



**MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

One Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING / WORKSHOP

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023
(APPROVED OCTOBER 19, 2023)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in a regular meeting/workshop on Thursday, September 7, 2023, in Room T-200 on the Oceanside Campus. President Merchat called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Raye Clendening	Frank Merchat
William Fischer	Jacqueline Simon
George McNeil	

Trustees not present:

Rick Cassar
Anna Pedroza

Administrators present:

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Tim Flood
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Charlie Ng
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ON AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

IV. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Guided Pathways Update

Instructional Dean Zhenya Lindstrom, joined by Dean Freddy Ramirez and Sociology Faculty Thao Ha, provided an overview of the implementation progress of the Guided Pathways framework, including metrics and data for part-time and full-time first time to college students as compared to returning students, Academic Career Pathway (ACP) success teams, and strategic and operational priorities.

Lindstrom shared the Sankey charts (“spaghetti flow chart”) that showed a higher percentage of full-time students have a CSEP as compared to part-time students. This is not surprising, as data also indicates that students who have a CSEP are much more likely to complete their academic goals.

ACP success teams continue their work to reach the disproportionately impacted students (Latinx, Black/African-American, and adult learners). Lindstrom reviewed how the implementation of the TargetX/Salesforces technology is used for case management of ACP student cohorts. The technology will improve efficiency and tracking and enhance the ability to contact students and provide student support.

Lindstrom reviewed the Guided Pathways strengths, areas where improvements can be made, and a focus on student experience priorities in four main areas: career, counseling, classroom, and community. She provided examples of activities that help support the priorities and goals of the Guided Pathways, including the equity-focused All College Day activity that was attended by 153 MiraCostans. These types of activities will continue moving forward.

Contextualized courses for ACPs (English, Communications, and Sociology) will embed work-based learning experiences and internship opportunities into the courses. Broader events outside of the classroom that are also connected to the classroom will take place by bringing in workforce experts as well as networking and mentoring events.

The needs of our students have changed, so redefining how to best serve students continues to be explored. This is being done through redesigned onboarding of students with more intentionality and support services and strategic and operational planning, including collaborating with other departments and efforts already taking place. Closing equity gaps continues to be a focus, in addition to intentional class scheduling, which will help with the completion of academic pathways.

B. Facilities Futures Workshop

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Tim Flood was joined by Gensler’s Deborah Shepley and Dennise Gurmilan to provide highlights of the work already completed, as well as findings from surveys, forums, and focus groups conducted during the spring 2023 semester in an effort to seek board input. A completed plan for consideration by the board is scheduled to be presented in spring 2024.

Flood reviewed the integrated planning process and the planning timeline, which includes surveying students, faculty, staff, the board of trustees, and the community.

The campus engagement online survey was administered, and 690 students, faculty, staff and administrators responded. The results of the survey were reviewed, as well as the feedback provided by students in the nine sessions (two open forums, and seven invited focus groups), many from disproportionately impacted student groups. Flood reviewed some of the Futures signals that have been identified that will impact facilities planning, construction and use in the future. Flood also reviewed the main themes that were culled from the survey and focus group survey to date.

The group did an exercise using a word to describe MiraCosta now in 2023, as well as a word to describe how they would like to see MiraCosta in 2035. This information was gathered and will be added to the other feedback received. Participants weighed in on what is most important to focus on in this plan. How we position ourselves for the future will be developed and included in the plan.

C. Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget Workshop

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Tim Flood reviewed the district's budget priorities for fiscal year 2022/23 and reviewed projections for fiscal year 2023/24. Funding allocations supported the district's highest-priority goals and objectives (enrollment, programs, and services), consistent with the Long-Term Planning Framework, the Facilities Master Plan, institutional Program Review activities, as well as the district's mission, vision, and values.

Flood provided a synopsis of the 2022/23 revenues and expenditures and noted the district is in a very firm financial position. Nearly all of the \$53M in federal and state funds received from Covid grants has been expended. Flood noted the state is reliant on high income earners, as one percent of state residents paid nearly 50 percent of all personal income tax. Since high earners generate their wealth on Wall Street, if the stock market is not performing, this could really impact state capital gains revenues from these high earners.

The funding floor will provide apportionment district with some level of fiscal protection starting in 2024/25, and the new floor will not increase with COLA. Funding for districts that are in hold harmless will not increase until they have exited the hold harmless protection. This is important because, although MiraCosta is a community funded college and does not benefit from the increases to the Student-Centered Funding Formula or Growth allocations, we all benefit from having a more financial stable community college system.

Although the \$1.1B in planned affordable student housing grants was removed from the state budget, the legislature is now looking at going out for a bond or finding another funding source to move forward with the student housing initiative, which is good news.

Flood reminded the board of the MiraCosta's budget landscape with an estimated 6.42 percent property tax revenue increase (\$8.6M). We have experienced declines in fees from parking, the bookstore, and cafeteria sales. The state general revenues are projected to decline due to the FTES decline, and there will be no Emergency Conditions Allowance (ECA) protections or CARES funding to backfill lost revenue.

In terms of expense assumptions, there continues to be an incredible cost increase to our health benefits (23.7 percent to Kaiser; 30 percent to PPO). STRS and PERS expenses also remain high (19.1 percent for STRS/ 26.7 percent for PERS), as well as the addition of health benefits for part-time faculty. Although the anticipated lease revenue bond will allow the district to fund critical facilities needs, it will come at a cost of approximately \$3M annually for 30 years.

Board members addressed questions with the superintendent/president and provided input. The board will be asked to adopt the final budget on September 14, 2023.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Frank Merchat
President

Tim Flood
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President