



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 2024
(Approved December 19, 2024)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, November 21, 2024, in the Boardroom on the Oceanside Campus. President Cassar called the meeting to order at 3:59 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 absent:

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
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Charlie Ng

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Special Meeting/Closed Session of October 17, 2024

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the board approved the minutes of the special meeting/closed session of October 17, 2024.

Vote: 5/0/2
Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon
Abstentions: Merchat, McNeil
Absent: None

B. Regular Business Meeting of October 17, 2024

By motion of Trustee McNeil, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the regular business meeting of October 17, 2024.

Vote: 6/0/1
Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon
Abstentions: Merchat
Absent: None

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

Community member Aurora Hall from 101 Main Street Association expressed her concern about the cost of participating in the Farmers Market held at the San Elijo Campus.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Student Success and Equity Metrics

Dean Chris Tarman presented the most recent metrics, trends, and analyses from the leading and lagging indicators for College's first-time-in-college cohorts from the Guided Pathways Dashboard. He noted that trends in nearly all of the leading indicators of the cohorts continue to improve since fall 2021. For example, completed matriculation in first term, attempted/completed 12 or more units in first term, percentage of units completed in first term, course success rates in first term, completed comprehensive education plans in the first year, and completed transfer-level English in the first year have shown noticeable increases, with some of these areas having reached or exceeded pre-Covid levels. It is important to note that improvement on these leading indicators will positively impact the overall completion rates. The percentage of students that complete a degree, certificate, or transfer to a university within three years has steadily increased since fall 2015, rising over eight percentage points.

During the presentation, it was noted that transfer-level math completion rates decreased during Covid and have only ticked up slightly since fall 2021, mainly due to fewer students attempting transfer-level math in the first year. This led to a discussion with several students attending the board of trustees meeting as a class assignment. The students voluntarily shared valuable details about their experiences at MiraCosta and with taking math and English during their first year in college.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions

B. Approve Employment Contract for Professional Expert

C. Approve Increase to Hourly Pay Rates Effective January 1, 2025, and Set Minimum Wage to \$16.50

D. Approve Revised Request to Travel to London, England, from July 8-15, 2024, to January 8-15, 2025, for Ruben Gomez and Rick White

E. Notice of Completion- Bid #C11-24 OC Library Roof Replacement Project

F. Notice of Completion- Bid #C14-23 OC Barrier Removal Project

G. Approve Purchase of Nuventive Improve Software

H. Ratify and Approve Contracts and Purchase Orders

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee McNeil, consent items A-H were approved.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Establish Date and Time of Annual Organizational Board Meeting

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the board established December 19, 2024, for the annual organizational meeting.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

B. Adopt Resolution No. 5–24/25 Granting Emeritus Trustee Status to George McNeil

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the board adopted Resolution No. 5-23/25 granting trustee emeritus trustee status to George McNeil.

Vote: 6/0/1

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

Abstentions: McNeil

Absent: None

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Annual Financial and Budget Report

The Annual Financial and Budget Report was reviewed for information.

B. First Quarter Fiscal Report

The First Quarter Fiscal Report was reviewed for information.

C. Municipal Storm Water Management Plan Annual Implementation Update

A Municipal Storm Water Management Plan Annual implementation update was provided for information.

X. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

D. Trustees Activities

Trustees attended the Community Leaders Breakfast: Report to the Region in Carlsbad on October 20.

Trustee Clendening attended the North County Philanthropy Council's volunteer awards, where MiraCosta College Foundation's Emeritus Board Member Alec Babiarz was awarded volunteer of the year for the Foundation. Trustee Clendening also represented the Board of Trustees at the Foundation's quarterly meeting, where they made a call for additional scholarship donations to close the gap in funding for qualified students, welcomed two new board members, and congratulated Jimmy Figueroa on his recent Oceanside City Council election. Additionally, she reminded the board that December 3 is Giving Tuesday, and the Foundation is asking for \$90 contributions to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the college.

Trustee Clendening and Trustee Cassar attended the Dia de los Muertos event at the San Elijo Campus, while Trustee Conklin represented trustees in the community by attending the City of Oceanside's Dia de los Muertos celebration.

Trustee McNeil continues his support of MiraCosta Athletics by attending recent rugby and soccer games, praising their performance and records, and he looks forward to supporting the upcoming basketball games.

Trustee Pedroza, along with Trustees Simon and Cassar, Dr. Cooke, and trustees from other local colleges attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) conference in Seattle. Trustee Cassar presented MiraCosta Trustees at the conference as part of a panel presentation.

Trustee Pedroza, along with Trustees Conklin, McNeil, and Cassar attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Student Services Building on November 18. They congratulated all of the MiraCostans for their work in bringing the project to completion.

Trustees Merchat and Cassar attended the Hispanic Networking Breakfast and congratulated the organizers on a well-run event.

E. Students

Vice President Alketa Wojcik shared a written report from Student Trustee Rahime Demirci, who was attending a leadership training in Sacramento. She represented the student body at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Student Services Building and thanked everyone involved.

F. Classified Employees

Kimberly Holmes, currently serving as Interim Classified Senate (CS) vice president, reported the End of Year Celebration is scheduled for December 20 at El Camino Country Club, and she encouraged all to attend. Proceeds from the online holiday gift basket auction will fund student scholarships. She thanked Angelena Boles for her work on the Outstanding Classified Employee award program and noted that submissions are being accepted through today.

G. Faculty

Academic Senate (AS) President Curry Mitchell shared he attended the Fall Statewide AS Plenary. He expressed appreciation for the way governance is structured at MiraCosta, which is very inclusive and supportive of associate faculty. Mitchell highlighted resolutions from the recent statewide Academic Senate conference, such as establishing a Native American holiday and integrating nutritional science as a Cal-GETC Area requirement. He also highlighted the work of several faculty members, including Delores Loedel, the Honors Scholar Program Coordinator, and Amana Coronado, Kyle Arriola, Donjay Hardaway, and Sean Davis, who are planning a field day event for faculty and students "devoted to play, friendly competition, relaxing activities, and outdoor fun," leading to community and engagement. Mitchell also shared his classroom practice of tracking student participation and reflecting on their progress.

H. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona reported enrollment numbers have increased by about 1 percent in FTES, and spring enrollment is up by 11.5 percent in headcount and 13.5 percent in FTES from last year. The institution is addressing fraudulent enrollments, having removed about 500 fraudulent students from 2,500 enrollments. The college received over \$7 million in grants from the California Apprenticeship Commission to support student internships and high-wage opportunities. The college is also complying with new general education requirements (AB 1111 and AB 928), and she invited everyone to attend MiraCosta holiday celebrations featuring music, dance, and

art performances. She thanked Trustee McNeil for being present at so many student activities and events, noting the positive impact it makes on students.

2. Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Wojcik appreciated Trustee McNeil, and she and appreciative students look forward to continuing to see him at future events. This week is Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week, and the CARE Department and Service Learning organized various activities, including a tenant rights session and a campus thrift store providing students clothing, backpacks, and suitcases. The food pantry, now in a new location on the Oceanside Campus, is busy daily. Additionally, International Education Week featured a passport drive and the opening of study abroad program sign-ups, with high student interest in trips to Japan and Florence (both are full with wait lists).

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood submitted a written report. Additionally, he thanked Trustee McNeil for his contributions and support. He also announced that the district won the San Diego County Taxpayers Golden Watchdog Award, highlighting the collaborative efforts of staff and administrators. The demolition of the old 3000 buildings has begun, and there is excitement for the new facilities while recognizing all the memories in the previous buildings. The parking lot in front of the Administration Building has been resurfaced and will open on December 2nd, allowing the district to close out some DSA projects. Lastly, he expressed gratitude for the contributions of several long-serving employees (Max Robinson, Lori Schneider, Katie White, Lonnie White) who are retiring.

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Ng reported HR is focused on enhancing employee engagement and has been piloting a new orientation program and a leadership development initiative. They are also working to diversify the workforce through innovative recruitment strategies and website improvements. Additionally, HR is reviewing the wellness benefits program to promote overall well-being among employees. Ng thanked Trustee McNeil for his dedicated service and focus on students.

I. Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke acknowledged Trustee McNeil for his leadership and unwavering support as an ambassador of the college, and she thanked MiraCostans for their work throughout the year. Despite having gaps in the organization due to staff movements and retirements, the work continues, thanks to the dedication of MiraCosta employees and leadership.

The Public Information Office (PIO) was incredibly active during the voting period, and the advancement team has been busy with year-end fundraising. Dr. Cooke expressed appreciation for the board's support in sharing MiraCosta's story on the national stage, particularly in her role as president of the American Association of Community Colleges, where she has a monthly column in their journal. During her recent visit to the White House, collaborative workforce development and education initiatives were highlighted, along with the long-term positive outcomes of the CHIPS Act and the Infrastructure Act.

Dr. Cooke invited everyone to the upcoming Encinitas holiday parade on December 7. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to take a mini-sabbatical starting Monday and thanked everyone who has stepped up to help, especially the administrative team.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
President

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