



PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Closed Session 4:00 p.m.
Open Session 5:00 p.m.
One College Drive, Blythe, CA – CL 101
(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.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present: Stella C Styers, Gloria A Copple, Jon E McNeil, Angel Ramirez, Brad E Arneson, George W Thomas, Glenda K Williams, Nya Jones *(arrived at 5:05 p.m.)*

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

1.3 Approval of Closed Session Agenda

Approve the Closed Session Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, 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

2. Recess to Closed Session

Members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak on any Closed Session items at this time. Persons wishing to address the Governing Board under this item should fill out a Speaker Request Form available at the reception table.

No public comments were offered. The Governing Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:01 p.m.

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

2.2 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release Pursuant to Government Code 54957

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

3. Reconvene to Open Session

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:00 p.m.

3.1 Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3.2 Report on Any Action Taken in Closed Session

Ms. Styers announced that no action was taken in Closed Session

3.3 Approval of Open Session Agenda

Approve the Open Session Agenda for this meeting.

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, Nora Jones

3.4 Approval of January 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Approve the January 21, 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, Nora Jones

3.5 Approval of January 21, 2025, PVCCD Financing Corporation Annual Organizational Meeting

Approve the January 21, 2025, PVCCD Financing Corporation Annual Organizational Meeting.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Gloria A Copple.

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, Nora Jones

3.6 Approval of January 28, 2025, Special Meeting/Study Session Minutes

Approve the January 28, 2025, Special Meeting/Study Session Minutes.

Motion by Brad E Arneson, second by Gloria A Copple.

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, Nora Jones

3.7 Announcement of Recusal From Agenda Items

Mr. Ramirez recused himself from agenda item 11.1.

4. Hearing of Citizens Agenda Items

4.1 Members of the public have this opportunity to directly address the Board on agenda items. 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.

5. Reports

5.1 PVCCA/CTA - Richard Castillo, President of PVCCA/CTA

Mr. Castillo had nothing to report.

5.2 Academic Senate - Sarah Frid, President of Academic Senate

Ms. Frid was not present at tonight's meeting.

5.3 CSEA, Chapter 180 - Alice Dean, President of CSEA Chapter 180

Alice Dean introduced herself and addressed key concerns regarding the CSEA collective bargaining agreement that expired in July 2024. Ms. Dean stated that they remain hopeful that a resolution will be reached soon and that the contract will be signed in a manner that benefits both the District and the CSEA employees. She stated that one critical point of concern is the District's intent to remove binding arbitration from the contract. Ms. Dean urged the Board to reconsider, expressing that retaining binding arbitration as a conflict resolution tool ultimately saves the District hundreds of thousands of dollars and allows an impartial third party to address grievances effectively and fairly. She stated that CSEA requests the Board advise the Administration to terminate their attorney, who is encouraging the removal of binding arbitration from the contract. Ms. Dean asserted that the CSEA members deserve the protection and fairness that binding arbitration provides. Ms. Dean emphasized the need to finalize the contract to prevent employees from covering medical benefits out-of-pocket. She highlighted issues such as poor communication, lack of transparency and integrity, misaligned job classifications, and unnecessary obstacles in student-related events. Ms. Dean called for open dialogue, improved communication, and a commitment to teamwork and student success from the Board and Administration, emphasizing collaboration as essential for all stakeholders.

5.4 Associated Student Government - Nya Jones, Student Trustee

Ms. Jones apologized for her recent absences and credited her sister for being her eyes and ears. She reported the following upcoming events:

- Money Management Workshop: February 13th, CS 123/124, 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Covers money management and self-care on a budget.

- Grad Day: February 13th, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. No appointments are needed. Encouraged for students graduating in May.
- Valentine Grams: Sold in the ASG room for \$1.00. Options include a ring pop with a card, butterfly candy lollipop, and butterfly Tootsie Pop.
- PVC Pride Club Valentine Social: February 13th in CS 133

Ms. Jones thanked Alice Dean for mentioning the lack of open dialog with students and voiced concerns about the lack of open communication with students, noting that the discontinuation of correspondence classes for non-incarcerated students had not been announced. She asked why this pathway was removed when one of the District's biggest mission statements is to make education accessible to all and cater to the District's many demographics on campus. Ms. Jones noted that there are individuals who work full-time and face other life challenges who have benefited from the correspondence courses, and she stated that the District needs to address this issue.

5.5 Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Student Services - Clint Cowden

Mr. Cowden gave a summary of his attached written report.

5.6 Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services and College Advancement - Stephanie Slagan

Ms. Slagan gave a summary of her attached written report.

5.7 Superintendent/President - Dr. Bruce Moses

Dr. Moses attended a conference in Indian Wells, California, hosted by the district's insurance provider, Keenan. At the conference, Keenan shared information on legislative updates, assembly bills, potential liabilities, workers' compensation, and accommodation issues. Dr. Moses noted that he learned a great deal at the conference and mentioned that he brought back several things we will implement as a college moving forward. He mentioned that the District has been invited as one of the few entities to participate in a stakeholder economic development strategic plan for Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We will take part in three different 90-minute summits involving numerous entities around the county, focusing on infrastructure, technology needs, workforce development, and economic development. Dr. Moses noted that several representatives from San Bernardino, Riverside and the Imperial Valley are involved in this initiative, which is being led with the aim of developing a strategic plan for the region. We will play a key role in its creation and the opportunities that arise. He noted that we expect to have the chance to write grants with various individuals, collaborate with businesses and industry, and hopefully offer some non-credit workforce training on our campus in the near future.

5.8 Board of Trustees

Mr. Ramirez thanked everyone for the excellent reports they provided, noting that they included great information. He stated that what Mr. Cowden has accomplished in a year is truly impressive. Mr. Ramirez also thanked Dr. Becker and expressed his gratitude for the Nursing Program.

Ms. Styers congratulated Mr. Cowden on his one-year anniversary with the college. She shared a personal story about her mother's hospitalization at Eisenhower, where she met a newly promoted clinical director. In conversation, she discovered that he teaches students from Palo Verde College. Ms. Styers said that he spoke highly of the students and mentioned that Eisenhower recently hired four of them, with the potential to hire more if additional slots were available. She expressed excitement about the impact of the RN program on students' lives and emphasized the importance of networking and engaging. Ms. Styers ended by thanking and congratulating Dr. Becker.

Ms. Copple shared that she attended a local production of The Wizard of Oz in the PVCCD Theater. The play was organized by Jacqueline Bonine and featured local community members, including students. Ms. Copple said the production was put together in just one week, and she found it to be a delightful and impressive performance. She also reported that she attended the Pirates Basketball games and mentioned that the games are free and open to the community. She said that the one game was particularly exciting, going into overtime after a remarkable last-second shot. Ms. Copple encouraged everyone to attend these games as they are a great way to support the teams and engage with the community. Additionally, Ms. Copple noted that she has been shopping at the new grocery store outlet and mentioned that it offers reasonable prices.

Dr. Thomas had nothing to report.

Ms. Williams expressed her excitement for Dr. Becker's new adventure and stated that she was thrilled for all of her students. She expressed her belief that medical is our future, noting that hospitals are often understaffed. She highlighted that it is a blessing to be a nurse, describing that you can see so much and help change the world. She also shared her enthusiasm for students securing permanent positions at Eisenhower, a hospital she personally holds in high regard, having undergone successful back surgeries there. Ms. Williams thanked everyone for a good start to the year and expressed optimism for greatness this year.

Mr. McNeil announced that with the support of the Foundation, they will hold a 5K Color Fun Run in Needles on April 12th. He reported that the Needles Center will host its monthly Broadway event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The

event is a key recruitment opportunity during which staff from the Main Campus come to the Needles Center. Mr. McNeil noted that the event will have food and regularly draws a large crowd. Mr. McNeil stated that he was impressed with Dr. Becker. He mentioned that he had requested the budget for Needles but didn't see it on the agenda and questioned whether he would be receiving it. Ms. Slagan confirmed this. Mr. McNeil expressed his interest in the progress of the investigation into the resolution that the Needles City Council put forward. He noted that the residents of Needles are very interested as well. Mr. McNeil mentioned the upcoming meeting between the Superintendent/President and the Board President with the Needles City Manager and Mayor. He noted that the residents of Needles are very excited about this meeting and its potential outcomes for improving relationships. Mr. McNeil expressed that the report from CSEA concerns him, and he hopes there will be a meeting between the CSEA representatives and our Superintendent/President to resolve any misunderstandings. He stated that he expects a report back to the Board that clarifies the issues. He said that we have always maintained a terrific relationship with CSEA, and he looks forward to that relationship continuing and being straightened out, noting that it's always about good communication. Mr. McNeil spoke about Mr. Rick Daniels, noting that he is very influential in the Needles community. Mr. McNeil noted that Mr. Daniels is a driver of many things and has been volunteering to help Blythe with their financial and economic situation. He said that Mr. Daniels has been appointed to the summit panel to assist Blythe. Mr. McNeil expressed that the feeling he received from the Board was that Mr. Daniels was seen as an adversary, noting that this is not the case for Mr. Daniels and anyone in Needles. He said that Mr. Daniels is spending time in Blythe and playing an active role in the community. Mr. McNeil stated that he enjoys having positive Board relations, openness in listening to people, and a congenial operation between the Board members. He expressed his concerns about the Rialto Board members suing one another, as well as the accreditation issues that College of the Desert is facing because of its Board members. He stated that he thinks the PVCCD Board is very good at going 7/0 on things and working together in the past. Mr. McNeil closed by stating, "I would like to see that congenial positivity and openness to listening."

Mr. Arneson had nothing to report.

6. Discussion

6.1 Recognition of Mr. Don Kuykendall and Former Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia with regard to the New Child Development Center Building

Mr. Arneson inquired if we were done receiving change orders. Ms. Slagan conveyed her hope that we would not receive any further change orders. However, she did mention that work has commenced on the entryway, and the removal and replacement of the sand in the playground is set to begin sometime in February.

6.2 Date of Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the New Child Development Center Building

Ms. Styers suggested that we ensure all the work is completed and then discuss the ribbon-cutting ceremony at a future meeting. Ms. Slagan expected all the work to be completed by March, and DSA approval would occur after all the work was finished. She noted that it typically takes a few months to receive DSA approval. The Trustees decided to place the item on a future agenda and aim for April for the ceremony.

6.3 First Reading of Reviewed/Revised Board Policy and Administrative Procedure

Mr. McNeil inquired if there were any changes made to the Board Policy. It was confirmed that the Board Policy had been reviewed with no revisions made. It was stated that the only revision to the Academic Policy was changing "Athletic Director" to "PVCCD Director of Athletics."

7. Information Items

7.1 Report of Purchases and Warrants - January 2025

7.2 Enrollment Fee Revenue Report for P1

7.3 311Q as of 12/31/2024

7.4 Board of Trustees Professional Development Opportunities

8. 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.

8.1 Part-Time Temporary Student Workers for the Spring 2025 Semester

8.2 Personnel Actions - February 2025

8.3 Approval of Consent Items for February 2025

Approve Consent Items 8.1 and 8.2 as presented and/or amended.
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, Nora Jones

9. Action Items - Business

9.1 Riverside County Superintendent of Schools IEEEP Grant Award Notification Agreement C1009927 - FY2024-2027

Approve the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools IEEEP Grant Award Notification Agreement C1009927 - FY2024-2027.

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, Nora Jones

9.2 Consultant Agreement with Stephen Ebel for Information and Analytical Support

Approve the Consultant Agreement with Stephen Ebel for Information and Analytical Support.

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, Nora Jones

Mr. McNeil mentioned that it seems we already have employees or consultants assigned to do the work outlined in this agreement and indicated that this appears to be a redundancy in personnel. He noted the fourth bullet in the agreement and questioned if it meant the District would pay for this consultant to attend conferences. It was explained that this consultant would exclusively work for us, unlike in the past, when we had different consultants working for multiple organizations who did not prioritize us as their focus. It was noted that this will allow us to manage the workflow and priorities of the consultant. It was confirmed that the District would not be covering the costs for the consultant to attend conferences but rather to provide professional development for our staff. It was emphasized that professional development training for our staff is crucial so that we can move away from paying a consultant for a task and then compensating them again when the task needs to be done again. Furthermore, it was explained that we would be reducing multiple Ferrilli agreements to offset the cost of this agreement.

9.3 Modern Campus Agreement Order Forms No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3

Approve the Agreement Order Forms No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 with Modern Campus.

Motion by George W Thomas, second by Gloria A Copple.

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, Nora Jones

9.4 Agreement with Cambridge West Partnership

Approve the Agreement with Cambridge West Partnership.

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, Nora Jones

10. Action Items - Personnel

10.1 New Job Description - Director of Marketing & Advancement Services

Approve the new job description - Director of Marketing & Advancement Services.

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, Nora Jones

10.2 Employment Contract - Educational Administrator

Approve the Employment Contractor for Educational Administrator.

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, Nora Jones

11. Action Items - Miscellaneous

11.1 Trustee Excused Absence from Board Meeting (Ramirez)

Approve the absence of Trustee Angel Ramirez from the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2025.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Abstain: Angel Ramirez

11.2 Revised Board of Trustees 2025 Meeting Schedule

Approve the revised Board of Trustees 2025 Meeting Schedule.

Motion by Angel Ramirez, second by Gloria A Copple.

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, Nora Jones

12. Hearing of Citizens Non-Agenda Items

Members of the public have this opportunity to directly address the Governing Board on items of interest to the public, subject to five (5) minute time limitation per individual.

Belen Rodriguez, President of the Puente Club, and Robert Rio, Puente Social Manager and ASG Manager, spoke on behalf of the Puente Club. They explained that the Puente Club is separate from the currently paused Puente Program and mentioned that the club was denied its Winter fundraiser. They noted that the club provides students with scholarships through their fundraising activities. It was explained that the Puente Club is about familia, trust, and strong bonds, and the club serves as the foundation for student's educational success, ensuring they achieve their goals. It was said that without the foundation of the club, students risk crumbling. Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Rio urged the District to reconsider the decision to cancel the Puente Club and allow them to proceed with their fundraiser.

United States Border Patrol Agent Rey Alaniz clarified misconceptions about the agency's presence in the schools and colleges, explaining that the agency is attempting to reshape the narrative of the Border Patrol from what it has been historically. He emphasized that when visiting the school sites, they are strictly engaged in community outreach and not involved in enforcement actions. Mr. Alaniz spoke about the agency's reading program at the elementary schools and their mentorship and outreach efforts. At the college level, he explained that they collaborate with local police to support the community. Mr. Alaniz stressed that their goal is to serve and support the community.

The group discussed different messaging systems for notifying students in cases of emergency. They also discussed having Mr. Alaniz visit the classes and speak with the students. Ms. Jones said that she would reach out to Mr. Alaniz to have him attend the next ASG meeting. Dr. Moses stated that in collaboration with the Chancellor's Office, he plans to send out a communication to all students tomorrow. The message will include resources, materials, and key information. Dr. Moses reported that Blythe PD and Border Patrol are our first responders. He stated that we have begun a relationship with Mr. Alaniz to collaborate with Border Patrol on training and methods to keep the campus safe.

13. Possible Future Agenda Items

Ms. Styers announced that she scheduled a mandatory ethics training for Tuesday, March 25, at 4:00 p.m. The training, led by Kathy Meola, will take place in CS 209 and is expected to last approximately two hours.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Minutes approved at March 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting



Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President

Minutes generated by Naomi Smith, 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.)