



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JULY 18, 2024
(Approved August 15, 2024)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, July 18, 2024, in the Community Room at the Community Learning Center in Oceanside. President Cassar called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Rick Cassar	Frank Merchat
Raye Clendening	Anna Pedroza
Heather Conklin	Jackie Simon
George McNeil	

Board members not present:

Rahime Demirci (Student Trustee)

Administrators present:

Superintendent/President Cooke
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Tim Flood
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik
Human Resources Director Jenn Acfalle (for Charlie Ng)

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Special Meeting/Closed Session of June 13, 2024

B. Workshop of June 13, 2024

C. Regular Business Meeting of June 20, 2024

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee McNeil, the board approved the minutes of the special meeting/closed session and workshop of June 13, 2024, and the minutes of the regular business meeting of June 20, 2024.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

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

None.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL Update)

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona and Associate Dean Benjamin Gamboa provided comprehensive updates to the Board of Trustees on the status and future trajectory of the College Prior Learning (CPL) implementation. Their presentation highlighted strategic initiatives aimed at empowering the college's adult learner demographic by translating their professional experiences into college credits. This approach not only accelerates their academic journey but also yields significant cost savings—potentially reducing time to degree completion by 9 to 14 months and saving students money.

With guidance from a contracted CPL consultant, the district has crafted an implementation plan, focusing on pilot instructional programs tailored for industry certifications. Process mapping sessions were held to streamline a student-centered approach integrated with existing college technologies. Success stories showcasing early achievements were shared, underscoring the program's impact on students.

Looking ahead, a pilot program is slated for full implementation by September 2024, with plans for expanding instructional programs recognizing CPL. A critical focus remains on assessing the program's efficacy and its tangible benefits for students completing pilot initiatives. Aligning with California State University (CSU) standards ensures consistency in earned credits, reinforcing educational pathways for learners.

The Public Information Office has supported the efforts by leveraging data for targeted promotional campaigns. Concurrently, discussions with non-credit partners are underway to explore potential alignments, bolstered by robust advisories involving industry stakeholders.

To enhance transparency and accessibility, a comprehensive listing of CPL opportunities, compliant with established CPL practices, will be integrated into the course catalog starting after this fall semester. These initiatives underscore the college's commitment to fostering inclusive educational practices that recognize and validate the diverse learning experiences of its student body, paving the way for broader educational attainment and professional advancement.

B. Sense of Belonging Survey Update for Students

Dean Chris Tarman presented preliminary findings from the November 2023 MiraCosta College Sense of Belonging Survey, a survey deployed across all segments of our student body—credit, noncredit, and Adult High School. Dean Tarman highlighted the profound impact of “belonging” on student persistence, academic success, and overall mental well-being.

Informed by robust research in survey design by the RPIE staff members and developed with insights from the IDEA Advisory Committee and the Title V Hispanic Serving Institution Grant Advisory Committee, the survey was offered in both English and Spanish to ensure inclusion and representation of our diverse student demographics. Initial findings provided a comprehensive snapshot of student perceptions, revealing a

relatively high level of belonging for most students and reflecting the rich diversity within our college community. Moving forward, there will be targeted analyses of groups that reported lower scores to uncover underlying reasons and identify areas for improvement. This deeper exploration will consider variables such as online versus on-ground learning environments, part-time versus full-time enrollment status, and age demographics, offering nuanced insights into student experiences. Moreover, understanding varying perspectives on the definition of “community” will enrich our approach to fostering a supportive campus environment.

To enhance transparency and accessibility of survey findings, a user-friendly dashboard has been developed, allowing stakeholders and community members to disaggregate data and glean actionable insights.

Dean Tarman's presentation underscored MiraCosta College's commitment to nurturing a sense of belonging among all students, thereby creating a more welcoming and supportive educational environment and enhancing student success.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. Approve Classification of New Position and Job Description for Career Education Grants Coordinator**
- C. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding 24-02 with Academic Associate Faculty**
- D. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding 24-03 with Academic Associate Faculty**
- E. Approve Updates and Modifications of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the MiraCosta Community College District and the MiraCosta College Faculty Assembly**
- F. Approve Reclassification of Existing Positions**
- G. Approve African Diaspora Education Summit attendance in Ghana, Africa – Fall 2024**
- H. Approve Superintendent/President Sabbatical Leave Request**
- I. Approve Amendment Three (3) with Gensler for District’s Facilities Master Plan**
- J. Approve FF&E for the Oceanside Campus New Media Arts Building Project**
- K. Approve Agreement with Dovetail for Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment Coordination Services for B4500 Renovation**
- L. Approve Additional Purchase of Hotspots and Broadband Internet Services for Online Learning**
- M. Approve Purchase of VMWare Virtualization Technology**
- N. Approve Annual Military Equipment Report**
- O. Ratify and Approve Contracts and Purchase Orders**

Consent Item N was pulled for discussion.

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Merchat, consent items A-M and O were approved.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

By motion of Trustee McNeil, seconded by Trustee Simon, consent item N was approved after discussion. As this was the first time this annual item was presented, the history of this item, the requirements, and all attachments were thoroughly reviewed.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Resolution No. 1-24/25 – Excuse Board Member Absence

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee McNeil, the board adopted Resolution No. 1-24/25 to excuse Trustee Merchat's absence from the board meetings on June 13 and June 20, 2024.

Vote: 6/0/1

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: Merchat

Absent: None

IX. SECOND READ – BOARD POLICIES (Action Required)

A. Board Policy 4025B – Philosophy and Criteria for Baccalaureate Degree and General Education

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee McNeil, the board adopted Board Policy 4025B as presented.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

B. Board Policy 4100B BP – Graduation Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree and General Education

By motion of Trustee McNeil, seconded by Trustee Pedroza, the board adopted Board Policy 4100B as presented.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

C. Board Policy 4100C BP – Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Diploma and Noncredit Certificates

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee McNeil, the board adopted Board Policy 4100C as presented.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

X. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

Trustee Merchat is glad to be back after an absence and appreciates everyone who reached out in support. He continues to support the San Elijo Farmer's Market, as does Trustee Clendening.

Trustee Conklin has been actively engaging with the community informally, including proudly participating in the Oceanside Parade with MiraCosta.

Trustee McNeil shared the passing of Rita Koor, a friend and a devoted supporter of MiraCosta College.

Trustee Pedroza shared the good news of becoming an abuelita (grandmother), which she is thoroughly enjoying.

Trustee Simon attended the San Diego Community College District Chancellor reception at the San Diego Zoo with Trustee Cassar and Dr. Cooke and found it an enjoyable and well-attended event.

Trustee Cassar acknowledged Dr. Cooke's leadership as the most experienced CEO of the San Diego and Imperial County Community College (SDICCCA). He also highlighted that while managing her duties at MiraCosta College, Dr. Cooke has also assumed the role of president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

B. Students

Student Trustee Rahime Demirci was at a conference and unable to attend the board meeting.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Omar Jimenez reported that CS held roundtable discussions to reignite the caring campus initiative to identify how classified professionals are an integral part of student success. Attendance at the CLI leadership Institute, as well as reaching out to campus partners is helping with the efforts to institutionalize caring campus.

D. Faculty

Academic Senate (AS) President Curry Mitchell introduced himself, as this was his first board meeting as academic senate president. He reported he will continue to focus on teaching and learning and affirming leadership qualities in faculty members, aiming to build a stronger community. Mitchell attended the statewide Academic Senate conference with AS Vice President Sean Davis and learned valuable insights on which to build.

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona reported summer enrollment enjoyed 400 more students (100 FTES) than last summer. Enrollment for fall semester is up 8 percent over last fall, and enrollment management will ramp up in August. Pescarmona attended the Curriculum Institute, where changes in legislation were discussed, most notably the common course numbering initiative, which is expected to be a "heavy lift".

2. Student Services

Assistant President/Vice President Wojcik submitted a written report. She added more than 600 students (1,200 including family members) have signed up to attend the Welcome Fest on Saturday at the Oceanside Campus. Counseling appointments during regular business hours have been reserved for those students who attend, as well as offering some on-site counseling services.

MiraCosta College has the highest transfer rate to UC in all southern CA and the excellent numbers were included in the Student Services written report. MiraCosta student transfer rates are 10-12% higher than the CA average transfer rate, and much higher than traditional freshman admission.

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood reported the state passed the budget, which includes some deferrals over the next two budget years. Administrative Services (AS) established their goals and held a team building event at the sand volleyball courts.

AS staff members are moving to the Human Resources area in Building 1000, where they will share space. Facilities and custodians will be able to use some of the vacated AS space for offices and gathering.

A major voltage line that was housed in our former pedestrian bridge was replaced, ensuring the full loop is back and functioning.

The accessibility committee has launched a new program that will set up geofences to assist students who are blind or have vision impairments in navigating the campus. Students engage with their cell phone to utilize this program, which enhances accessibility services for students.

4. Human Resources

HR Director Jenn Acfalle introduced herself, and she announced the loss of Sandy Muryasz, a vital member of our MiraCosta community, who served the district for almost 30 years.

Acfalle reported the recruitment team has completed their onboarding of new faculty for fall. She also expressed her excitement for being part of the MiraCosta College team and back on a college campus.

F. Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke reported a theatre performance, as part of the intensive summer theatre program, was held on the same evening last week as Dancing at Dusk. It was enjoyable to see proud supporters and family members in the audience.

Significant work is happening behind the scenes across various departments, including communications and the Foundation. Extensive efforts are underway for the "Get Out the Vote" campaign, which focuses on student engagement.

MiraCosta College's excellent initiatives will be highlighted in the president's column of each AACC Magazine that is distributed to over 1000 community colleges.

Cooke and Chief IDEA Officer Wendy Stewart attended a Futures training in San Francisco, exploring the use of foresight tools. Dr. Cooke acknowledged how advanced our global partners are in addressing climate change. There is much to learn from our international collaborators. Drs. Cooke and Stewart also experienced riding in an autonomous vehicle in San Francisco and encouraged everyone to try it.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
President

Sunita V. Cooke, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President