



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2026
(Approved February 19, 2026)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, January 22, 2026, in the Boardroom (1068) on the Oceanside Campus. President Merchat called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Raye Clendening

Heather Conklin

Ann Crosbie

Frank Merchat

Anna Pedroza

Jackie Simon

Board members absent:

Rick Cassar

Administrators present:

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Elba Gomez

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Hayley Schwartzkopf

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Special Meeting/Closed Session of December 18, 2025

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the special meeting/closed session of December 18, 2025.

Vote: 6/0/0

Aye: Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cassar

B. Regular Business Meeting of December 18, 2025

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the regular business meeting of December 18, 2025.

Vote: 5/0/1

Aye: Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza

Abstentions: Simon

Absent: Cassar

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

Vice President Pescarmona introduced Deans Mike Fino, Annie Ngo, and Lauren Halsted.

Letters faculty Jim Sullivan expressed his concern about the recent Instructional Services reorganization.

Taya Lazootin, faculty member and Sustainability Club advisor, advocated for stronger environmental action at the community college level and for the Board to consider developing a policy on sustainability and the elimination of single-use plastics.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2025 Political and Legislative Update

Director of Public and Governmental Relations, Marketing, and Communications Dr. Kristen Gonzales provided a general overview of the current political climate at both the federal and state levels, which has had a significant impact on community colleges, influencing policies, funding, and legislative decisions and timeline that shape their future. She also reviewed key statewide community college advocacy points that ensure alignment with ongoing legislative priorities and initiatives.

She reviewed Federal priorities, including strengthening the Pell Grant and bolstering the role of community colleges in workforce development.

More than 917 proposals were sent to the Governor's desk from the legislature, and 794 of them were signed into law. Notable state bills were reviewed, including AB 648 (student and staff housing), AB 731 (dual enrollment), SB 148 (Basic Needs and Funding), SB 98 (Immigration enforcement notification), and AB 323 Strong workforce.

Gonzales, along with Dr. Cooke and several members of the Board, will attend the CCLC Legislative Conference in Sacramento starting tomorrow, and will head to Washington D.C. for an ACCT Conference in early February.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. Approve Employment Contract for Dean, Business and Technology**
- C. Approve Reorganization of Instructional Service Division**
- D. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding 26-01 with the Faculty Assembly (Pilot Lateral Transfer Process)**
- E. Accept Resignation Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Member**
- F. Approve American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) Faculty-Led Study Abroad to Paris – Summer 2026**
- G. Approve Study Abroad Association (SAA) Faculty-Led Study Abroad to Japan – Summer 2026**
- H. Ratify Partial Guaranteed Maximum Price and Approve Final Guaranteed Maximum Price and Corresponding Change Order to Design-Build Services Contract for the Oceanside B4500 Science Building Renovation Project**
- I. Ratify and Approve Contracts and Purchase Orders**

Consent Item C was pulled for discussion.

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Crosbie, consent items A, B, and D through I were approved.

Vote: 6/0/0

Aye: Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cassar

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Conklin, consent item C was approved.

Vote: 6/0/0

Aye: Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cassar

VIII. FIRST READ – BOARD POLICIES

A. Board Policy 3440 – Service Animals on Campus

B. Board Policy 3720 – Computer and Network Use

C. Board Policy 4220 – Standards of Scholarship

D. Board Policy 6150 – Designation of Authorized Signatures

E. Board Policy 6250 – Budget Management

Proposed edits to Board Policies 3440, 3720, 4220, 6150, and 6250 were reviewed and discussed. The policies will be placed on a future agenda for adoption by the board.

IX. PERIODIC REVIEW – BOARD POLICIES (Action Required)

A. Board Policy 3525 – Skateboards, Roller Skates, Bicycles, and Other Recreational Wheeled Vehicles

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Simon, the Board adopted Board Policy 3525.

Vote: 6/0/0

Aye: Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cassar

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adopt Resolution No. 12-25/26 – Excuse Board Member Absence

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Crosbie, the Board adopted Resolution No. 12-25/26 to excuse the absence of Trustee Simon from the December 18, 2025, Board meeting.

Vote: 5/0/1

Aye: Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza

Abstentions: Simon

Absent: Cassar

XI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Agenda Management System

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Gomez provided the Board with an overview of the need for implementing an agenda management system to meet accessibility compliance requirements. A team of MiraCostans has been reviewing a number of different options and systems to ensure that compliance needs are met. The team agreed to move forward with CivicPlus, as it meets these needs and best suits the

needs of our college. Next steps include the planned implementation of CivicPlus, as well as providing training to users, and ultimately expanding the availability of the system to district-wide committees who can benefit from this system.

XII. INFORMATION

A. Report Update of Emergency Declaration and Emergency Actions to Elevator Repair at the Oceanside Campus Building 14 Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Gomez reported the elevator is still waiting to be fully operational. Repairs were delayed in December and January due to unavailable parts, and the expected completion date has been moved to the first week of February.

B. Superintendent/President Search Update

Trustee Merchat provided an update on the superintendent/president search. The ad hoc committee (Trustees Merchat, Clendening, and Cassar) reviewed proposals, and at the Board's January 15, 2026, workshop, AGB Search was selected to facilitate the recruitment.

Trustee Merchat and Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona will serve as co-chairs on the hiring committee. Trustee Crosbie will assist with finalist interviews, and Trustee Clendening will chair the transition team.

Next steps include listening sessions and a written survey for employees and community members taking place the last week of January, the job profile will launch in early February, and the formation of the interview committee, to include employee and community representatives, will follow that. All committee members will complete anti-bias training and sign confidentiality agreements.

XIII. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

Trustees Merchat, Clendening, Cassar, Conklin, Crosbie, and Pedroza attended All College Day with guest speaker Jose Antonio Vargas on January 16.

Trustees Merchat, Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, and Pedroza attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast. Trustee Crosbie indicated this is one of the best events she has attended as an elected official and looks forward to attending in the future.

Trustee Pedroza, a former student and member of the Marching Aztecs at San Diego State University, met up with 25 former Aztec band friends this past weekend.

Trustees Merchat, Clendening, and Crosbie attended the year-end celebration for classified employees in December. Clendening commented on what a wonderful event it was, and that it highlighted the importance of celebrating one another.

Clendening participated in the MLK Day of Service and the Associate Faculty Welcome Session.

Trustees Clendening and Conklin also attended a community breakfast hosted by Oceanside Councilmember Eric Joyce.

Trustee Conklin, along with Trustee Merchat, attended the SDICCCA alliance in preparation for the Sacramento advocacy. Conklin also celebrated the new LGBTQ Center in Oceanside and a community vigil.

Trustee Merchat shared how his frequent attendance at college events has made him feel deeply connected to the campus community. Recently, he attended the Cardiff Farmers Market. He, along with Trustee Clendening, worked individually with board members to hear and address any concerns they may have.

B. Student Trustee

Student Trustee Federico Caion Demaestri was not in attendance.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Carl Banks reported the year end celebration was a success, and he recognized award winners that were announced at that event.

Individual Spotlight Award recipients included Ray Malfavon-Borja, Manessah Park, and Amy Chapman.

Team Spotlight recipients included the Student Services Business Systems Analysts, the CARE Program, and the Biotech/Chemistry Building 13 Lab Associates.

The Outstanding Classified Employee Award was awarded to Ingrid Phillips.

Banks also reported that, in addition to serving as classified senate president, he is also serving at the state level as the director of government relations for CCCCS.

D. Faculty

Academic Senate (AS) President Curry Mitchell shared about faculty-led professional development workshops and trainings that were led during flex week, with recent sessions focusing on AI in education and creating accessible classrooms. Dean Lauren Halsted organized two faculty retreats, providing opportunities for reflection on student needs and faculty roles in shaping learning experiences. The Celebration of Teaching featured forums and live demonstrations of innovative teaching practices. Mitchell praised Dr. Bruce Hoskins for his dynamic teaching approach, emphasizing the importance of faculty as a source of learning and knowledge.

Aaron Roberts, faculty leader for professional development, was recognized for his leadership and commitment. A faculty town hall during Flex Week brought together full-time and associate faculty, union representatives, and future faculty leaders to discuss strengthening faculty leadership and shaping a shared vision for the future.

The Academic Senate is preparing for a period of transition and collaborating with the Office of Instruction to set priorities, including scheduling improvements. A Scheduling Summit is planned for February. The Senate also reviewed plans with ASCCC and is developing a three-year roadmap.

As the semester began, faculty reaffirmed their priority of building meaningful relationships with students and fostering independent thinking. Teaching strategies aimed at equity and inclusion remain central to this work.

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona reported spring enrollment is up 3.25 percent for FTES, and headcount is up 5.5 percent. We continue to

see the steady, sustainable growth we have experienced over the past two years and are particularly heartened by the return of enrollments in our CLC's noncredit programs, countering a previous decline driven by the political uncertainty our communities are experiencing. Last spring, enrollment at CLC was down 19 percent at the start of the term, and this spring term, it is back up 24 percent from this same time last year. This year we anticipate being over 10,000 FTES, which is good news. The Instructional Services team continues to evaluate waitlists to determine whether there are viable late-start offerings that can be opened to serve students.

Dean Zhenya Lindstrom and Dual Enrollment Program Manager Omar Jimenez are hard at work on dual enrollment two-pathway grant opportunities through the K-16 Border Region Pipeline. We are also working on another high-profile grant opportunity and look forward to announcing it soon.

Instructional Services is working hard to implement a new software solution to support a more data-informed, data-visualized schedule development process, and training has received early positive feedback from department chairs and deans. This new software provides schedule lookbacks and creates a heat map of course offerings, including GE, highlighting gaps to assist departments in creating a more student-centered schedule. These solutions and other strategies will be shared at the February 20 Scheduling Summit.

The Education Futures Plan is in draft form, and the task force will be developing guidelines for communities of practice to create strategic plans for each theme. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents Wojcik and Pescarmona look forward to sharing the plan through the governance process.

2. Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Wojcik reported that, thanks to improved processes and systems, the college successfully blocked 9,000 fraudulent enrollment attempts this term without dropping a single student for fraudulent enrollment. She thanked the entire team of MiraCostans involved in this incredible effort.

Wojcik noted that enrollment is on the rise, and she recognized the small but mighty Outreach team and student ambassadors for their tremendous work. Ambassadors conduct weekly high school visits, lead campus tours, attend college fairs and career nights, and support initiatives like the Access Conference and Barrier Empowerment. Their efforts, along with targeted mailings to high school students, make a significant impact year-round.

A special thanks was given to Nancy Magpusao Burke from Service Learning for coordinating the MLK Day of Service and Terrence Shaw from Student Life and Leadership for coordinating MiraCosta's participation in the MLK Parade. The parade was well attended, with approximately 100 participants from MiraCosta, Palomar, and CSUSM—strengthening regional connections.

MiraCosta's Women's Basketball Team is having an outstanding season with a 20-0 record!

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Gomez reported the Purchasing team is currently working on several solicitations, including two major ones focused

on classification and compensation, and food service and vending. Today's Job Walk at both the San Elijo and Oceanside campuses had an excellent turnout, with 23 attendees representing 4 food vendors. This is a significant improvement from the last time, when only one vendor participated, and it's an exciting development for our food service program.

There are no major changes to the budget at this time. Planning for next year's budget has begun, with meetings scheduled to review departmental budgets and expenses. Additionally, we are exploring ways to increase Civic Center revenue.

Solar installations are nearly complete. The Community Learning Center (CLC) is fully online and approved by SDG&E. The Oceanside Campus is awaiting the installation of the transformer, which will allow us to finalize the remaining components.

The Building 3000 project is progressing on schedule, with completion and move-in expected in April. Furniture has been installed, and ITS has completed switch and equipment installations.

Work has begun to refine the Facilities Futures Plan programming, using collected data to identify future needs and priorities for campus facilities.

Two additional rooms have been converted into HyFlex classrooms, bringing the total to 37 HyFlex rooms. The ITS team is also evaluating how Measure MM funds can support additional instructional technology upgrades.

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Schwartzkopf reported that spring marks the start of full-time faculty hiring. Committees are forming, and faculty hiring committee training is scheduled for Friday, January 30.

Recent Title 5 regulatory changes require collaboration across all employee groups when it comes to professional development. A framework is in development following productive meetings with faculty, classified professionals, and administrators.

RFP submissions for the Classification and Compensation Study are due January 30, with evaluations in February, and a recommendation to the Board in March.

Our newly redesigned Sharepoint requisition system is nearing launch, thanks to extensive work, testing, and training. Special recognition was given to Holly Walker, Shawna Sourivanh, Eric Corbett, and ITS.

W-2s are now available via Workday and will also be sent by mail to employees. Quick updates were made to retirement contributions effective January paychecks. Thanks were given to Arlene Hernandez, Briana Schaeffer, and Bonnie McFadden for their responsiveness and hard work on these projects.

Associate faculty are completing the state-required health benefits survey. Results will be reported to the Chancellor's Office in March.

The Classified Reclassification request window closed January 15, with 18 submissions under review. Decisions for which requests will move forward in the process are expected by mid-February

Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke submitted a written report from her division. She thanked Ailene Crakes, the IDEA Advisory Committee, and all those involved in making the All College Day guest speaker possible.

The spring semester has begun smoothly, with students engaged, enthusiastic, and proactively seeking support when needed.

An email will be forthcoming from the Bias Education Support Team (BEST) outlining resources available to undocumented students, with additional training opportunities planned for February.

We will continue to share stories highlighting the remarkable work of our faculty, staff, and administrators at the local, regional, state, and national levels. This has resulted in new opportunities for the college to support its students and communities.

XIV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Frank Merchat
President

Sunita V. Cooke
Superintendent/President