session Agenda for this meeting.  
Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

#### **4.4 Approval of June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Approve the June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.  
Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

#### **4.5 Approval of June 24, 2025, Special Meeting/Study Session Minutes**

Approve the June 24, 2025, Special Meeting/Study Session Minutes.  
Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

#### **4.6 Approval of July 15, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes**

Approve the July 15, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes.  
Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

#### **4.6 Announcement of Recusal From Agenda Items**

No recusals were declared.

### **5. Hearing of Citizens - Agenda Items**

**5.1 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.**

Trustee George W. Thomas temporarily disconnected from the meeting at 5:45 p.m. due to technical difficulties and rejoined at 5:48 p.m.

**Alice Dean** addressed the Board regarding agenda item 8.1, Future of Needles Educational Center, and agenda item 8.2, Future of Needles Center Graduation Ceremony and Pinning Ceremony. She shared that when she first began traveling to Needles several years ago, the campus was quiet, with little activity, few students, and limited advertising or outreach to the public. She noted that once staff began traveling to Needles monthly—bringing a representative from each department to provide services in person—student participation steadily increased. Students became familiar with staff members, knew them by name, and felt more connected to Palo Verde College. Ms. Dean stated that since Jacqueline began working at Needles, the center has been active, with full classes and steady traffic from students seeking services.

She expressed concern that when the regular monthly visits stopped for some staff this past semester, students were confused and missed the familiar presence. Ms. Dean emphasized that Needles should be served the same as any other campus, and that reducing in-person interaction is a disservice to enrollment and student engagement. She cited personal experience recruiting CalWORKs students during her visits and stressed the importance of face-to-face outreach in a service-oriented community college.

Regarding the Needles graduation, Ms. Dean stated she has attended all ceremonies since they began, which she believes was in 2022. She described them as well-organized, community-supported events with local speakers, flowers, and strong attendance from residents. She expressed that holding graduation in Needles allows the community to celebrate its students and avoids placing a hardship on families who may not be able to travel to Blythe, adding, "There's no train anymore coming down to Blythe." She concluded by stating that as a CalWORKs Student Services Technician, she strongly supports keeping both the Needles Center and the Needles graduation to ensure that students there feel they are an important and visible part of the college community.

**Sandra Loureiro** addressed the Board regarding agenda item 4.5, Approval of June 24, 2025 Special Meeting/Study Session Minutes. She stated that she is a counselor at Palo Verde College and served as one of the Puente Coordinators until the end of the previous fiscal year. She was speaking to clarify statements made during the June 24, 2025 Board meeting in connection with the Puente program presentation, Board discussion, and Q&A. She noted that it was stated in that meeting that she stepped down from her role due to interpersonal conflicts and workload concerns. She clarified that there were no interpersonal conflicts that contributed to her decision to step down.

Ms. Loureiro stated that, as documented in her formal letter submitted to the Dean of Student Services on May 15, 2025—which the Dean confirmed receiving and indicated would be presented to the full Administrative Council—her decision was based on other factors. She read aloud the email she sent on May 15, 2025, which confirmed discussions held on April 2, 2025, with the Associate Dean of Counseling, and on April 25, 2025, with the Counseling Division Chair. In her email, she expressed her official decision to step back from coordinating the Puente program to allow another counselor the opportunity to lead in the upcoming fiscal year. She explained that this decision was made after careful consideration and aligned with a prior suggestion from the Dean regarding rotation of assignments, which she believed would bring fresh perspectives and continued growth to the program. She thanked the Dean for support and requested a meeting with leadership to discuss the needs of students and her assignments for the next year.

She emphasized that her concern was not related to workload distribution between coordinators, but rather that PVC had been out of compliance with the MOU since September 2024, when the English instructor resigned. From that time through June 2025, she coordinated the Puente program alone, despite the MOU requiring two coordinators and a dedicated clerical support person. While a technician was assigned, their duties were limited to processing purchase requisitions.

Ms. Loureiro stated that she has consistently received excellent administrative performance evaluations but is concerned that inaccurate statements in the meeting record could negatively impact her evaluations and hinder opportunities for professional advancement. She respectfully requested that this meeting address the June 24, 2025, Board meeting minutes to accurately reflect the circumstances surrounding her departure as Puente Coordinator.

**Wayne Colburn** addressed the Board regarding agenda item 8.1, Future of Needles Educational Center, and agenda item 8.2, Future of Needles Center Graduation Ceremony and Pinning Ceremony. He stated, "I do appreciate the opportunity to speak today about the crucial role Palo Verde College's Needles Center plays in our community, and why it must remain a priority for all."

Mr. Colburn highlighted the economic challenges facing Needles, noting that the city has a median household income of about \$39,876, which is roughly half of California's state average, and that more than 25% of residents live below the poverty line. He stressed that having local access to higher education is essential because it provides pathways to better jobs and economic stability without requiring families to relocate.

He observed that the Blythe campus has lost enrollment due to the closure of Chuckwalla Valley State Prison and the upcoming shutdown of California Rehabilitation Center, which together remove hundreds of incarcerated students who previously enrolled in college classes. This loss, he explained, impacts both enrollment and funding. In this context, the Needles Center becomes even more important, serving as a steady base of community students while supporting workforce development, attracting local businesses, and contributing significantly to the regional economy. He added that "for every dollar invested in the community college, students gain over \$13 in earnings over their careers," emphasizing the high return on investment for both individuals and taxpayers.

Turning to graduation ceremonies, Mr. Colburn stated that it is important to keep them in Needles. While he acknowledged concerns about scheduling the most recent event, he underscored that "graduations are more than just ceremonies; they are celebrations that inspire the students and unite the community." He noted that Board members

from Needles regularly travel to Blythe for meetings and suggested that it is reasonable to ask Blythe-based Board members to come to Needles to support local graduates. Holding graduations locally, he said, makes it easier for families to attend and demonstrates the college's commitment to serving all communities equally.

In closing, Mr. Colburn stated that keeping the Needles Center and holding graduation ceremonies there is not simply about convenience. "It's about investing in the future of this community," he said, adding that it supports economic growth, student success, and a stronger, more connected Palo Verde College.

**William Beschelli** addressed the Board regarding agenda item 8.2, Future of Needles Center Graduation Ceremony and Pinning Ceremony. He introduced himself as a member of the community and stated that he was representing himself. Mr. Bocelli shared that he attended the most recent graduation in Needles and said, "I thought it was a wonderful ceremony and a wonderful chance for the people who stand behind every student to celebrate their success and the work that they've done and the contributions they made toward that success."

He emphasized the importance of having the ceremony locally, explaining that "when you go to a graduation ceremony, you get to stand up there in front of everyone and have that acknowledgement and for them to cheer you on into the next step of your life." He noted that it is much easier for families and community members to attend a ceremony in Needles, while traveling the 90 minutes to Blythe creates a significant obstacle.

Mr. Bocelli acknowledged that there may be challenges related to staffing or funding but urged that "let's work on those challenges together, make that work, and then make sure that the students and their families and their friends are able to partake in that ceremony and be there, because that is who it's for." He concluded by stating that future discussions should keep students at the center of the decision-making process, remarking, "We're here for the students, and we want to see them have that success, and if you put a big obstacle there, it's going to be a lot harder."

## **6. Reports**

### **6.1 PVCCA/CTA - Richard Castillo, President of PVCCA/CTA**

PVCCA/CTA President Richard Castillo gave the following report:

"Tonight's report is going to be very short, and we have some faculty here who are attending in support of the CTA's report to the Board. It's about negotiations over the summer. We met a few times over the summer—twice in July, once in June, and as recent as last week. We're scheduled to meet on August 27 as well.

What's interesting about our report about negotiations to the Board is that while I was here at the last Board meeting saying we're looking at working conditions for the faculty, the money, the benefits—we know that's going to be a tug and tug—but when we're looking at basic working conditions and also fair compensation for work that we're being assigned, especially division chairs, Senate positions, everything—that's what we're working for in the contract.

The comment was made at the table on August 7 that we're complaining that we're being overworked. Never in the two and a half years since I've been coming up here before the Board—especially the last Board meeting—and I said this at the table to the administration when they made this remark—have I ever told this Board that we're overworked and we need to be paid more. We've always come here and said, here's the work, the challenge put before us, and this is what we're doing. And now, since negotiations are coming up, we're saying, hey, that work is still going on, so we're looking for equal compensation for that extra work. That's all we're asking for. We're not complaining. We have never complained to the Board or to the administration that we are overworked. So when your administration tells that to us, that's a hit.

The other thing as well too is that we're also finding it difficult to believe that CSEA gets to keep their binding arbitration clause in their contract—and they were told that at their negotiation table—yet your negotiations team is saying, oh no, with the faculty, we'll still not give you that. So you're treating one class of employees one way and another one a different way. Doesn't seem fair.

Another issue that comes up is due process—disciplining faculty. We need that. We need a playbook. It's a rule book not only for the faculty to know what their rights are, but it's also a playbook and rule book for the administration about what to do. And we explained that to your administration so many times, over and over again, at the table. That's all we're trying to do—have a rule book there. So if something comes up, faculty member and they're being investigated for it, they know what their rights are. They know what the process is, instead of just going with intuition. Call trustee administrator, they know what they're doing. They know Ed Code, because that's what your lawyer is saying at the negotiations table inherently: trust your intuition instead of what's being played out there.

But here's something that's really disturbing to the faculty. Disturbing is not even the right word for it. At the very top of that negotiation session on August 7, the very first thing that comes from the administration at the negotiation table, conveyed to the Union by the lawyer speaking for your administration, is that this faculty is trying to kill the prison program in negotiations. We took a pause for that for a moment, and then our team asked, well, how is asking for more safety measures trying to kill the program? How is it trying to have a little bit more of a process of how we go out there, making sure that administration and everybody knows who's out there, if the training is done, if the TB test was done—how is that killing the program? Because according to the language in our contract right now, if a single faculty member

scheduled to go out there does not have a TB test done, hasn't had the training, hasn't had the background check—if one of those boxes is not checked—they're not supposed to go out there, because they're a security risk. That's what we're trying to get checked out there.

When it was asked at the table, are any of the current faculty out there cleared—do all their boxes check off? The answer, after a moment of silence, was, 'I gotta check into that.' And that was the Thursday before classes start, and your administration had no idea about who was clear to go out there by that time.

But here's something else too. I had to talk with Sarah Frid and Tim Bolin. I even had to call up some former colleagues of mine who are now retired but who were here at the college since 2000. I asked them, what's the evidence? Can you tell me, is this true? Is the faculty doing this, what we're accused of doing? Because I asked at the table specifically: give me specific examples of how we're doing this. How are we killing the program? And Dr. Moses and Mr. Cowden sat there for a moment looking at me with a blank stare. They didn't answer that question, but one of their subordinates did—and it had nothing to do with it. It did not illustrate one iota of how we, the faculty, are trying to kill the program, what we're accused of.

In fact, if you look at the record of this faculty, starting from this semester going back, you will find out we have close to 70 sections. And by the way, Dr. Jennifer Faux-Campbell was there at the meeting, representing division chairs and also answering some Senate faculty issues. She was witness to all of this, and she was shocked, just as we all were. But I asked, what are the specific examples? Examples were given by one of the subordinates at the table, and it had nothing to do with the operations out there. It was more about issues like, oh yeah, make sure training is done and everything else—things that actually help the process move along.

But 70 sections of courses moved from paper correspondence to Canvas over the summer by just a handful of faculty, who weren't even paid over the summer to do it, because the call was made, and they stood up. That's what we've done. You can go back in the history of this faculty with this program and you will see we have stepped up to every challenge. We provided every service. We took the petitions. We supported our students. We only had two instructors out there for about five years and now we have six classes this semester, from two classes to six, because the call was put out. We need more instruction out there, and they stepped forward to do it.

The faculty figured out the process to get work out there. When COVID hit, we had compassion for our students. We took in everything they submitted. My recollection is there has not been one inmate whose work was refused to be collected and graded because of the pandemic. When the college needed boosting in FTES for teaching more correspondence for the prison programs, we stepped up to the bat—and so much so, and this is how dedicated we are—when this college was in the gutter 10 years ago during the financial crisis, we taught those courses overload for free for our students, because that's what they needed. That's how much we put into this program.

And here's something probably no one in this room recollects. I had to call up one of my friends when I started here who had been here since the 90s, and he said, 'Richard, don't you know the history of the correspondence program?' I said, yes, I do—that was one of my first jobs teaching at the college back in 2003/2004. I was told exactly how it started and everything else. He said, remind the Board and educate the administration: the faculty started that program. We started it, and we've kept it alive for almost 25 years. For someone—the lawyer—to tell us we're trying to kill it, that's more than just a stab in the back, more than a punch in the face, more than a kick in the shins. That is completely disrespectful to this faculty that has been dedicated over the years and who continue to go out there.

Not only that, but for the six faculty members who go out there—you know what they're doing? They're risking their lives, just like everybody else who goes out there, even the faculty leads who go out there. But they say, 'You know what, something bigger is going on.' That's why I'm out there. That's the respect that we deserve. So that comment made—it was a cowardly comment, because your administrators did not tell us to our face. The lawyer did. Because we've owned this program for 25 years. This program has been keeping the college afloat for the past 25 years. We're the ones who are doing it. And all we're asking for at the bargaining table is just a guarantee of our safety: someone in the room, someone to be there at the front gate to our classroom and back. Making sure the administrators know everything on us—from our testing, to our security clearance, everything is up to date. Knowing that we're actually there at the prison instead of checking into it the Thursday before classes start.

But more importantly, what we're asking for underneath all that is just to have a little compassion for us—to make sure we're safe when we go out there and we're safe when we come home to our families. From two instructors to six—that's a whole lot of movement. Oh, and by the way, didn't we win an award for all that as well? Yeah, we got an award for our work on the correspondence program. The faculty helped the college earn that recognition. I don't see how any of that is killing it. We don't see how any of that is killing it.

if that were true, that would be the end of this college—not just going out there face to face, but the correspondence program, the entire thing. We're keeping it going. And I guarantee you, on the Senate agenda in September, like clockwork, Sarah Frid is going to have on there something about how to make the correspondence program, face-to-face and everything, better. That's our job. We've been doing it for over 25 years. No matter who came into the faculty and

who went out, people knew exactly what they were signing up for. Now the administration is asking for more people to go out there, and we're just asking for a little bit of a guarantee. We're not asking for a whole lot. It's not even about the money sometimes. We're just asking that someone keeps us safe out there, that's all.

I've been up here for a few minutes, and I have never, ever been insulted that way in my 30-year career as an educator. Ever. I've heard things told to me like, 'Do you think you're worth more than a 3% raise?' That was from Dr. Wallace, that was on his first negotiations meeting. The union got up and left after that, left the room. And you know the history after that moment, how that turned out. But what was said to us on Thursday morning—that was the worst. So what we expect on the 27th is a little bit more respect and a little bit more compassion. Well, not a little bit—the full compassion, the full respect we've deserved for the past 25 years, and still keep working too. We want the negotiations to go well. We want a contract. But what we will not stand for is for the administration to keep slapping us on the head with comments like that.

I wish I had better news to end with. We had the departure of two well-esteemed, well-liked, well-talented faculty members in the past 48 hours. And there's a third one whom we have no idea what their status is with this college. You're losing talent. You're losing one of the purposes why the students from both Blythe and Needles are coming here. So I believe that on the 27th, what I expect is for us to work forward. We've made some modest proposals to the administration, to your administrative team. We believe they can afford the salary and benefits we're asking for right off the bat. But more importantly, we know, we know for sure, that what we're asking for for extra duty and special assignments—for being division chairs, Senate President, faculty curriculum co-coordinator, all these positions—we know what the work entails. We're not complaining about it. We're just saying we've met the challenge. We would just like a little bit of appreciation for the compensation that goes with it. Because more responsibilities come to us and we meet them. We know what we're getting ourselves into. That's the kind of contract we want. Thank you. If you have any questions for me, I'll be happy to answer them."

There were no questions from the Board. Mr. Castillo then added:

"I'm upset. In my 30 years as an educator, I've never ever been insulted that way. Scott Peterson, who is right next to me, has been here even longer. He couldn't believe it. The difference of 25 years to only one year on this campus as an administrator. Yeah."

## **6.2 Academic Senate - Sarah Frid, President of Academic Senate**

Ms. Sarah Frid had nothing to report.

## **6.3 CSEA, Chapter 180 - Alice Dean, President of CSEA Chapter 180**

Alice Dean, President of CSEA Chapter 180, read the following report to the Board:

"My name is Alice Dean, I'm the current CSEA President for our chapter here at Palo Verde College. I'm here today because we have 55, almost 65, classified professionals in our chapter. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

We are now entering the second year of contract negotiations—the longest in the last 25 years at Palo Verde College. While we've made progress on five important contract articles, we remain apart on the most critical issues: compensation and health and welfare benefits. Let me be clear—we are not asking for more than what has already been given. We are simply asking for equal treatment, a total compensation package that mirrors what was provided to our faculty colleagues.

In 2024–2025, the District provided faculty with a 2.37% ongoing COLA and a 2.32% in one-time compensation, totaling nearly 4.7%. In contrast, the District's best offer to classified staff is either Option 1: 2.37% ongoing and only 0.36% one-time—I'm going to say that one again, only 0.36% one-time—or Option 2: 2.37% ongoing and no one-time compensation. Neither of these options comes close to the fairness we seek. In fact, under Option 1, classified employees would still pay \$400 annually in payroll deductions. Currently, or actually before this last summer, we paid \$0—great plan. Now we're paying over \$400, while faculty received over \$33,100 in one-time health and welfare contributions.

This disparity is not just about numbers—it's about equity. For years, the same contract language produced similar outcomes for both groups, but structural differences in our health plans have changed that. Faculty benefit from high-deductible plans, HSAs, and monetized contributions; classified staff do not. We continue to rely on the traditional PPO plan with no HSA benefits, and yet we are being offered less support.

CSEA's 'me too' proposal is simple and fair: the same 2.37% ongoing COLA and 2.32% one-time compensation already granted to faculty. This would eliminate payroll deductions for 2024–25, which just ended, and provide a modest rollover to help offset future costs. We're not asking for special treatment—we're asking for equal treatment, for recognition of the vital work classified professionals do every single day to keep this college running.

If we were not out there yesterday and today for the first days of school, the students would be lost. The teachers wouldn't have students, because the students wouldn't know where to go, they wouldn't know how to start any of that, or do any of that. We urge you to support a contract that reflects fairness, equity, and respect for all employees. Let's not remain apart on this issue any longer. Let's move forward together on Monday the 18th.

And I hope that we all remember that classified can't do anything without faculty, and faculty cannot do anything without classified. We are together. We are a team, and we will stay together in that avenue always—because without them and us, you guys don't have a job."

#### **6.4 Associated Student Government - Melina Rangel-Ruiz, Student Trustee**

Student Trustee Melina Rangel-Ruiz reported that student ID cards will now be issued free of charge beginning this year and continuing in future years. While the free IDs will not include student discounts, efforts are underway to develop a separate discount card. The College is awaiting confirmation from participating businesses, and Board members or faculty who wish to add a business were invited to contact Ger Xiong.

#### **6.5 Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Student Services - Clint Cowden**

Mr. Cowden commended student leadership on the decision to provide free student ID cards and noted that his full written report was included in the agenda. He thanked students and faculty for returning for the new academic year and expressed appreciation to the staff who worked throughout the summer. He also acknowledged the faculty who participated in hiring committees and other activities over the summer. Mr. Cowden noted that his attached report summarized the work completed during the summer, and he indicated that his next report will focus on the start of the academic year.

#### **8.6 Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services and College Advancement - Stephanie Slagan**

Ms. Slagan reported that work continues on the adopted budget, which will appear on the next Board agenda. She noted that staff attended the Governor's budget workshop, which confirmed a 2.3% COLA for all California community colleges this year. She also highlighted the implementation of the new Award Spring system by Bianca Rodriguez, which simplifies the process for students to apply for laptops and scholarships.

Ms. Slagan introduced Steve Garcia, Project Manager for the Child Development Center, to provide an update regarding a change order related to delays, storm damage, and prevailing wage increases.

Mr. Garcia explained that the \$62,483.91 change order was due to delays, storm damage, and increases in prevailing wage rates. He described how engineering oversights caused misalignment between utility connections for the modular buildings and the on-site construction, resulting in a three-month delay, redesign work, and the need to redo portions of concrete work that had already been completed.

Board members expressed concern about the costs and accountability. President Styers noted that similar issues have occurred repeatedly with Precise Builders. Trustees Williams and Copple questioned whether the District was being asked to pay for mistakes made by contractors or architects. Ms. Slagan emphasized that the oversight was not the District's fault and that legal options were being considered in closed session.

Trustees discussed whether to table related agenda items, such as the naming of the building and ribbon-cutting, until construction was completed. Ms. Slagan indicated that the District had negotiated the change order down from an initial 30% markup and that final completion of the Child Development Center is expected by December, barring additional design issues.

Trustee McNeil expressed concern about the Board's past decision to defer resolving responsibility for change orders, while Trustee Arneson suggested consulting with legal counsel as the next step. Trustees also briefly discussed design elements such as the awning and window treatments, with Ms. Slagan clarifying that the current change order was limited to concrete and utility work.

#### **6.7 Superintendent/President - Dr. Bruce Moses**

Dr. Moses opened by greeting the Board members, administration, faculty, and staff. He welcomed back the faculty, counselors, and academic leaders who were away over the summer, and also welcomed back staff—adding that he hoped those who were on campus through the summer still had a chance to take some vacation time. He thanked Facilities and IT for their summer work keeping the campus looking good, completing upgrades, and refreshing buildings, and said he appreciated their efforts.

He then highlighted that PVC has a new website, officially launched on July 16. He noted that improving the college's web presence was one of the very first things he wanted to address upon becoming President because the website is the face and presence of the institution. The new site modernizes the platform, enhances user experience, improves accessibility, and better reflects the spirit of the college. He extended thanks to the website work group led by Israel and the IT Department for their dedication and collaboration in bringing the project to completion.

Dr. Moses reported a successful implementation of SoftDocs, the college's new document management system, which streamlines operations and improves processes. The first two processes in the system are travel approvals and budget transfers. He said moving these functions into an electronic workflow will make administrative work more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly, especially for executive assistants. He thanked the IT team, Israel and his group, the SoftDocs team, and the beta testers for their work, adding that many are excited about what the system can do.

He recognized Bianca Rodriguez in her new role as Director of Marketing and Advancement Services, explaining that she will focus on branding and giving the college a consistent look and voice across communications—social media, radio, community postings, and other outreach. He expressed enthusiasm about the impact of this role and the work ahead.

Finally, he announced a new administrative campaign, "Navigating the Course — People, Purpose, and Progress," which will serve as a guiding framework for the administration and management team, fostering a culture of care, accountability, and continuous improvement. He concluded that these efforts position administration and management to better serve students and staff, and advance college and the mission of PVC.

## **6.8 Board of Trustees**

**Trustee Angel Ramirez** thanked everyone for the great job they are doing.

**Trustee Brad Arneson** welcomed back the staff, students, and administration for the new school year.

**Trustee Gloria Cople** welcomed back students, faculty, and staff, expressing hope that they had a pleasant summer and were ready to begin another year. She then read the following statement:

"Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that statements have been made to faculty and staff describing the Board as dysfunctional, and discouraging them from communicating with Board members. While I cannot speak for the entire Board without a formal action authorizing me to do so, I believe it is important that we as a Board discuss this. If these comments have indeed been made, they are not just about one trustee, they are about all of us, all seven of us. Such statements have the potential to erode trust between the Board, administration, faculty and community. As elected officials, our duty is to the students and public, and that duty is undermined if misinformation or disparaging remarks are allowed to circulate unaddressed. As Trustees, we may disagree on policy, but our strength lies in unity of purpose, and our shared commitment to the College's success. Comments that characterize this Board as dysfunctional are unacceptable and must be addressed. Such actions undermine the credibility of the Board, damage trust within the college community, and hinder the open communication necessary for effective governance. They may also violate California Ed Code 70902, Governing Board Duties and Responsibilities, by directing employees not to speak to trustees, may limit the Board's access to information needed to fulfill its statutory duties. California Government Code 54950, The Ralph M. Brown Act, restricting communication between employees and elected trustees is inconsistent with the Brown Act's intent of transparency and public accountability. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, our ACCJC governing board. Publicly calling the Board dysfunctional and discouraging communication undermines mutual respect and effective communication as required for accreditation and Palo Verde College Board Policy, governance and Board staff communication. Directing staff not to speak with trustees appears to contradict the College's own governance and communication policy. The Board and administration must work together to foster respect, trust and a positive environment for our students, staff and community. As leaders, we have a responsibility to model professionalism even when disagreements arise. Therefore, I am requesting that this issue be placed on the future Board agenda for formal discussion and resolution. Our students, staff and community expect us to model professionalism, mutual respect and teamwork, and I am committed to ensuring that we do exactly that."

**Trustee Glenda Williams** gave the following report:

"Welcome back to school, everybody. I hope you all have a great year. I also hope everything with your contract gets resolved as soon as possible so we can move on and you can focus on your classes. I don't know how that could be hanging over your head without being resentful, so I really hope everyone can get to the table and work it out. I would also like to say that Needles is doing good. I don't know what all this is about with always wanting to talk about it, Brad, but that used to be just a dead zone, and now it's so full. Everything happening in our city usually has something to do with our college—it's at it, around it, we're involved in it. The Women's Club has perked up and become something to be involved with everything. Jaclyn has changed our town, and I know she gets embarrassed when I say that, but it's the truth. When people look for a place to move, they look at education—they look for colleges. We can say that our high school has a graduation rate of 99 to 100 percent. How many can say that? Those students have the potential to go to our college, but when the college is dragged through the mud every other moment, it discourages them from staying. I would love to see everybody come together and work this out so that we can all be one big family, enjoy our careers, support our students, and live happily ever after."

**Trustee Jon McNeil** gave the following report:

"Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'll keep it very short, but I feel like I need to say the same things that you've just heard, and that is that I've been the target of this board, mean spirited, and I don't like it. I want to be on a highly functional board. I believe all seven of us want to have the best college possible. We want to have the most outstanding faculty, the most outstanding students. And I don't know that we're all rowing in the same way. We all want the same thing, but we're not getting there the same way. Investigation upon investigation upon investigation undermines our cohesiveness. The way we work together undermines that. I look forward to a board retreat where we work together."

Our Superintendent recently, yesterday, put out a list of things that would be wonderful for us to do. The thing about Needles, the 128-page report that came out for the eight-year plan said that both Blythe and Needles—Needles has a better economic possibility for our college to expand. I see all those things as opportunities, and I don't see these things as stumbling blocks. And yet we seem to stumble along. And we don't need to, we need to make this thing work. And I've gone on record with seven and oh, to supporting all the actions of the rest of the board."

**Trustee Dr. George Thomas** said it was good to be back among the college faculty and reminded everyone that his responsibility as a trustee is with the Board and the college, not with outside distractions. He encouraged the Board to take time to connect with one another, remarking, "things in the college and things around the college are not going to change in any fashion until we change." He emphasized that change does not mean always being cheerful or agreeing on everything, but rather being willing to sit down and talk through differences openly. He noted that each trustee has a different personality and perspective, but those perspectives should be shared during meetings, not afterward. As he explained, "If I don't believe in something, if I don't feel something is right, then say it in the meeting, not outside." Trustee Thomas closed by expressing confidence that the Board is capable of this kind of honest and constructive dialogue, stating, "We can do that. We can do that."

**Trustee Stella Styers** began by thanking "all of our faculty, staff, administration, and board members." She acknowledged that the past few years have been challenging, remarking, "I know that we've had a rough probably three years, and negotiations are never easy. It's always a tug of war, but we will get there, just like we always do." She expressed confidence in the direction of the college, stating, "I think that this institution, with our administration, is going down the right path. I know some of you do not think that, but we have to remember, we have to let our administration do the day-to-day operations and then for us board members to support our CEO and I'm not hearing that."

**Trustee Copple** responded to President Styers' comments, saying, "You're not hearing that we support him? Aren't we always approving everything that comes through the agenda? We approve that." She added, "We're not getting involved in his activities that he's doing in the college—we just like more transparency with the Board. He needs to do that." Trustee Copple clarified, "So it's not that we're not supporting him."

## **7. Presentations**

### **7.1 IT Presentation on Streaming Options for Future Board Meetings**

Mr. Matthew Pryor, Network Technician II, provided an overview of options for live-streaming Board of Trustees meetings. He began by reviewing the current setup, which requires one to two IT staff to manage audiovisual equipment, Teams connections between campuses, PowerPoint, and guest participation.

He then presented two possible software options for streaming:

- **OBS (Open Broadcaster Software):** A free platform that allows streaming to multiple platforms but requires extensive manual setup and management. It does not include dedicated support, built-in analytics, or live stream health monitoring. Successful use would rely on in-house expertise, additional staff training, and significant preparation before meetings.
- **Restream:** A paid service with dedicated support, training, and real-time monitoring. Restream provides streaming analytics, automatic backup connections, and the ability to stream to multiple platforms simultaneously. The cost is approximately \$8,000 annually for baseline streaming to YouTube, with the potential for additional costs depending on locations and equipment. In addition to board meetings, Restream would allow the college to livestream other major events such as commencement ceremonies, the Child Development Center graduation, nursing pinning ceremonies, and departmental or community programs.

Mr. Pryor noted that both options would require at least two IT staff during meetings to manage both the live stream and any on-site technical issues. He concluded by providing a side-by-side comparison showing OBS as less costly but more labor-intensive, while Restream offers a higher level of support and reliability.

### **Discussion Following IT Presentation**

Trustee Thomas asked who would decide which events are livestreamed. Chief Technology Officer Israel Class explained that IT and the Marketing Department would collaborate on requests, but the final decision would rest with administration. He added that the Marketing Department is currently developing a form to streamline how livestream requests are submitted.

Dr. Moses asked Mr. Pryor to describe what livestreaming of Board meetings would look like for those watching on YouTube. Matt Pryor explained that a link would be posted on the college website and on the YouTube channel. He noted that viewers would be able to watch the meetings but would not be able to comment or participate, and confirmed that every Board meeting would be on YouTube.

Mr. Pryor explained that using OBS could create additional complications because the software requires multiple connections. He noted that with OBS the stream must connect through the software and then to YouTube, creating "another point of failure" if the system or connection went down, which would require troubleshooting during the

meeting. In contrast, Restream allows the Teams feed to connect directly into its platform, making the process more straightforward and providing additional technical support. He described it as "having more team members without needing more people on site."

Mr. Class explained that livestreams would be view-only. If members of the public wanted to provide comments or questions, those would need to be submitted in advance for the Board to decide whether to address them. He emphasized that from an audience perspective, the livestream would simply allow viewers to click a link on the website to see and hear the meeting, but not participate.

Mr. Pryor added that the restriction against live comments was important, noting that "once we open the door for comments, it gets way out of hand, way fast."

Dr. Moses confirmed that any public questions would have to go through the Brown Act process.

Trustee McNeil asked whether YouTube was the best platform for livestreaming, noting, "I'm sure you looked at everything else, and this is what you're making a proposal would work for us?"

In response to Trustee McNeil's question about whether YouTube was the best platform, Matt Pryor explained that YouTube was the option brought forward but that other platforms such as Facebook were also considered. He noted that Restream has the capability to stream to multiple platforms at once.

Trustee McNeil acknowledged the response, saying, "So you did your homework and you figured out this was the best one."

Trustee Williams noted that "Facebook is now deleting after 30 days, so it would just be deleted in 30 days."

Chief Technology Officer Israel Class explained that Restream has the capability to stream to multiple platforms including Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and X. However, he emphasized that "YouTube happens to be the most common one that everybody knows. So that's why we geared towards YouTube."

Trustee McNeil said, "I look forward to us moving into the 21st century and sharing information and being transparent. We talk about transparency all the time, and I think that's really important." He reflected on his experience as a superintendent, noting that "I ran a school district 16 years ago where an elementary school streamed all the time, and the people in charge of it were the fourth graders." He concluded by expressing confidence in the college's ability to livestream, stating, "I know this can be done, and I know we have the right people to do it. We certainly have the money, and it would be terrific to get out there in the community as part of advertising—our PR piece."

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **8.1 Future of the Needles Educational Center**

Trustee Arneson: "We had a study session a few months ago where we discovered that we are about \$500,000 a year upside down in that place. So I'm wondering why, being fiscally responsible, we would continue to fund and function a place that for 17-18 years we've been half a million dollars a year."

Trustee McNeil: "I looked at the finances, and we have every kind of expenditure known to mankind, and then some. So looking at it, I don't have access to all of this, even though I'm on the utility board... our energy went up 100% this last year, and so I got that report that we all saw, the report that has all these years. So I'm worried about how all the expenditures come out. We're tagged with what I think is 19 sections of teaching that were tagged with an expense on that, and we don't have that."

The other thing is, it's really hard for me to get the numbers, so I really rely on Stephanie's numbers and trying to use her numbers. And then I went to the Community College website on the DataLink... is that the name of it?"

(Ms. Slagan responded: "Datamark.")

"So I went to Datamart and went through it, and we've got the college numbers and all that and we get credit for 11 full-time students. And what I can't tell you for sure that this is it, but I checked with somebody else from another community college, who went into the site where I couldn't go, and said that we're collecting. So that's like 60-something thousand dollars we're collecting on 123.55. That works out to like \$670,000... it's a \$600,000 change, right Brad? That's what I'm saying... I ran numbers, but I don't have access to the real numbers. But I'm saying the other thing is property... you have a question?"

(Trustee Arneson responded: "No.")

"Well, you're giving me a look. Property tax, we collected half the property tax. And so looking at it, it appears that what was listed on that report that you got is not the full year of property tax, but half a year property tax. That's \$280,000."

Trustee Arneson: "That still doesn't answer the last 17 years."

Trustee McNeil: "We haven't had classes."

Trustee Arneson: "You don't need to chase numbers. The numbers come from the actual staffer's office—the one that actually has the income and the outcome."

Trustee McNeil: "My numbers came from the Chancellor's Office. So let me go on if I could. I don't mean to talk over you, and I won't. So the money should be coming from student enrollment... that's where it should be coming from. But we haven't had the classes. I reported repeatedly that the first two years I was on the Board, there was not a single class out of that college, out of our Center. And we've slowly been increasing the numbers of classes, and we've been increasing the number of students."

Now the next thing is we have four employees down there... and then we have part-time teachers. All the teachers are part-time. There's like \$5,000 per class. No way are we going to come up just with the deficit. We're not going to come up with \$800,000, \$100,000, a million dollars, or whatever, in expenses. There's no way with four employees—when you just look at it, you just step back and you look at it—it doesn't make sense.

So I agree that the Center needs to make money and we need to have the numbers. The numbers aren't all that makes that thing drive, because, as you already heard, every semester, we're picking up more and more students and more and more classes thanks to what our Superintendent's done. It's been no small reason because of Jaclyn Randall, absolutely. So I totally agree with your concern. When this first came up, before we got our first numbers, if you recall, we were presented three budgets that were not budgets... do you recall that?"

Trustee Arneson: "No. Three budgets that were not budgets?"

Trustee McNeil: "Yes, it was titled a budget... remember that? And I said, because it's titled a budget doesn't mean it's a budget. It has to have two factors—it has to have the expenditures and the income. I made a big deal out of that. Remember that?"

Trustee Arneson: "No, but okay, but proceed."

Trustee McNeil: "You don't remember that?"

Trustee Arneson: "I don't remember that, but proceed."

Trustee McNeil: "I even stood in front of the slide."

Trustee Cople: "Do you know what report he's talking about? He's talking about the report that Stephanie gave us up there, and it was all in the red... and they had like 11 years. He's talking about that report, where it had the San Bernardino property taxes, and over here, it had like five hundred and some thousand dollars that you put in... I guess you were already counting in for the—you did this in March, and you know they hadn't paid property taxes, they don't pay until April... something to do with that. That's what he's talking about."

Trustee Arneson: "We're going to need a very deep information dive on this."

Trustee Cople: "Right, so can we maybe get a third party to go in and do the budget over there and see what they get?"

Trustee Styers: "How about if we request the final numbers at our next study session... I want to know what the fall enrollment is and what the true numbers are for revenue."

Trustee McNeil: "So this report that we last got is the closest thing we've got... and I think most all this stuff is really accurate. It gives us a starting place of how do we create this Needles Center? How do we make this thing really work? Because up to this point, there were no classes. When I started, there were limited numbers of teachers, and the whole operation was not services, no counseling services. That's what that whole thing on that city resolution was... it was who said it instead of is it true? All four of those items on that resolution were true, and now we're working on it. Dr. Moses is working on it. We're getting some services now. It's improving."

And the beginning of a budget is looking at it as to say what's important to the organization... and I'd say that's true down here in Blythe too. Pulling that together can give us direction of what we want to do. So on my piece, I said we all want to have a better college. Absolutely, we want a better college, and we want to make Blythe better, Needles better. What's wrong with Needles... I'm going to tell you right now, I believe is wrong in Blythe. What's right in Blythe is also right in Needles. We need the whole college to move up and step up. How am I doing with you? Is it making any sense?"

Trustee Cople: We just need to get a budget and see exactly.

Trustee Styers: "I think the administration has done the research... I mean, the last one I saw was \$645,000. Even take away half of that... it's still at \$345,000 you know, we're not making from last year or the year before that."

Trustee McNeil: "We have 123 units we're supposed to be collecting on... because that's like \$670,000. I don't know that. That's a number out of the Chancellor's Office. Our number here is 11. That's a huge difference. Are we collecting on 123 students or 11? That's a big, big, big number. And then, what about property tax? Are we collecting half the property tax or the full one? Those are big numbers... \$270,000. These are big numbers."

Trustee Styers: "I'm going to request Dr. Moses and Stephanie that we, at our next study session, we'll have a count for enrollment? Is that correct... somewhat of a count for enrollment. And I'd like... let's just get to the bottom of the final numbers."

Dr. Moses: "We'll have census by then?"

Mr. Cowden: "Yes."

Dr. Moses: "So census enrollment. You wanted this year?"

Trustee Styers: "2025, yes, this year. We can have a study session August 26th... is that possible?"

Dr. Moses: "So it sounds like also, I'm hearing that there's concern with the reliability that was shown in the previous look back... so we're going to bring that back. I don't know what your data source is... I think you said your data source was the Datamart from the Chancellor's Office. But we're going to pull from our system, because that's what we report to the Chancellor's Office... we're not reporting anything different."

Ms. Slagan: "Our Galaxy gives us up-to-the-minute finances... and the data we gave you was from March 17th. We'll go through June 30th, and we'll be able to give you 2024-25 numbers that include revenue as well as expenses. So that'll give you 2024-25 numbers to complete the 10-year look back."

Trustee Williams: "Bruce, you said when you first came here that you really had potential in Needles... you saw potential with having Mojave Valley and Laughlin and that whole area within 30 miles of us. And what did you see then that has changed? I mean, you're always going to have—while you're growing something—you're always going to have a little bit of cost to that. You need to have marketing... you need to have letting everybody know that we're there and making people trust us to bring them in."

We have a beautiful college there to take and do the medicals all set up there. I mean, I don't... we say that we have enough money in the budget to have whatever percentage in savings. Why aren't we spending it on our students? Not everything's going to come out in black and white until it gets built. And the last three years I've been involved, I've watched it be built. I've watched people get jobs that I never thought would have jobs. So I think that investment in our students and in our area is not just here, it's there too. I don't know how we can take and shut it down with just a little bit. We can't drive forward and become successful looking in our rearview mirror. For the last 10 years... or whatever we're growing the last three years... you know what I mean? You can't look at 10 years back. You guys weren't even here 10 years back."

Trustee McNeil: "I've been here nine years."

Trustee Williams: "No, I mean Bruce and our Vice. They just got here. So I think now we should be working on the marketing to get it going. Because a California education is much better than Arizona... we could pull them over. We just have to do the marketing to get it there."

Trustee McNeil: "So I was going to pick up that point. The money is only one part of it, Brad. The other part of it is what you were just saying. And this part about the potential and the report... the economic report that you guys all got, the 128-page one, and I think it's on page 78, it says that Needles has a better economic advantage for the college. That's what it says in that big report. So that's a plus. That's not anything negative about Blythe... it's not anything special about Needles, other than it's the potential and where it's been and where it's going. It has the potential to really make a difference for this college."

Trustee Arneson: "Is that accurate information? That Needles has a stronger growth potential."

Trustee McNeil: "Yeah, it's on page—I think it's on 17 of your report... that 128-page report."

Trustee Arneson: "I don't see that as accurate with 17 years of half a million dollars backwards."

Trustee McNeil: "It's Mr. Cowden's report. Is the economic section of that accurate... about the two areas, where they drew the circles on the maps?"

Mr. Cowden: "We believe so."

Trustee McNeil: "Can you tell Brad that? He just said it's accurate."

Dr. Moses: "I think you can't take a single point... it's multiple variables that go into economic, you know, prosperity. It's not the college putting the program in and saying, 'Okay, now it's going to go because this report says it.' It's culminating factors around the entire region, not just because there's a college there. I'm not arguing either way... I'm just saying there's multiple factors that will drive what's in that report, not just because Palo Verde College has a presence there."

Trustee Williams: "And the fact that my son is a welder now and he is working because of Palo Verde being there... I know my grandson and his best friend are taking welding, and they will have their certificates when they graduate at the end of next year. I know it's changing lives. We just have to give it a chance for it to catch on. It's been a ghost... there hasn't been nobody in there. It looks alive now."

Trustee McNeil: "And that's true... there's multiple things to look at as catching on. And both Blythe and Needles, we know that the economic improvement of the community is one thing..."

(Ms. Alaniz interrupted to let the group know that the meeting was being streamed to multiple locations and it was reported that the other locations were having a hard time hearing the trustees. She asked that when they were speaking if they could turn on their mic and speak into it.)

"...So what we do know is that the college didn't have anything going on, and it's growing like crazy. And whatever we do there helps Blythe... whatever Blythe does down here helps Needles. We were in a place where we were worried about one thing: who is making us look bad. It was us, and we don't want to look bad. I have a long history of being on winning teams. I want to be on a winning team, and I know that this Board is that group that wants to be successful. That's what I know for a fact.

And building this thing, you start with a budget... you see where the holes are, you see where the problems are, and then you start to build it from there, whatever you're going to do. But we have this huge reserve, and we're looking at doing more and more for prisons. And the fact is, a trained workforce is the number one thing that changes the economic background—or backbone—of a community. And if we can train a workforce, both communities are going to grow... and nurturing that, it's going to happen as a result of that.

Our plan in the future is we're going to add 250 students, all incarcerated students. None of those students are coming back to us, to either community, to help us grow. They're not going to live here, they're not going to help us. We need to invest in our communities. I'm not saying we shouldn't be working with incarcerated students. I am saying that we should be focused on our students. We know we have like 15% of our students are part of our college that is community students... and I think that's a travesty. We need to be expanding that, working with more students.

And the last add-on, why it's great to be up in Needles, is there's over 240,000 people up there across the river. We pay double—our teachers get double what they make in Arizona—and they don't get health benefits. So I know that there's a good talent pool up there. So there's a lot of good reasons why this is a good investment and a good bet."

Trustee Styers asked Dr. Moses if they would be bringing the final enrollment numbers to the Board at the August 26th meeting.

Dr. Moses: "We're going to bring that original data... finance data back. We're going to bring the enrollment data. We're also going to bring a look back, because I think a lot of this information was shared at previous Board study sessions. The enrollment numbers... a look back on the enrollment numbers. We're going to bring everything up to date. The census of this year... we're going to bring the same information back. We'll have a Q and A about that information.

The reason I put that information together—I asked for that information to be put together—was because you were making comments to me, Mr. McNeil, that you had never seen a budget for Needles... you had never seen what the actual expenses or revenues were. That's why that information was put together. So we'll bring that back.

I trust in the validity and reliability of that data, because Stephanie brought it to me, Clint and others on Cabinet, and I had to go back multiple times to do double checking on that information. I think we pulled some things out... we added some things. I think maybe even categorical funding was added that was spent at that location.

I do have a response—we will have a response—in regards to your 100, because I think I know what the answer is... but I'm not going to say it out loud now, because I need to double check with Clint and others. But I think I know what the response is, and I think it's something that can be shared at that meeting."

Trustee McNeil: "I appreciate your responsiveness to that... to my comments."

Trustee Williams: "Is it going back 17 years though?"

Ms. Slagan: "It's a 10-year look back."

Dr. Moses: "So when Mr. McNeil requested me to look at the data, he asked me to go back from the time he came on to the Board. So I... instead of going back to that, I went back to the last time that bond money was issued to the college, which was 2014. I wanted to see what did that bond money get spent on... and a portion of that bond money was spent on the IT upgrades at the Needles Center, and that's why I went back to 2014."

Trustee Styers: "That's where the alert came to me as a Board member... having our fiscal responsibility. Because I saw 500,000... 645,000 that year... 445,000. You know, it was a lot of money, and we want to try to save it. But how much, you know? You say we have reserves... how much? How much more can we put into it if the students aren't there?"

Trustee McNeil: "But that's bond money... bond money is what I paid for out of my taxes."

Trustee Styers: "Are we paid up on our bond, Stephanie?"

Ms. Slagan: "We're still paying on some GO (general obligation) bonds... so even though the college gets the money for bonds, it's paid over time. I mean, taxes... \$10, \$20 a year."

Trustee McNeil: "On my vote, I get a thing that says you're paying Palo Verde College."

## **8.2 Future of Needles Center Graduation Ceremony and Pinning Ceremony Needles Center Pinning Ceremony Discussion**

Trustee Styers reported that the District will no longer be holding pinning ceremonies for the Phlebotomy and CNA programs.

Trustee McNeil commented that when the Pinning Ceremony was first held, they thought it would be a one-time event, remarking, "Did it the first year, they thought it'd be a one-time thing, like, 'Oh, look at us. Positive thing.'"

### **Needles Center Graduation Ceremony Discussion**

Trustee Styers: "My thing for the commencement ceremony... given the time and expense involved in holding a separate commencement ceremony for Needles, the students from Needles can travel to the main campus via college vans and participate with their fellow graduates. A positive aspect of this change is that Needles Center graduates will be able to celebrate this milestone at the main campus... for the main commencement ceremony... and share that experience with the entire graduates."

Trustee McNeil: "That is mean spirited."

Trustee Williams: "Without their families?"

Trustee Styers: "We had three graduates last year. I don't think that it's mean. I think... I mean, you can go to any university and you can do online, and you still have to travel to Chicago, wherever, to have this ceremony. The money... we had two vans, we had faculty, we had administration, we had a whole day. John, you didn't even get there till what, 11:30 a.m.? Our day started at 9:30 a.m. and so did the faculty."

Trustee McNeil: "So first of all, that graduation was not planned by anybody in Needles. Previously, it was all planned by people in Needles. We didn't even see the program until it showed up. We had nothing to do with three vans coming up... we didn't do that. We didn't organize that. We didn't organize the food. We didn't organize the program. We had nothing to do. What we did was we set up chairs and set up the building. That's it. The ceremony is important to the community. Saw 150 people there... 150 people there. We're building that. So let us do a ceremony just on our own, and we'll do it for pennies, peanuts, or donations, and we'll do our own thing. Because these people are not going to get in the van and go all the way down here... because it's so far away. Let us be something to encourage, to celebrate the success that we have here. Everybody came—the mayor came, the city council came. None of those people are going to come down here. Families aren't going to get in a van and come down here. Be nice. Be nice. Care. Care about us. Withdraw that."

Trustee Styers: "Well, it's not for a vote. It's just discussion... it's a discussion. I mean, that's my opinion. Did you go?"

Trustee Copple: "No, I didn't go. I went the year before and it was nice."

Trustee Styers: "I don't know if I saw 150 people there. There were three graduates."

Trustee McNeil: "So don't come. But let us celebrate three graduates... or if it's five graduates next year, or whatever. But why hog tie us? Why not allow us to celebrate? We've got a Dean that just leads up there, and everybody comes in there just... I tell you, she changes people's lives. People's lives are being transformed there, and families aren't going to come down here to see their person graduate."

Trustee Arneson: "Why wouldn't they?"

Trustee Williams: "They can't... they don't have cars, things like that."

Trustee Styers: "Well, if you have three students and then three families come... I'm sure they could come in the van."

Student Trustee Rangel-Ruiz mentioned that we can't assume that there is only going to be three graduates.

Trustee Styers: "No, I'm not assuming that... we did have three students (...) We're going to get the final numbers on enrollment, so we'll move on with this discussion. And if they want to talk about it anymore, we'll talk about it on August the 26th."

## **9. Information Items**

### **9.1 Report of Purchases and Warrants - June and July 2025**

Trustee Gloria Copple noted that in the past, Ms. Mullion would print larger agenda items for Board members. She requested that Ms. Alaniz print the Purchases and Warrants report and other larger agenda items for her. She clarified that she does not need the agenda printed.

### **9.2 Out-of-State Travel**

### **9.3 Upcoming College Events and Activities**

### **9.4 Board of Trustees Professional Development Opportunities**

## **10. Consent Items**

**All Consent Items will be voted on in one motion with 15 minutes allocated for questions by Board members. After the question period, any Board member may request that any item(s) be moved to the Action Agenda.**

### **10.1 Approval of Data Sharing Agreement with the Gardner Institute for the Institutional Transformation Assessment (ITA)**

Approve the Data Sharing Agreement between Palo Verde College and the Gardner Institute for participation in the Institutional Transformation Assessment (ITA) and Sensemaking Process.

### **10.2 Approval of Clinical Affiliation Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with San Geronio Memorial Hospital**

Approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with San Geronio Memorial Hospital to provide PVC Nursing students with the necessary clinical experience needed to complete their program of study.

### **10.3 Approval of Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Bullhead City Hospital Corporation**

Approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Bullhead City Hospital Corporation to provide clinical training opportunities for students enrolled in the Vocational Nursing (VN) Program.

### **10.4 Approval of Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Phoenix Area Indian Health Service (Parker Indian Hospital)**

Approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Phoenix Area Indian Health Service (PAIHS) for clinical placements at Parker Indian Hospital.

### **10.5 Approval of Part-Time Temporary Student Workers for Summer 2025 Semester**

Approve the Part-Time Temporary Student Workers for the Summer 2025 semester.

### **10.6 Approval of Personnel Actions for July & August 2025**

Approve the Personnel Actions for July and August 2025 as presented.

President Styers noted for the record that agenda item 10.6 incorrectly listed Ms. Aguayo's department as CAEP. The correct department is Instruction.

### **10.7 Approval/Ratification of Volunteers – Academic Year 2025–2026**

Approve/Ratify the volunteers as presented for the 2025–2026 academic year.

### **10.8 Approval of Consent Items for August 2025**

Approve Consent Items as presented and/or amended.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

## **11. Action Items - Instruction and Student Services**

### **11.1 Approval of Sole Source Purchase – Anatomage Convertible Virtual Cadaver Table**

Approve the sole source purchase of the Anatomage Convertible Table, software, and related components from Anatomage, Inc.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **11.2 Approval of Agreement with The Executive Learning Lab for Culturally Responsive Organizational Development and Professional Learning Services**

Approve the agreement between Palo Verde College and The Executive Learning Lab, LLC to provide a year-long professional development program focused on culturally responsive organizational development and instructional practices.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Jon E McNeil.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **11.3 Approval of Konica Minolta Lease Agreement and Order Agreement for two (2) AccurioPrint C4065 Digital Press Units**

Approve the Lease Agreement and Order Agreement with Konica Minolta for two (2) AccurioPrint C4065 Digital Press units.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **11.4 Approval of Consultant Agreement Renewal with Jeremy Jones**

Approve the consultant contract renewal with Jeremy Jones for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **11.5 Approval of Statement of Work (SOW) with National Student Clearinghouse for Postsecondary Data Partnership**

Approve the Statement of Work (SOW) between Palo Verde College and the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) for participation in the Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP).

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Jon E McNeil.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **11.6 Approval of Renewal Agreement with Venbrook Insurance Services for Student/Athlete Medical Coverage**

Approve the renewal agreement between Palo Verde College and Venbrook Insurance Services (dba Student Insurance) for student/athlete accident and catastrophic medical insurance coverage for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Motion by Jon E McNeil, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

## **12. Action Items - Business**

### **12.1 Approval of Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan for 2025–2031**

Approve the Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan for 2025–2031 for submission to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.2 Approval of Agreement for Special Services with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) for 2025-2026**

Approve the Agreement for Special Services between Palo Verde Community College District and the law firm of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR), effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Jon E McNeil.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

No: Gloria A Copple

Trustee Copple expressed concerns about the District's legal representation. She stated, "I think it's time that we get another attorney. I thought this attorney is supposed to be for us board members." Trustee Copple explained that she has experienced issues on three different occasions where she did not feel supported, noting, "When I go to her and ask her, she's not supporting me as a board member."

Trustee McNeil expressed concern about his interactions with the Board's attorney, noting, "My feeling about Ms. Meola and my connection with her during my recent investigation was not positive... she was not upfront and truthful with me, I believe." At the same time, he acknowledged the firm's strong reputation, describing it as "the best law firm in the state, with a huge selection of quality lawyers."

Trustee McNeil also sought clarification on the legal services agreement, confirming it was a continuation of prior services. He added, "...the administration will have access to a lawyer when they need to call them, and that's really important. So I agree with that."

### **12.3 Approval of Legal Services Agreement with Best Best & Krieger LLP**

Approve the legal services agreement between Palo Verde College and Best Best & Krieger LLP, effective July 1, 2025, for specialized legal support on special projects, including interactive processes under applicable employment and disability laws.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.4 Approval of Scope of Work Agreement with Firestorm Global for GLBA (Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act) Compliance Services for 2025–2026 Fiscal Year**

Approve the Scope of Work agreement with Firestorm Global LLC to provide ongoing GLBA (Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act) compliance services for the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.5 Approval of Agreement with Riverside County Office of Education for Information System Support Services**

Approve the agreement between Palo Verde College and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) for the provision of Information System Support Services for fiscal year 2025–2026.

Motion by Jon E McNeil, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.6 Approval of Software License and Maintenance Agreement with Ferrilli for Implementation and Support of Transport Management Interface (TMI) Software System**

Approve the Software License and Maintenance Agreement with Ferrilli for the implementation and support of the Transport Management Interface (TMI) software system.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.7 Approval of Agreement with Ferrilli for Colleague Security Assessment**

Approve the agreement between Palo Verde College and Ferrilli to conduct a Colleague Security Assessment and provide recommendations for improving security configurations and reducing risk.

Motion by Jon E McNeil, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.8 Approval of Change Order No. 27 with Precise Builders Inc. – Palo Verde Child Development Project (TABLED)**

A motion was made by Brad E. Arneson and seconded by Angel Ramirez to table Item 12.8.

Final Resolution: Motion carried to table Item 12.8

Yes: Stella C. Styers, Gloria A. Copple, Jon E. McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E. Arneson, George W. Thomas, Glenda K. Williams

### **12.9 Approval of Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds Report for 2024-2025**

Approve the Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds Report for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Motion by Jon E McNeil, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.10 Approval of Service Agreement with BM Technologies, Inc. (BankMobile) for Student Refund Disbursements**

Approve the Service Agreement between Palo Verde College and BM Technologies, Inc. (BankMobile) to implement an electronic refund disbursement system for student financial aid, scholarships, grants, and basic needs funds.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams

### **12.11 Approval of Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA) Participation with the Foundation for California Community Colleges**

Approve Palo Verde College's participation in the Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA) through the Foundation for California Community Colleges for a three-year term, effective August 26, 2025, through August 25, 2028.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

Trustee Jon McNeil called for a point of order and asked, "Doesn't our student rep get a vote?" Ms. Alaniz thanked Trustee McNeil for calling attention to this. He also recalled a prior Board conversation about the student trustee voting first, noting that if the student trustee votes last, "the board doesn't know what they really think."

## **13. Action Items - Personnel**

### **13.1 Approval of Interim Educational Administrator Employment Agreement – Dr. Baba Adam**

Approve the Interim Educational Administrator Employment Agreement for Dr. Baba Adam as Interim Dean of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

### **13.2 Approval of Equal Employment Opportunity Plan Annual Certification**

Approve the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan Annual Certification

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Angel Ramirez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

## **14. Action Items - Miscellaneous**

### **14.1 Second Reading and Approval of Board Policies**

Approve the Reviewed/Revised Board Policies.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Jon E McNeil.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

Trustee Jon McNeil asked about how the date for the annual organizational meeting is set, noting that in the past it was held on Fridays and later changed to Tuesdays. Ms. Alaniz clarified that the 15-day requirement applies only in election years. She explained that the meeting is scheduled for a Tuesday within the required calendar timeframe when the Board sets its annual calendar.

### **14.2 Approval of Absence for Trustee Dr. George Thomas - June 10, 2025**

Trustee George W. Thomas recused himself from consideration of this item.

Approve the absence of Trustee Dr. George Thomas from the June 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.  
Motion by Jon E McNeil, second by Brad E Arneson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, Glenda K Williams, Melina Rangel-Ruiz

## **15. Hearing of Citizens - Non-Agenda Items**

### **15.1 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

There were no public comments offered regarding items not on tonight's agenda.

## **16. Closing of Meeting**

### **16.1 Possible Future Agenda Items**

#### **Future Agenda Item #1**

Trustee Copple requested that her earlier comments regarding what she heard about the Board being called "dysfunctional" be placed on a future agenda, "probably closed session," so she could further inform the Board on the matter.

Trustee Styers stated, "It's not our employee."

Ms. Alaniz explained that she was unsure whether the matter could be addressed in closed session under the Brown Act and said she would need to review the law and consult legal counsel.

Trustee McNeil mentioned, "Personnel."

Trustee Copple asked, "Wouldn't that be personnel though because it's regarding an individual, an employee?"

Trustee Styers responded, "It's not our employee though."

Trustee Copple referenced a prior closed session, stating, "That don't matter, Jaclyn wasn't our employee either when we discussed her in closed session... Yeah, that happened too, Moses... what do you 'oh my God' for? That happened, so we were able to put that on closed session."

Ms. Alaniz stated that she would look into the matter, but confirmed she has it listed as a future agenda item.

#### **Future Agenda Item #2**

Trustee McNeil requested that the investigation be placed on a future agenda and suggested it be discussed in closed session. He stated, "The Board voted unanimously to do it. Now we need to talk about it."

Trustee Styers responded that Ms. Alaniz would follow up with the Board regarding if and when the item could be placed on a future agenda.

### **16.2 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



**Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President**

**Minutes approved at September 9, 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.*