



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING / WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
(Approved October 16, 2025)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in a regular meeting/workshop on Thursday, September 4, 2025, in the Boardroom (1068) on the Oceanside Campus. Vice President Clendening called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Raye Clendening	Frank Merchat
Heather Conklin	Anna Pedroza
Ann Crosbie	Jacqueline Simon
	Federico Caion Demaestri (student trustee)

Board members absent: Rick Cassar

Administrators present:

Superintendent/President Sunny Cooke
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. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ON AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

IV. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

V. WORKSHOP

A. 2025-2028 Student Equity Plan Presentation

Director of Student Success and Equity Kristina Londy, who works in alignment with Chief IDEA Officer Wendy Stewart, reviewed the components that guide the work of the Student Equity Plan. As a condition of the receipt of Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) funds, the Chancellor's Office requires all colleges to maintain a tri-annual Student Equity Plan to ensure equal educational opportunities and to promote student success for all students, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or economic circumstances. The plan identifies targeted populations based on an analysis of

disproportionate impact for the following subgroups: foster youth, students with disabilities, low-income, veterans, race/ethnicity, homeless students, LGBTQ+, gender, and first generation. The plan assesses outcomes in five key success indicators: successful enrollment, persistence (first primary term to secondary term), completed transfer-level math and English, transfer, and completion.

Londy pointed to the student equity dashboards, which provide robust data that help to identify equity gaps that inform targeted strategies to minimize and eliminate gaps. It's important to look at more than just the data from the Chancellor's Office. Other important SEA data comes from Guided Pathways momentum points, feedback from focus groups/surveys, basic needs, enrollment trends, and statewide and national local demographics together for a fuller picture. As a result of this work, the data supports the difference our efforts are making across the district, including working with our area feeder high schools to help students apply, streamlining some of our complex onboarding, connecting teaching to students' lived experiences, fostering a sense of belonging, and building sustaining practices to ensure populations are thriving at MiraCosta. We are also looking forward to launching the Equity Centers in fall 2026.

An updated 2025-2028 Student Equity Plan inclusive of strategies to address identified equity gaps is due to the Chancellor's Office by November 30, 2025. The plan requires approval by the board of trustees prior to submittal, therefore, a second read and request for board approval is expected at the October 16 board meeting.

B. Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget Workshop

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Elba Gomez provided a workshop of the FY2026 budget, which allowed board members to address questions with the superintendent/president and to provide input before the board is asked to act on the final budget at the regular board of trustees meeting on September 11, 2025.

VP Gomez reviewed the district's budget priorities for fiscal year 2024/25 and reviewed projections for fiscal year 2025/26. 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.

VP Gomez provided a synopsis of the 2024/25 revenues and expenditures and noted careful planning and conservative spending allows us to navigate uncertainty and respond to emerging priorities. It was important to note the district met the 50 percent law requirements.

Although the state is facing a \$12 billion deficit for 2025/26, there are no major core reductions to community college programs or services. The state budget indicates a 2.3 percent cost of living (COLA) increase in funding for selected categorical programs, which equates to a total of \$23K for MiraCosta.

The district is stable and well-positioned, projecting a reserve balance of 24 percent, with 83.8 percent of the district's budget devoted to salaries/benefits and 16.2 percent to other expenditures, and revenues matching expenditures. The district's budget landscape shows an estimated 4.87 percent property tax revenue increase (\$7.2M), while at the same time, the district is experiencing a loss of \$1M in nonresident tuition and a continued decrease in student fees for parking. CalSTRS and CalPERS rates are

holding fairly steady, while health benefit rate increases are resulting in an annual cost increase of \$882K. An overview of the Five-year plan was provided, which is optimistic and will continue to be monitored.

Having presented a balanced budget, Gomez acknowledged her team for their work on the budget and the Public Information Office for creating a beautiful budget book, a collaborative college-wide effort.

Board members asked questions and provided input. The board will be asked to adopt the final budget on September 11, 2025, so it can be submitted to the state by September 15, 2025.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Raye Clendening
Vice President

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