



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

Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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

Page

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Board President Gloria Copple.

1.2 ROLL CALL

- **Trustees Present:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Brad Arneson

Note: Trustees McNeil and Williams participated remotely from the Needles Educational Center.

- **Trustees Absent:** Angel Ramirez
- **Administrators Present:** Ed Knudson, Interim Superintendent/President, Stephanie Slagan, Assistant Supt./VP of Administrative Services and College Advancement, Dr. Sam Robinson, Acting Assistant Supt./VP of Instruction and Student Services

1.3 APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Closed Session Agenda for this meeting.

Moved by: Stella Styers

Seconded by: Gloria Copple

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Brad Arneson

2. HEARING OF CITIZENS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Page 1 of 6

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 4:05 p.m.

3.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT – SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT (GOV. CODE § 54957)

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:07 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.

4.3 APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION AGENDA

Motion: Approve the Open Session Agenda for this meeting.

Moved by: Scott Dean

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Brad Arneson

4.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECUSAL FROM AGENDA ITEMS

No Governing Board members declared a conflict of interest requiring recusal from any agenda item.

5. INFORMATION ITEM

5.1 INSTITUTIONAL SELF-EVALUATION REPORT (ISER) – FIRST READ

Interim Superintendent/President Ed Knudson stated that the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) was being provided as a first read and would return to the Board for a second read at the June 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Knudson noted that the ISER was attached to the meeting agenda and advised that hard copies could be provided upon request through Executive Assistant Naomi Alaniz.

6. ACTION ITEMS

Board President Copple requested that the Board reorder the agenda to consider Item 6.4 – Rescission of Resolution No. 09.09.25-13.1 Censure of Board Member Jon McNeil prior to the remaining Action Items. Trustee Dean seconded the motion.

Motion: Approve reordering the agenda to take up Item 6.4 first.

Moved by: Gloria Copple

Seconded by: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams
- **No:** Brad Arneson, Stella Styers

6.1 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES (ACCT) FOR SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT SEARCH SERVICES

Motion: Approve the Agreement with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) for Superintendent/President Search Services.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers
- **No:** Brad Arneson

6.2 APPOINTMENT/APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Motion: Approve the Superintendent/President Search Committee membership.

Moved by: Scott Dean

Seconded by: Jon McNeil

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams
- **No:** Brad Arneson, Stella Styers

6.3 APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

Motion: Approve the Employment Agreements for Interim Superintendent/President.

Moved by: Jon McNeil

Seconded by: Gloria Copple

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams, Stella Styers, Brad Arneson

Board Comment and Discussion:

Trustee Dean expressed support for the appointment of Mr. Ed Knudson as Interim Superintendent/President and highlighted Mr. Knudson's experience in higher education leadership and military service. Trustee Dean stated that the College is facing significant institutional and fiscal challenges and emphasized the need for stable leadership, accountability, disciplined fiscal oversight, improved communication, and long-range planning.

Trustee Dean further stated that the appointment represented an opportunity for the College to refocus on student success, institutional stability, and responsible stewardship

of public resources. He also emphasized the Board's responsibility to provide oversight and accountability while allowing the Superintendent/President to carry out administrative operations. In addition, Trustee Dean acknowledged public concerns regarding institutional spending and compensation decisions and stated that Board actions should be clearly tied to the needs of students, employees, and the long-term success of the College.

6.4 RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION NO. 09.09.25-13.1 CENSURE OF BOARD MEMBER JON MCNEIL 6

Prior to consideration of Action Items, the Board approved reordering the agenda to take up Item 6.4 – Rescission of Resolution No. 09.09.25-13.1 Censure of Board Member Jon McNeil first.

Motion: Rescind Resolution No. 09.09.25-13.1 Censure of Board Member Jon McNeil.

Moved by: Gloria Copple

Seconded by: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Glenda Williams
- **No:** Brad Arneson, Stella Styers

Board Comment and Discussion:

Trustee Dean stated that, prior to serving on the Board, he regularly attended Board meetings and observed Trustee McNeil advocating on behalf of the Needles community and the Needles Educational Center. Trustee Dean stated that he believed Trustee McNeil's advocacy for Needles was important and further stated that, based on conversations he had with Trustee McNeil regarding the matter, he did not believe the censure should have occurred.

Trustee Styers read a statement. The statement is attached to and incorporated into these minutes as Attachment A.

[Attachment A - Trustee Statement \(Trustee Styers\).pdf](#) 

Board President Copple stated that the investigation regarding Trustee McNeil had been conducted by Oppenheimer Investigations Group and referenced the investigative findings, stating that the report concluded there was insufficient evidence to determine that Trustee McNeil was responsible for providing the information in question. Board President Copple further stated that, despite the findings of the investigation, the Board had previously voted to censure Trustee McNeil and that she believed the censure was wrong.

7. CLOSING OF MEETING

7.1 POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Jon McNeil requested future agenda items regarding FTES and a plan for resolution of complaints.

Trustee Stella Camargo-Styers requested a future agenda item regarding compensation for Dr. Sam Robinson.

7.2 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Ed Knudson, Interim Superintendent/President

Minutes approved at June 09, 2026, 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.

Stella Styers, Trustee Statement for Special Meeting May 26, 2026

The proposed reversal of the censorship resolution undermines the integrity and credibility of the Board's prior actions and decisions. Reversing a formal act of censure without clear justification sends a damaging message to the district, staff, students, and community that accountability and ethical standards are subject to political influence rather than consistent governance principles.

It is evident that this matter has been discussed among most of the Board prior to being placed on the agenda. The district expended thousands of taxpayer dollars investigating these matters. To now reverse the censorship resolution solely because a majority of the Board possesses the votes to do so raises serious concerns regarding abuse of authority, favoritism, and disregard for the investigative process.

This action creates the appearance that misconduct can be excused or erased when individuals hold positions of power. Such conduct weakens public trust in the Board and undermines confidence in the district's commitment to transparency, accountability, and equal application of standards.

A reversal of censorship under these circumstances is improper and sends the message that Board members are not held to the same level of responsibility expected of employees, students, or the public. The community deserves consistent enforcement of ethical standards, not selective accountability based on political majority.