PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Closed Session 4:00 p.m. | Open Session 5:00 p.m.
Physical Meeting Location: One College Drive, Blythe, CA 92225 - CL 101
Livestream Meeting Location: PVC Needles Educational Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA 92363

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1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Gloria Copple.

1.2 ROLL CALL

Governing Board Members:

- **Present:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers**,** Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Student Trustee Grace Wehrli

Also Present at the Board Table:

- Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Superintendent/President
- Naomi Alaniz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees

1.3 APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Closed Session Agenda for this meeting.
Moved by: Jon McNeil
Seconded by: Angel Ramirez
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

2. HEARING OF CITIZENS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

2.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

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

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:01 p.m.

3.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957.6)

3.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (GOVERNMENT CODE 54957)

3.3 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION; SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION (GOVERNMENT CODE 54956.9)

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:24 p.m.

4.1 FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4.2 REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Board President Copple reported that no action was taken in Closed Session. She further reported that, under Item 3.1, Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, none of the District's designated representatives were present during Closed Session.

4.3 APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Open Session Agenda for this meeting.
Moved by: Jon McNeil
Seconded by: Stella Styers
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

4.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECUSAL FROM AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Ramirez announced that he needed to recuse himself from Item 9.6 - Consideration of Approval of the Absence of Trustee Angel Ramirez from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Styers announced that she needed to recuse herself from Item 9.7 - Consideration of Approval of the Absence of Trustee Stella Camargo-Styers from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

5. HEARING OF CITIZENS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were offered regarding matters not listed on tonight's agenda.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

7. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

8.2 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

8.3 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

8.4 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS REPORT - OCTOBER 2026

8.5 APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

8.6 SECOND READ AND APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

8.7 APPROVAL OF STUDENT TRAVEL

8.8 RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH FIRESTORM GLOBAL LLC FOR GLBA COMPLIANCE SERVICES

8.9 APPROVAL OF ELLUCIAN CALIFORNIA STATE GRANT INTERFACE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL

8.10 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH LIVINGWORKS EDUCATION USA INC. FOR SAFETALK TRAINING

8.11 APPROVAL OF CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH LEGACY MD MEDICAL GROUP

8.12 APPROVAL OF CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS

8.13 RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH CAMBRIDGE WEST PARTNERSHIP, LLC FOR FISCAL SERVICES

8.14 APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 2026

Motion: Approve Consent Items as presented and/or amended.
Moved by: Stella Styers
Seconded by: Jon McNeil
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1 DESIGNATION OF ACCT VOTING DELEGATE

Trustee McNeil initially nominated Board President Copple to serve as the District's voting delegate for the 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress. Board President Copple declined the nomination, stating that she would not be attending the conference. She noted that Trustee Arneson was the only Board member planning to attend. Trustee McNeil amended his motion to nominate Trustee Arneson as the District's voting delegate.

Motion: Designate Trustee Brad Arneson as the Palo Verde Community College District voting delegate for the 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress.

Moved by: Jon McNeil
Seconded by: Angel Ramirez
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

9.2 APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH DR. ERICA HOLMES

Motion: Approve the employment agreement with Dr. Erica Holmes, as presented.
Moved by: Stella Styers
Seconded by: Brad Arneson
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams
- **No:** Scott Dean
- **Abstained:** Grace Wehrli

Public Comment:
Alice Dean, speaking on her own behalf, addressed the Board regarding Item 9.2 and requested clarification concerning the terms of administrative leadership agreements compared with personnel actions involving classified employees. She referenced provisions in Dr. Erica Holmes' proposed employment agreement, including a cost-of-living adjustment and remote work authorization, and questioned the differing treatment of CSEA Chief Union Steward Rich Soto, who she stated has remained on paid administrative leave since December 15, 2025.

Ms. Dean stated that Mr. Soto has nearly 25 years of service with the District and, according to her, has no history of negative performance evaluations or complaints. She expressed concern that he has remained on administrative leave without campus or device access and without updates regarding the status of an investigation. Ms. Dean questioned the criteria and timeline for resolving his administrative leave and expressed concern about the lack of transparency and communication.

Ms. Dean further stated that prolonged administrative leave can negatively affect an employee's reputation, livelihood, and family. She urged the District's new administration to address Mr. Soto's situation and provide a fair and timely resolution, emphasizing the importance of treating long-serving employees with respect.

Board Discussion:
Student Trustee Wehrli requested clarification regarding the purpose of the agenda item. Board members provided clarification in response to her question.

9.3 APPROVAL OF REVISED 2026-27 SALARY SCHEDULE PLACEMENT FOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: EXTENDED WORK YEAR FOR PVC NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY MOU

Motion: Approve the Revised 2026-27 Salary Schedule Placement for Special Assignment: Extended Work Year for PVC Non-Instructional Faculty MOU.
Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Angel Ramirez
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli
- **No:** Scott Dean

9.4 APPROVAL OF THREE (3) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs) BETWEEN PVCCD AND PVCCA/CTA FOR OER EXTRA DUTY AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Motion: Approve the three (3) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the Palo Verde Community College District and the Palo Verde Community College Association/CTA for OER extra duty and special assignments, as presented.
Moved by: Jon McNeil
Seconded by: Brad Arneson
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

9.5 APPROVAL OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH KONICA MINOLTA PREMIER FINANCE

Motion: Approve the State and Local Government Lease-Purchase Agreement with Konica Minolta Premier Finance.
Moved by: Stella Styers
Seconded by: Brad Arneson
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

Board Discussion:
Trustee Dean expressed concern that the total cost of the lease-purchase agreement could exceed the amount presented in the agenda due to adjustments in interest rates and associated payments. He questioned whether any additional costs exceeding the estimated amount would require further Board approval.

Executive Assistant Alaniz referenced the agenda language indicating that the interest rate and resulting payments were estimates and could be adjusted prior to closing based on market conditions. Trustee Dean reiterated that he was seeking confirmation that, if the District reached the amount approved by the Board and additional costs remained due to interest or other adjustments, those additional amounts would need to be brought back to the Board for approval. Board President Copple noted that the agreement already accounted for estimated costs.

Trustee McNeil referenced Sections 4 and 5 of the agreement, which address the District's

obligation to make lease payments and the availability of budgeted and appropriated funds. He acknowledged Trustee Dean's concern and indicated that the provisions in the agreement addressed what Trustee Dean was asking about.

9.6 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ABSENCE OF TRUSTEE ANGEL RAMIREZ FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 14

Original Motion:
Motion: Approve the absence of Trustee Angel Ramirez from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
Moved by: Brad Arneson
Seconded by: Stella Styers
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli
- **No:** Scott Dean
- **Recused:** Angel Ramirez

During consideration of Item 9.7, Executive Assistant Alaniz requested that the Board return to Item 9.6 to address the adoption of the corresponding resolution pursuant to Board Policy 2725. She explained that Resolution No. 10.13.2026-9.6 had been distributed to Board members and made available for public inspection but had not been attached to the published agenda.

Trustee McNeil questioned the procedure for adopting a resolution that had not been included with the published agenda materials. Executive Assistant Alaniz explained that the resolution corresponded to Item 9.6 and would be included with the meeting minutes. She further stated that future resolutions would be attached to the agenda and that the Board could postpone consideration if members preferred.

Trustee Arneson subsequently moved to adopt Resolution No. 10.13.2026-9.6, referring to the motion as an amendment to his original motion. Trustee Styers seconded the motion.

Subsequent Motion to Adopt Resolution:
Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 10.13.2026-9.6.
Moved by: Brad Arneson
Seconded by: Stella Styers
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli
- **No:** Scott Dean
- **Recused:** Angel Ramirez

Attachment:
Attachment A - Resolution 10.13.2026-9.6 A. Ramirez Absence from 9.8.26 BOT

Mtg.pdf

9.7 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE ABSENCE OF TRUSTEE STELLA CAMARGO-STYERS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 15

During consideration of Item 9.7, the Board returned to Item 9.6 to address the adoption of Resolution No. 10.13.2026-9.6. The discussion and subsequent action are documented under Item 9.6.

Motion: Move to adopt Resolution No. 10.13.2026-9.7.
Moved by: Brad Arneson
Seconded by: Angel Ramirez
Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli
- **Recused:** Stella Camargo-Styers

Attachment:
Attachment B - Resolution 10.13.2026-9.7 S. Styers Absence from 9.8.26 BOT Mtg.pdf

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 2027 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROPOSED REVISION TO BP 2310 – REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Public Comment:
Alice Dean, speaking on her own behalf, requested that the Board consider changing its regular meeting schedule from the second Tuesday to the second Wednesday of each month. She explained that the proposed change would reduce scheduling conflicts with other local public meetings, including Blythe City Council meetings, allowing greater community participation.

Ms. Dean further stated that moving the meetings to Wednesdays would provide District staff with additional time to prepare financial reports and Board agenda materials. She also expressed that a consistent midweek meeting schedule would improve predictability for Trustees and the public while promoting transparency and accessibility. Ms. Dean encouraged the Board to consider the proposed change for future discussion and approval.

Board Discussion:
Trustee McNeil noted that the Board typically establishes its meeting schedule during the Annual Organizational Meeting in December, allowing newly seated Trustees an opportunity to provide input. He expressed support for reviewing the schedule and asked whether the proposed December 2027 meeting dates accounted for the Board election cycle.

Executive Assistant Alaniz clarified that 2027 is not a Board election year for the District. Trustee McNeil asked whether the earlier December meeting date would be fine for 2027,

but that the Board would need to select a later date the following year due to the election. Executive Assistant Alaniz confirmed.

Student Trustee Wehrli expressed concern that moving the Board's regular meetings to Wednesdays could conflict with Palo Verde College Foundation Board meetings, which she is also responsible for attending. Board members discussed the Foundation's meeting schedule and whether adjustments could be made to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Dr. Garrison and Foundation representatives discussed the Foundation's meeting schedule, including the days and weeks on which meetings are held, their quarterly frequency, and the process for making changes to the meeting schedule. Dr. Garrison indicated that additional information would be gathered regarding the Foundation's schedule and potential flexibility before the next Board meeting.

Trustee McNeil noted that both he and Dr. Garrison attend Board of Trustees and Foundation meetings. Trustee Dean acknowledged that Tuesdays work well for some individuals but noted that moving meetings to Wednesdays could allow greater participation from individuals who have scheduling conflicts with Palo Verde Unified School District meetings.

Trustee McNeil stated that Tuesdays work better for him personally but acknowledged that moving to Wednesdays would allow him to attend Needles City Council meetings, which currently conflict with Board meetings. Board President Copple indicated that further discussion would take place.

Executive Assistant Alaniz clarified that the Board would need to approve its 2027 meeting calendar at the December Annual Organizational Meeting. She explained that the proposed calendar and revisions to BP 2310 could return as an Information Item and First Read in November before the Board considered the calendar in December.

10.2 PROGRAM REVIEW SUBMISSION

10.3 REVIEWED/REVISED AP 2712 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

10.4 REPORT OF PURCHASES AND WARRANTS - SEPTEMBER 2026

11. REPORTS

Reports are limited to a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes, unless otherwise determined by the Board President.

11.1 ACADEMIC SENATE - VANJA VELICKOVSKA, PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC SENATE

Vanja Velickovska was not present, and no report was given.

11.2 PVCCA/CTA - RICHARD CASTILLO, PRESIDENT OF PVCCA/CTA

Richard Castillo, PVCCA/CTA President, reported that negotiations had concluded and tentative agreements had been reached on all articles, with a few agreements still being finalized. He stated that the Association had established a timeline to review and vote on the tentative agreements on October 27, 2026. He expressed optimism that the agreements would receive approval from the membership and looked forward to presenting them to the Board for approval.

Mr. Castillo thanked Dr. Garrison for her leadership, cooperation, and collaboration during

negotiations, noting that the September 28, 2026, negotiations reflected a significant improvement in the District's approach compared to previous sessions. He also thanked the Board for its patience throughout the negotiation process, which began in September 2024 and had lasted more than two years.

11.3 CSEA, CHAPTER 180 - ALICE DEAN, PRESIDENT OF CSEA CHAPTER 180

Alice Dean, CSEA Chapter 180 President, thanked the District for the positive negotiations held the previous Friday. She reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been finalized and signed by CSEA and was awaiting completion of CSEA's 610 approval process. She stated that an informational meeting would be held during the Chapter's regular meeting on Monday, with a membership vote anticipated the following week.

Ms. Dean explained that the MOU would close out the reclassification negotiations for the year. Following approval, negotiations would begin on eight job descriptions, four proposed by CSEA and four by the District. She expressed optimism about the anticipated vote and looked forward to continued positive and collaborative negotiations with the District.

11.4 ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT - GRACE WEHRLI, STUDENT TRUSTEE

Student Trustee Wehrli reported that the Associated Student Government (ASG) had filled all of its officer positions. She introduced the newly elected officers, including President Mickayla Phillips, Vice President Destyn Bracamontez, and Business Manager Cassandra Coleman, who is a Needles student. She also announced the swearing-in of Historian E'Myracle Dunston and Commissioner of Publicity Dyllon Limb. She expressed enthusiasm about having representation from Needles and increasing student involvement between the two campuses.

Student Trustee Wehrli reported that ASG was exploring opportunities to travel to Needles to participate in student activities and potentially attend the November 10, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting. She asked whether Board approval would be required for ASG members to travel as a group with their advisor.

Board members and Dr. Garrison discussed the approval process for student travel, including whether a Special Board Meeting would be necessary to authorize the proposed trip. Trustee McNeil expressed support for student travel opportunities and emphasized the importance of providing students with meaningful experiences. Dr. Garrison indicated that the District would review the necessary travel paperwork and approval requirements and explore scheduling a Special Board Meeting if needed.

Student Trustee Wehrli also shared information about upcoming ASG activities, including a community movie night on October 29, Day of the Dead activities on November 2, and a Pride Club event on October 27 featuring historical information and presentations. She noted that several events would be open to both students and community members.

11.5 SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT - DR. ESTELLA CASTILLO-GARRISON

Dr. Garrison began her report by thanking the Board, faculty, staff, and campus community for the warm welcome she had received during her first few weeks at Palo Verde College. She expressed appreciation for the conversations and collaboration taking place as she continues learning about the District and its goals.

Dr. Garrison provided an update on the District's accreditation process with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). She thanked Dr. Robinson for her work as the District's Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and reported that the District had submitted 74 additional pieces of evidence requested by the accreditation review team within a one-week timeframe. She noted that follow-up meetings were scheduled for October 19, 2026, to discuss potential core inquiries in preparation for the accreditation team's visit in March 2027. She also shared that several District representatives would attend the ACCJC conference in November to support ongoing accreditation efforts.

Dr. Garrison shared highlights from a recent Blythe community economic alliance meeting, where Athletic Director Ryan Copple introduced members of the men's and women's basketball teams. She expressed appreciation for the community's support of the student-athletes and indicated that she hoped to arrange an opportunity for the teams to be introduced to the Board at a future meeting.

Dr. Garrison thanked the Needles Center staff and community for the warm welcome she received during a recent reception and shared her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Needles State of the City event. She highlighted the community's enthusiasm for strengthening its partnership with Palo Verde College.

Dr. Garrison also recognized two members of the Needles Center community who had been nominated for awards through the Needles Chamber of Commerce. She congratulated Andrea Wade, Family Nurse Practitioner and adjunct phlebotomy faculty member, on her nomination for the Community Champion Award, and Dean Jaclyn Randall on her nomination for the Educator of the Year Award.

Dr. Garrison also highlighted upcoming professional development opportunities, including the ACCJC Conference on November 17–18, 2026, and the Community College League of California (CCLC) Conference in Riverside on November 18–20, 2026. She encouraged Board members interested in attending to contact Executive Assistant Alaniz. She also discussed the importance of establishing an ongoing professional development calendar for the Board, including opportunities for Brown Act and ethics training.

Dr. Garrison concluded her report by announcing the upcoming Palo Verde College Night at the Blythe Speedway, noting that campus representatives and student-athletes would be participating in the event.

11.6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 16

Board President Copple reported that she had the pleasure of attending the October 1, 2026, welcome reception for Dr. Garrison at the Needles Center. She described it as a wonderful event that provided an opportunity to meet local dignitaries and community leaders. She expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and strong community support shown for Dr. Garrison. Board President Copple thanked everyone who helped make the event a success and extended special thanks to Dean Jaclyn Randall for her hard work and dedication in organizing the reception.

Board President Copple also shared her thoughts on Dr. Garrison's leadership, stating that she believes Dr. Garrison is working hard to move Palo Verde College

in the right direction. She described Dr. Garrison as kind, approachable, and willing to listen to everyone. She particularly expressed appreciation for Dr. Garrison's open communication, transparency, and willingness to work closely with her as Board President and with the entire Board of Trustees. Board President Copple stated that she believes this is the kind of leadership the College needs and looks forward to continuing their work together to move Palo Verde College forward. She thanked Dr. Garrison for her dedication, leadership, and commitment to the College, its students, and the community.

Trustee McNeil began his report by thanking Dr. Garrison for her informative Superintendent/President's Report, noting that he appreciated the level of information she shared with the Board.

Trustee McNeil expressed pride in having Needles students represented in the Associated Student Government (ASG). He also reported on a successful College Day event at the Needles Center, organized by Shivam Bhakta, which attracted nearly 100 prospective students from Needles and surrounding communities along the Colorado River.

Trustee McNeil highlighted the upcoming Needles community awards ceremony and expressed support for Dean Jaclyn Randall and Andrea Wade, who had both been nominated for awards. He noted the community's enthusiasm for the event.

Trustee McNeil also expressed his appreciation for Dr. Garrison's frequent visits to the Needles Center and her willingness to meet with faculty, staff, and students. He shared that he had personally witnessed her taking the time to listen and engage with individuals at the Center and emphasized the positive impact her presence and leadership have had on the campus community. He also highlighted the warm reception Dr. Garrison received at the Needles State of the City event and stated that her engagement has helped strengthen the community's connection to and support for the Needles Center.

Trustee Dean began his report by congratulating Dean Jaclyn Randall on her nomination for the Educator of the Year Award.

Trustee Dean then read a prepared statement titled “Palo Verde College: Past Success and Future Opportunities.” In his statement, he reflected on the College's past accomplishments, including its recognition for student success and achievements in expanding educational opportunities. He also shared his hopes for the College's future, including expanding career and technical education, strengthening transfer programs, increasing community education opportunities, and making greater use of existing facilities. He emphasized the importance of accreditation, responsible financial management, transparency, accountability, and working together to support student success.

A copy of Trustee Dean's prepared statement is included as Attachment C to these minutes.

Trustee Arneson noted the upcoming November 3, 2026, General Election, stating that seven candidates were running for three Board positions. He stated that, should he not be reelected, it had been an honor and a privilege to serve on the

Board.

Trustee Styers began her report by thanking Dr. Garrison, Dr. Robinson, and the accreditation team for their continued work on the District's accreditation process. Trustee Styers reported that she attended the September 16, 2026, Hispanic Heritage event at Palo Verde College and was impressed by the large turnout and community participation. She extended special thanks to Alejandro Clark, Omar Peña, Karen Rangel, and everyone involved in organizing the event.

Trustee Styers also shared that she had the opportunity to visit the College's quilting class during the event. She expressed appreciation for the creativity and work of the students, encouraged others to visit the class, and shared her interest in participating in a future session.

Trustee Ramirez thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed appreciation for the progress made in recent negotiations. Trustee Ramirez shared that the November Board meeting would be his last and thanked everyone for their support throughout his eight years of service on the Board. He stated that he had enjoyed serving the District but felt it was time to move on. He explained that his new employment responsibilities were a primary reason for his decision not to seek reelection and apologized for his inability to attend some Board meetings due to his work schedule.

Trustee Williams shared information about a STEM program involving students from across the country, including her grandson, who participated in a space-related research project. She expressed excitement about the educational opportunities available to students through the program and highlighted the importance of hands-on learning experiences.

Trustee Williams also shared her appreciation for the opportunity to participate in Dr. Garrison's welcome reception at the Needles Center. She reflected on the success of the recent College Day event, noting the strong attendance and engagement of students with participating organizations and educational programs.

Trustee Williams concluded by expressing enthusiasm for the College's community education offerings, particularly the quilting and cooking classes, and encouraged continued opportunities for community participation.

Attachment:

Attachment C - Trustee Dean Board Report.pdf

12. CLOSING OF MEETING

12.1 POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Alice Dean requested that the Board consider presentations from various College departments to familiarize Dr. Garrison and Board members with the District's programs and services. She also requested that microphones be made available to Board members during meetings to improve audibility and allow the public to better hear and participate in discussions.

Trustee McNeil requested that the Board revisit the Needles Center budget, expressing concerns regarding the accuracy of previously presented financial information, including faculty allocations, expenses, revenues, and enrollment figures. He emphasized the importance of providing accurate financial information to the Board and community.

Trustee McNeil also requested a future review of District consultant contracts to evaluate the services being provided and whether consultants are fulfilling expectations related to training District personnel. He clarified that this review was not intended for the next Board meeting but could be considered at a later date.

12.2 NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 | Closed Session: 4:00 p.m. | Open Session: 5:00 p.m. | Physical Meeting Location: Needles Educational Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA 92363 | Livestream Meeting Location: Main Campus, One College Drive, Blythe, CA 92225 - CL 101

12.3 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Superintendent/President
Minutes approved at the November 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Minutes prepared by Naomi Alaniz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees. These minutes are a summary of reports, discussions, and actions taken at this meeting. Audio/video recordings of Board of Trustees meetings are available on the District's website for public review and may be consulted for a more complete record of meeting discussions.

RESOLUTION #10.13.2026-9.6

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE ANGEL RAMIREZ ABSENCE

FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

WHEREAS, Education Code Section 72024(d) and Board Policy 2725 authorize compensation for an absent Board member when the Board, by resolution duly adopted and included in its minutes, finds that, at the time of the meeting, the member was performing services outside the meeting for the District, was ill, was on jury duty, or was absent due to a hardship deemed acceptable by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Angel Ramirez was absent from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Palo Verde Community College District Board of Trustees due to employment obligations that prevented him from taking time off work to attend the meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palo Verde Community College District Board of Trustees finds that the circumstances described above constitute an acceptable hardship under Education Code Section 72024(d) and Board Policy 2725, approves Trustee Angel Ramirez absence from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting, and authorizes payment of the compensation otherwise payable for that meeting notwithstanding the absence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be included in the official minutes of the October 13, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

AYES: Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

NOES: Scott Dean

RECUSALS: Angel Ramirez

ABSENT: None

I, Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Secretary to the Governing Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution passed and adopted by the said Board at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on October 13, 2026.

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison
Secretary to the Governing Board

RESOLUTION #10.13.2026-9.7

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE STELLA CAMARGO-STYERS ABSENCE

FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

WHEREAS, Education Code Section 72024(d) and Board Policy 2725 authorize compensation for an absent Board member when the Board, by resolution duly adopted and included in its minutes, finds that, at the time of the meeting, the member was performing services outside the meeting for the District, was ill, was on jury duty, or was absent due to a hardship deemed acceptable by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Stella Camargo-Styers was absent from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Palo Verde Community College District Board of Trustees due to family medical circumstances requiring her presence at the hospital with her ill father;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palo Verde Community College District Board of Trustees finds that the circumstances described above constitute an acceptable hardship under Education Code Section 72024(d) and Board Policy 2725, approves Trustee Stella Camargo-Styers absence from the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting, and authorizes payment of the compensation otherwise payable for that meeting notwithstanding the absence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be included in the official minutes of the October 13, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

AYES: Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean Brad Arneson, Angel Ramirez, Glenda Williams, Grace Wehrli

NOES: None

RECUSALS: Stella Camargo-Styers

ABSENT: None

I, Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Secretary to the Governing Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution passed and adopted by the said Board at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on October 13, 2026.

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison
Secretary to the Governing Board

PALO VERDE COLLEGE: PAST SUCCESS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Trustee Report — October 13, 2026

Fellow Trustees, Dr. Castillo-Garrison, faculty, staff, and members of the public:

Tonight, I would like to take a moment to recognize some of Palo Verde College's past accomplishments and express my hopes for our future.

Palo Verde College has served our communities since 1947. Over nearly eight decades, this institution has provided educational opportunities to generations of students, helping them prepare for careers, transfer to universities, and improve their lives.

Our college has much to be proud of.

In 2024, Palo Verde College received the prestigious Dr. John W. Rice Award for Student Success, recognizing its commitment to student achievement and educational opportunity.

At our 2025 commencement ceremonies, the college awarded hundreds of degrees and certificates. For the first time, GED and noncredit English language learners participated alongside traditional graduates in our commencement processions.

These are meaningful accomplishments. Behind every degree and certificate is a student who persevered, instructors who provided guidance, staff who offered support, and families who encouraged success.

But past accomplishments should also inspire us to achieve more.

Looking ahead, I hope we can expand career and technical education, offer more flexible and short-term classes for working adults and for the community in general, strengthen our transfer programs, and increase opportunities for students throughout our District.

I would also like to see us make greater use of our existing facilities, expand community education, and find new ways to attract and retain students. Ideas include short-term (two- or three-hour) weekend cooking and sewing classes, acting classes, and music classes designed to teach and improve student talents and knowledge.

And as trustees, we must continue working toward strong accreditation, responsible financial management, transparency, and accountability.

My hope is that Palo Verde College will not simply maintain its past successes, but build upon them.

With Dr. Castillo-Garrison and the departure of certain members of Management, PVCC is in the midst of a new beginning. Not new as in a new college, but new as in new ideas, new perspective, and a new attitude. Let us renew our dedication to the college and its students. Do something different every day that will make the college and your lives better. Call a student who is struggling; remind a student about the homework assignment due in two days; reach out to the student who needs support services; say hi to your neighbor; welcome changes into your life and the lives of students.

Let us recognize what this institution has accomplished, learn from our challenges, and work together toward an even stronger future.

Our greatest measure of success will always be the success of the students and communities we serve.

Thank you.