



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
(Approved October 17, 2024)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in the Boardroom (1068) on the Oceanside Campus. President Cassar called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Rick Cassar

Raye Clendening

Heather Conklin

George McNeil

Frank Merchat

Anna Pedroza

Jackie Simon

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 August 15, 2024

B. Regular Business Meeting of August 15, 2024

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the special meeting/closed session of August 15, 2024.

Vote: 5/0/2

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Merchat, Simon

Abstentions: McNeil, Pedroza

Absent: None

By motion of Trustee McNeil, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the regular business meeting of August 15, 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

Dr. Wendy Stewart announced the campus-wide book read to further advance the district's mission of a racially just campus. Over 25 book recommendations were reviewed. "Viral Justice" was selected and will launch next week. Stewart thanked Kristina Lundy for creating bookmarks that are also available to MiraCostans.

A community member representing Cardiff 101 Main Street, a non-profit organization that advocates for Cardiff residents and business, spoke about the Farmers Market held on Saturdays at the San Elijo Campus. She expressed concern about the fees charged to Cardiff 101 for the use of the college's parking lots each Saturday.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

Consent Item I was pulled from the agenda to make adjustments to the timeline.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Associated Student Government (ASG) Introductions

The 2024/25 ASG student leaders were introduced.

B. Online Education Update

Faculty Coordinator of Online Education Dr. Jim Julius provided an update on online education. He reviewed key terms used by the college, as well as the vision, mission, and the distance education (DE) participation in MiraCosta programs. Julius noted the college is now at 71.4 percent of FTES enrolled in DE courses, as compared to 37.4 percent in 2019/20 (pre-Covid). Success rates have been increasing since having come out of Covid. DE equity gaps are narrowing as success rates for disproportionately impacted student groups increase.

Julius shared highlights and objectives related to the Online Ed Plan. He noted nearly 1,000 students took the online student support workshops last year, which has proven beneficial for students.

Zero textbook cost (ZTC) are now available in more than one third of courses at MiraCosta. The college has received more than \$1.3M in state grant funds to expand ZTC offerings and, as of fall 2024, 13 programs offer at least one ZTC option for every course. This has equated to more than 110,000 enrollments in ZTC sections since 2017/18 for approximately \$11M saved!

Letters Instructor and Joyful Teacher Jim Sullivan shared about hyflex offerings. A smaller number of hyflex offerings occur on the credit side than on the noncredit side. Sullivan noted that mixed modalities are needed for many students, especially as they figure out what works best for them as an individual.

There is support and resources for students who are hesitant to enroll in an online course or are having difficulty understanding online courses. Students can utilize the technology labs in the Learning Commons, where there are support technicians who can help them. MiraCosta also offers loaner laptops and hotspots that students can check out, if they don't otherwise have the resources to enroll in online courses. The college will continue to work on narrowing even more the retention and success gaps between DE and non-DE classes.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. **Approve Employment Contract for Professional Expert**
- C. **Approve New Professional Expert Classification and Description of Duties for the Director, Apprenticeship Program Development**
- D. **Approve Updates to the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Faculty Assembly and MiraCosta Community College District to Reflect Language from MOU 22-06**
- E. **Approve Revised Fall 2024 Program Components for the Oceanside Unified School District CCAP Dual Enrollment Program**
- F. **Approve Grant Subcontractor Agreement with San Diego Community College District for Strong Workforce Program Labor Market Research Grant**
- G. **Award Contract for RFP 17-24 Digital Marketing Services to Mason Interactive, Inc.**
- H. **Approve Purchase of Additional Hotspots and Broadband Internet Services for Online Learning through the Library**
- I. **Approve Purchase of Nuventive Improve Software**
- J. **Ratify and Approve Contracts and Purchase Orders**

Consent Item I was pulled from the agenda.

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

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Adopt Fiscal Year 2024/25 Final Budget**

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Merchat, the board adopted the fiscal year 2024/25 final budget.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

B. **Approve Amendment to Conflict of Interest Code Appendix One (Designated Filers)**

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Merchat, the board approved the amendment to the Conflict of Interest Code Appendix One to designate the Dean, Nursing, Health, and Health and Wellness, the Director, Technology Career Institute, and the Chief of Police as Form 700 filers, and to update the existing Form 700 titles of Director, HR, and Associate Vice President, Information Technology Services.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Public Hearing 4:30 p.m. FY2024/25 Final Budget

The public hearing was opened at 4:55 p.m. No comments were received from the public, and the hearing was closed at 4:56 p.m.

B. MiraCosta Community College District Irrevocable Trust Investment Board Report

The MiraCosta Community College District Irrevocable Trust Investment Board Report was provided as information

C. Sunshine the MiraCosta Community College District Initial Proposal to the MiraCosta College Faculty Assembly

The sunshine of the MiraCosta Community College District Initial Proposal to the MiraCosta College Faculty Assembly was provided as information.

D. Futures Update

Trustees shared a few futures signals for discussion. Trustee Merchat shared two new signals, one regarding climate change and the negative effect on the nutritional value of the food we eat, as some crops are affected by the increase in CO₂. To counter that, another signal was shared involving nanotechnology that can consume CO₂, which could give us the ability to combat that in the future.

Trustees discussed AI, and its future impact on learning and the classroom.

Trustee Cassar shared the need to help GenZ students stay engaged in classes and course material, when expectations seem to favor shorter snippets of material rather than long lectures. Student Trustee Demirci shared that some professors break up their lectures with a creative task, group work, or time to analyze or discuss the concept, and then return to the lecture. Otherwise, she said, students tend to tune out.

Libraries of the future will be collaborative workspaces.

Trustees discussed how work days for GenZ and Alpha generations may be different with more flexibility, as people valuing and needing balance in their lives. This may affect the way we teach.

Trustees agreed there will always be the need to offer multiple ways for students to learn.

X. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

Trustees attended All College Day to kick off the fall semester, and they toured the Learning Commons. Additionally, the Theresia M. Heyden Nursing Complex ribbon cutting was attended by Trustees Cassar, Clendening, and Pedroza, where two alumni spoke about how MiraCosta College and the Nursing Department have impacted their lives and careers in a positive way.

Trustee Conklin volunteered at the LGBTQ center, which was moving to a new location. She, along with Trustee Clendening, attended the Oceanside Chamber Heros event, which honored teachers, active duty military, and emergency personnel. Trustee Clendening thanked the Human Resources staff for their patience and assistance with insurance paperwork. She will participate in the North County African American

Women's Association's Gentlemen's Gourmet event this weekend, which raises scholarship funds for students.

Trustee McNeil attended a number of athletics events on campus. He shared the men's soccer team won three consecutive games, the women's soccer had a strong 10–0 win in their first conference game, and the women's volleyball performed well.

Trustee Cassar attended Palomar College's grand opening of their new stadium.

B. Students

Student Trustee Rahime Demirci explained how the Associated Student Government (ASG) actively engages students in various initiatives. Demirci attended the Spartan Connect, where students learned about the wide range of support services available at MiraCosta College.

Next week, ASG will be tabling on the Oceanside Campus for National Voter Registration Day, promoting civic engagement and encouraging voter registration.

On September 21, ASG will host a discussion panel at Earn Our Vote, a youth-led political event at Oceanside High School, allowing local youth to ask questions. It will also facilitate a panel for Oceanside City Council candidates.

Additionally, on October 8, the League of Women Voters will be on campus to educate students about California propositions on the upcoming ballot. ASG recently participated in Club Rush, which saw increased attendance compared to last year, indicating strong student engagement and interest in campus activities.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Omar Jimenez reported the CS is finalizing committee assignments.

D. Faculty

Academic Senate (AS) President Curry Mitchell explained how the department chairs are diligently working on the Spring Schedule, with a strong emphasis on student-centered planning and collaboration.

Five departments are involved in implementing a statewide common course numbering system in compliance with recent legislation aimed at streamlining course identification and supporting student success. These efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to ensuring that both faculty needs and student outcomes are prioritized.

The AS is discussing constituent outreach to assess how they are organized and engaged. One key focus is forming a faculty-led task force to address the implications of AI in education. AS is working to define a clear, narrow scope for this task force and is having ongoing discussions with other groups exploring AI to converge into a coordinated effort. The senate wants to ensure that faculty and institutional leadership remain proactive in addressing emerging technologies and their impact on the learning environment.

Regular semester classrooms are settling into a routine; with midterms approaching for eight-week sessions and late-start courses being two weeks in, faculty are actively implementing creative instructional strategies to keep teaching relevant and engaging for students. The focus remains on timely interventions, affirming student progress, and fostering a sense of belonging, both in the short term and for long-term academic success.

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona submitted a written report. She added that enrollment numbers are up about one percent, even after dealing with fraudulent enrollments.

MiraCosta received its second Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Title 5 grant, \$3M over five years, with a focus on entry points into STEM and changing the mindset of these courses from gatekeepers into gateways.

2. Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Wojcik thanked Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff who have recently implemented free Aira software, which support students with visual impairments navigate the campus more easily.

Some challenges with federal financial aid have required our local offices to process the money in a time-intensive, manual way. To assist these students, Student Services is collaborating with the Foundation to offer Emergency Grants. Emergency grants have a high demand, and she thanked the Foundation for their work in this area to help meet this need.

MiraCosta is developing a communication plan to raise awareness about the new Student Services Building. This building will serve as a one-stop shop, ensuring students can access all the necessary services in one convenient location. Staff will move to the new building in phases in October.

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood commended the entire Fiscal Services team and the Public Information Office for their high quality work on the beautiful budget book. The fiscal year closed with a positive balance of \$1.6 million and a healthy reserve of over 24 percent. A balanced budget projected over the next five years.

Construction of the foot bridge will begin this fall, after the move to the new Student Services Building is completed. The demolition of Buildings in the 3000s complex will also start soon, with more communication to follow. The project user group will soon be evaluating three design-build firms for the remodel of 4700 Building, which is focused on professional development spaces.

College Police actively collaborate with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to enhance operational preparedness, including drills beyond standard tabletop exercises, with the next simulation drill scheduled for September 20 at the CLC.

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Ng reported the third module of the Leadership Academy was completed today, funded by our EEO grant. Participants have expressed that it has been a great experience, allowing them to bond with colleagues while gaining valuable knowledge. Feedback from the inaugural group will be incorporated in preparation to expand access to the program next year. Ng thanked all the presenters and participants for making it a success.

The college's Employee Resource Groups are developing, and the story of our journey will be presented at a national Human Resources conference. Additionally, the State Chancellor's Office has asked MiraCosta to represent and share our story on our equal employment opportunity work, a significant recognition of our efforts.

F. Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke reported she participated as a panelist in the Level Up National Panel for Black Learner Success, where they reviewed data on why students discontinue their studies and the efforts that help them remain in college. The discussion highlighted progress at MiraCosta College, starting with student equity initiatives and UMOJA, and how this work has expanded over the years. There was interest in the BCAT training developed by Dr. Wendy Stewart and Shawntae Mitchum.

Cooke acknowledged Dr. Stewart and Omar Jimenez for launching the Futures Signal Spotters gatherings for the year, which will begin on September 18. The sessions will be held the third Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Appreciation was given to the Public Information Office for supporting the various Get Out the Vote initiatives and the successful building openings.

MiraCosta College will collaborate with the National Conflict and Resolution Council (NCRC) in a grant-funded project to host several informational and training sessions to develop skills in communication during divisive times. Groups of employees, including administrators, will work through the content to develop essential skills for having difficult conversations in a divided world. This fall, four sessions will be held, and additional sessions will continue throughout the year.

Thanks to generous donors, the MiraCosta College Foundation raised more than \$20,000 to assist students who face a financial emergency during their educational journey. Cooke thanked Foundation Board President Dr. Janice Kurth and Vice President Karen Pearson for their generous matching gifts. The donations were raised through a campaign tied to the regional San Diego Gives, Day of Giving on September 5, conducted by nonprofits throughout San Diego County.

The Community Leaders Breakfast is scheduled for October 18 and will feature a panel of alumni and the launch of the College's annual report.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
President

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