



PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 4, 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 4:03 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

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: Nya Jones

1.3 Approval of Closed Session Agenda

Approve the Closed Session Agenda for this meeting.

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

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 4:04 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)

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

3. Reconvene to Open Session

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:02 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 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

3.4 Approval of February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Approve the February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

3.5 Announcement of Recusal From Agenda Items

No recusals were declared.

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 was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

5.2 Academic Senate - Sarah Frid, President of Academic Senate

Ms. Frid was not present at the meeting during this time.

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

Ms. Dean was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

5.4 Associated Student Government - Nya Jones, Student Trustee

Ms. Jones was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

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

Mr. Cowden reported on two significant areas of student engagement and success. He began by acknowledging the conclusion of the Pirates Basketball season and provided a summary highlighting the teams and their standout players. Mr. Cowden commended both teams for their remarkable resilience and growth throughout the season, emphasizing their strong performance in a highly competitive conference. He expressed admiration for their dedication and determination, describing their efforts as truly inspiring. Mr. Cowden noted that while the season has ended, it marks the beginning of recruiting for our coaches. He emphasized the coach's commitment to bringing strong student-athletes who are highly committed both academically and athletically. Additionally, he announced that on Thursday, we will celebrate our student-athletes at the Annual Athletic Banquet, an event recognizing individual achievements, academic excellence, and team leadership.

Mr. Cowden also reported that Palo Verde College hosted several highly successful workshop sessions in collaboration with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The workshops highlighted high-demand career opportunities within the water industry at MWD. He noted that over 116 people participated in the Blythe sessions and 18 in the Needles session. He mentioned that many of the participants were students in our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, but there were also many people from the community, some of them this being their first time on our campus. Mr. Cowden highlighted the ongoing strong partnership with MWD and their commitment to working with us in the future. He emphasized that collaboration with industry partners creates valuable opportunities for growth and success.

Mr. Cowden closed by saying that both our athletic and our workforce development programs play a critical role in student success at Palo Verde College. From the basketball court to career pathways, our goals remain the same: supporting our students in their athletic, academic, and professional growth.

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

Ms. Slagan reported that the college has received its P1, the first true-up of the budget. She noted that the revenue deficit applied to all community colleges is currently 7.1165%, which equates to a \$2.199 million shortfall for Palo Verde College. At the time of advanced apportionment, this deficit was only 2.4%. However, she clarified that this does not necessarily mean the final deficit will remain at 7.11%, as adjustments will occur with P2 in May and June, followed by the recalculation (recalc) process. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the college gained \$1.6 million through the recalc process.

Ms. Slagan also reported that the college has received additional funding for Equal Opportunity Employment, including support for full-time faculty hiring and zero cost textbooks. She emphasized the importance of focusing on the categorical funding received at this time, with a shift toward general apportionment considerations at P2.

Additionally, Ms. Slagan informed the board that budget forms for the 2025-26 fiscal year have been distributed to all staff. The administration is currently scheduling meetings with faculty, staff, divisions, and departments to assist in budget development for the upcoming year. She also highlighted that a four-year budget (2020-2024) for the Needles Center is included in her written report, which is attached to the meeting agenda. Furthermore, a 10-year outlook will be presented at the Special Meeting/Study Session on March 25.

5.7 Superintendent/President - Dr. Bruce Moses

Dr. Moses provided an update on the Leadership Workshop held on February 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The workshop, designed for campus managers, had 19 attendees, including Dr. Moses himself, and focused on preparing for the upcoming accreditation site visit. The workshop included a session on leadership roles, addressing challenges, student success barriers, and trust-building.

A key component of the workshop was facilitated by Sylvia Dorsey-Robinson, who led a session on *The Speed of Trust*, a book by Stephen Covey. Ms. Dorsey-Robinson engaged participants in discussions on the book's core principles through interactive sessions and role-playing exercises. Dr. Moses noted that the workshop was well received and emphasized that it was a valuable investment in our employees' professional development and our continuing effort to move the needle forward in being a better institution.

Dr. Moses also provided an update on the transition from BoardDocs to Diligent Community and then invited Ms. Alaniz to elaborate on the transition. Ms. Alaniz explained that BoardDocs, originally developed in 2001, is no longer able to support further updates, necessitating a transition to a more modern platform. The migration to Diligent Community will take place over the next several weeks, with full implementation expected within six to eight weeks. As part of this transition, training will be provided for staff, faculty, and Board members through multiple formats, including instructional videos and virtual sessions. Following the training, one-on-one support will be available to address any questions or concerns.

Dr. Moses further explained that BoardDocs was introduced by the Chancellor's Office and was rolled out to the majority of California Community Colleges, possibly with initial funding support from the Chancellor's Office at the time. He noted that while Diligent Community will come at a higher cost, it offers enhanced features that will provide added value to the institution.

Additionally, Dr. Moses shared that the Cabinet met with student leaders who had expressed concerns at the previous Board meeting. He stated that the meeting lasted over an hour, during which the students' concerns and potential solutions were discussed in detail. Dr. Moses emphasized that the students left the meeting feeling heard and satisfied with the discussion. He reiterated that when students bring forward concerns, Administration takes appropriate action to address and resolve potential issues in a timely manner.

5.8 Board of Trustees

Mr. Ramirez expressed his gratitude to everyone for their hard work and reports. He also extended his appreciation to the Border Patrol for their presence at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Arneson had nothing to report.

Ms. Copple reported that she attended the Umoja event on Saturday in downtown Blythe. She described it as a very nice and enjoyable gathering featuring a guest speaker, food, entertainment, and cultural artifacts. During the event, five community members were honored, including Trustee Dr. Thomas and his wife. Other honorees included Lahoma Randall, Beverly Mays and Sam Burton.

Dr. Thomas expressed his gratitude and appreciation to everyone for their efforts in keeping the college together.

Ms. Williams had nothing to report.

Mr. McNeil reported that a number of people in the Needles community are very interested in following what the Board is doing. He stated that most boards have a televised link and said that it would be great if we televised our Board meetings so that the people in Needles could see the meetings. He mentioned the meetings being televised to the small

room in the Needles Center but stated that providing a way for the community to watch, even without having a voice, would be a terrific PR piece for the College. Mr. McNeil congratulated the athletes on their hard work and successful season. He stated that he looks forward to the makeup information from last week's canceled meeting on enrollment and data. Additionally, he expressed that it would be great if the Board could look at the enrollment and data information before it is presented to them. Mr. McNeil stated that he is looking forward to the results of the investigation on the Needles City Council resolution, stating, "I'm very interested in clearing that up and getting that out there." He mentioned that the longer the investigation takes, the more upset it will cause. Mr. McNeil addressed concerns regarding student frustrations over class cancellations, sharing that he sat with a very upset parent about the issue. He expressed interest in finding a resolution, emphasizing that some students who were expecting to graduate had their classes canceled. Additionally, he noted that some students lost their FAFSA as a result of these cancellations. Lastly, Mr. McNeil expressed his excitement for the upcoming Color Run and the scholarship funds it will help raise. Ms. Styers expressed her gratitude to the Board and Administration for their patience and support during her mother's illness and hospitalization.

6. Discussion

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

Ms. Sigan reported that the playground flooring has been sealed. She also stated that DSA will be inspecting the welding on the canopy. She expects all work to be completed within the next few weeks, marking the project's completion.

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

Ms. Styers conveyed that once all work on the Child Development Center is complete, the Board will discuss the naming of the building and schedule a date for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

7. Information Items

7.1 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 Personnel Actions - March 2025

8.2 Approval of Consent Items for March 2025

Approve Consent Item 8.1 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

9. Action Items - Business

9.1 Approval of Non-Resident Tuition Fees FY2025-2026

Approve the Non-Resident Tuition Fees for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Motion by George W Thomas, 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

9.2 Approval of Custom Software Extended Maintenance Agreement with Ellucian Company, LLC for Cal Grant Processing

Approve the Custom Software Extended Maintenance Renewal Agreement with Ellucian Company, LLC for Cal Grant processing.

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

9.3 Approval of Amendment #2 to Agreement with ZRG Partners, LLC for Consultant Services by Camille Nutt Reese

Approval of Amendment #2 to Agreement with ZRG Partners, LLC for consultant services by Camille Nutt Reese.

Motion by George W Thomas, 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

9.4 Approval of Diligent Agreement Number Q-1371051

Approve the Diligent Agreement Number Q-1371051.

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

Action Items - Personnel

10.1 Approval of the New Academic Scheduling and Support Coordinator Job Description

Approve the new Academic Scheduling and Support Coordinator job description.

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

11. Action Items - Miscellaneous

11.1 Second Read and Approval of Board Policy 5700

Approve Board Policy 5700 as reviewed with no revisions.

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

11.2 Approval of Reaffirmation of PVCCD Mission Statement

Approve the reaffirmation of the PVCCD Mission Statement.

Motion by George W Thomas, 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. Hearing of Citizens Non-Agenda Items

12.1 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.

No public comments were offered.

13. Possible Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.



Dr. Bruce Moses, Superintendent/President
Minutes approved at April 8, 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.