



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 17, 2025
(Approved May 15, 2025)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, April 17, 2025, in the Community Room, at the Community Learning Center. President Rick Cassar called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Rick Cassar	Frank Merchat
Raye Clendening	Anna Pedroza
Heather Conklin	Jacqueline Simon
Ann Crosbie	Rahime Demirci (student trustee)

Administrators present:

Superintendent/President Sunny Cooke
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Hayley Schwartzkopf
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Tim Flood
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Special/Closed Meeting of March 27, 2025

B. Workshop of March 27, 2025

C. Regular Business Meeting of March 27, 2025

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the special/closed session meeting of March 27, 2025.

Vote: 5/2/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Merchat, Pedroza

Abstentions: Crosbie, Simon

Absent: None

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the board approved the minutes of the workshop of March 27, 2025.

Vote: 6/1/0

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

Abstentions: Crosbie

Absent: None

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Simon, the board approved the regular business meeting minutes of March 27, 2025.

Vote: 6/1/0

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

Abstentions: Crosbie

Absent: None

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

Dean John Makevich welcomed all to the Community Learning Center. He reviewed the wide variety of programs available on this campus and the diversity of students. He invited all to attend the Adult High School Commencement ceremony on May 22.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Career Education Update: Focus on Media Arts and Technology

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Pescarmona introduced faculty members from the Media Arts and Technology Department Leigh Cotnoir, Karl Cleveland, and Min Choi, who presented an overview of their program. Designed to serve non-traditional students, the program supports entry-level training and reskilling in response to evolving technologies. The team highlighted recent innovations, employer partnerships, and student employment outcomes.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. Approve Employment Contract for Professional Expert**
- C. Approve Classification of New Position and Job Description for Academic Services Specialist**
- D. Approve Increase to Hourly Pay Rates for College for Kids Counselors**
- E. Approve Out-of-Country Travel Request – David Parker**
- F. Approve Curriculum, Part III for 2025-2026 Catalog**
- G. Approve 2025/26 Instructional Material Fees List**
- H. Approve Renewal of Okta Identity and Access Management Security Software Licensing Subscription, Technical Support Services, and Maintenance**
- I. Approve Purchase through Community College Library Consortium for FY2026**
- J. Ratify Contracts and Approve Purchase Orders – February 21 through March 20, 2025**

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Conklin, consent items A-I were approved.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Clendening, consent item J was approved.

Vote: 6/1/0

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

Abstentions: Pedroza

Absent: None

VIII. ACTION

A. Adopt Resolution No. 16-24/25: Excuse Board Member Absence

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Merchat the board adopted with an amendment Resolution No. 16-24/25: Excuse Board Member Absence for Trustee Ann Crosbie.

Vote: 6/1/0

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

Abstentions: Crosbie

Absent: None

B. Adopt Resolution 14-24/25 – Authorizing Purchase of Blackbaud, Inc. Customer Relations Management Software

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board adopted Resolution 14-24/25 – Authorizing the purchase of Blackbaud, Inc. Customer Relations Management Software.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

C. Appoint Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Member

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Merchat, the board appointed an Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Member.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

D. Adopt Resolution 15-24/25 – Appoint New PARS Plan Administrator

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board adopted Resolution 15-24/25 – Appoint New PARS Plan Administrator.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

IX. PERIODIC REVIEW – BOARD POLICIES (Action Required)

A. Board Policy 4050 – Articulation

By motion of Trustee Crosbie, seconded by Trustee Pedroza, the board adopted Board Policy 4050 - Articulation

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

X. INFORMATION

A. Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Tim Flood introduced the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICBOC) members who were present, including incoming Chair Amy McNamara, outgoing Chair Josh Mazur, and current members Eleanor Evans, and Gigi Gleason. The report covered the committee's activities and proceedings for fiscal year 2024. It included a formal statement confirming that MiraCosta College fully complies with Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution.

B. Recommendation to Change from Flexible Academic Calendar to a Compressed Flexible Academic Calendar

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Pescarmona reported that in fall 2023, MiraCosta College formed an interdivisional Academic Calendar Task Force to build on past efforts and develop a transparent, inclusive process for reviewing and revising the academic calendar.

Led by the Academic Senate President, Curry Mitchell, the task force included representation from full-time and associate faculty, classified professionals, students, deans, and vice presidents from Instructional and Student Services. Meeting twice monthly throughout the 2023/24 academic year, the task force focused on four key objectives:

1. Sustaining inclusive outreach and collaboration
2. Creating 3–4 calendar models based on thorough research
3. Gathering stakeholder feedback via webinars, town halls, and surveys
4. Recommending a final calendar model for district adoption

All related materials, including FAQs, meeting minutes, and survey results, are available on the [MiraCosta Calendar Project](#) website.

XI. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

Trustee Crosbie attended MiraCosta's outstanding *Singin' in the Rain* production.

Trustee Merchat visited the San Elijo Campus Farmers Market.

Trustee Conklin participated in several events, including the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, where she proudly welcomed new inductees as a former PTK member. She also attended the Trans Day of Visibility downtown, the ribbon-cutting at the North County LGBTQ Resource Center, and the NAACP Blue and Gold event.

Trustee Clendening was present for a recent affiliation event at CSUSM as part of the Coalition for Black and African American Education, the TrueCare Gala and the Latino Book and Family Festival.

Trustee Anna Pedroza attended the Hispanic Network Breakfast at the San Elijo Campus. She appreciated MiraCosta's role in hosting this important monthly networking event.

Trustee Jackie Simon took a well-deserved spring break and looks forward to attending the Spring Celebration of Excellence on April 18.

President Cassar attended the Latino Book and Family Festival and the Farmers Market at the San Elijo Campus.

B. Students

Student Trustee Rahime Demirci reported that this year's ASG elections saw record student participation, with three well-attended candidate forums and an increase in students running for office, reflecting strong student engagement in shared governance.

MiraCosta College students attended the ASG General Assembly, where several presented at conference sessions. Three student-authored resolutions were passed, highlighting their active role in shaping statewide student policy and advocacy.

The ASG San Elijo Workgroup attended a recent Encinitas City Council meeting, where students delivered public comments advocating for improved biking infrastructure, showcasing their commitment to sustainability and community well-being.

Rahime proudly announced that the MiraCosta's Women's Rugby Team has qualified for Nationals next week, representing the college nationally and exemplifying excellence in athletics and teamwork.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Omar Jimenez reported that the Classified Senate has concluded their election of officers for 2025-2027. New senators include Susan Corley, Andrew Alvo, Anisha Jackson, Jorge Ramirez Ibanez, and Vice President Jennifer Streagle, and President Carl Banks. The officers will begin their roles on June 1.

D. Faculty

Academic President Curry Mitchell reported that it has been one year since students from the Sustainability Club successfully advocated for and secured the installation of refillable water stations across campus.

Guided Pathways – “Light the Fire” Event: Professor Thao Ha hosted a successful professional development event focused on integrating career skills into course design. The session, attended by 22 faculty members, provided space to build and share contextualized learning activities, focusing on aligning instruction with Guided Pathways goals.

Academic Senate Elections have been completed, and Jim Sullivan was elected as President-Elect, along with Robin Allyn, who will serve as Coordinating Officer for Associate Faculty. Three current senators were re-elected, and four new senators have joined the team.

MiraCosta will participate virtually in the ASCCC Spring Plenary, held in a dedicated space at the CLC. This will serve as a team-building opportunity for Senate leaders and faculty colleagues.

All current and incoming Academic Senate leaders and subcommittees will participate in a reflection meeting to debrief the year's work and help shape the annual report. The group will also begin goal-setting for the coming academic year.

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Pescarmona reported that as of yesterday, the college is reflecting a two percent increase in headcount and a 0.5 percent increase in Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES). This represents slow but steady, sustainable growth.

Fall 2025 marks a significant milestone as MiraCosta College becomes one of the first institutions in the state to implement Common Course Numbering (CCN). This statewide initiative streamlines course identification, making it easier for students to transfer and navigate their academic pathways. The first nine CCN courses will launch this fall. A new Program Mapper tool will also be released to help students visualize and easily plan their academic journey.

Pescarmona said that the performing arts season is in full swing and encouraged all to attend and support these amazing events.

2. Student Services

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Wojcik reported that MiraCosta College is in full swing with many end-of-semester events and celebrations on the calendar. This spring marks the largest number of graduation petitions submitted since before COVID-19. She gave a shout-out to our team of evaluators—for the first time in nine years, all graduation petitions will be evaluated before the end of the term. This achievement means that students will be able to receive their diplomas much faster.

The Pacific Coast Beach Volleyball Tournament returns tomorrow, bringing exciting competition and campus energy to our coastal courts. We encourage the campus community to come out and show support.

The summer and fall 2025 schedules are now available, and student registration begins May 5. Wojcik then congratulated Dr. Sunny Cooke for her outstanding leadership and representation of MiraCosta College at the recent American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Conference.

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood reported that a sinkhole was recently discovered in the driveway at the San Elijo Campus. Initial investigations, including using ground-penetrating radar, revealed that the void beneath the surface is significantly deeper than anticipated. Given the high-water table in the area, the district will proceed with coring and boring to determine the full extent of the issue. An emergency resolution will be presented to the Board next month to authorize necessary repairs and ensure the safety and accessibility of the campus.

A longstanding water leak was recently uncovered in Building 4800. This issue escalated when crews opened the wall and found extensive water damage requiring the removal of both interior wall surfaces down to the studs. Environmental testing is currently underway, after which the walls will be reconstructed.

Flood proudly announced that the Chemistry and Biotechnology building has been nominated for an award at the Construction Managers Association of America (CMAM).

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Schwartzkopf reported that Human Resources is in a particularly busy season, actively supporting 25 classified recruitments, 10 full-time faculty recruitments, and 15 additional recruitments are currently in progress

Last week, Human Resources launched the 10,000 Steps Challenge, and participation exceeded expectations with 169 employees signing up.

The college recently received updated benefit rate information, which reflects an increase for the upcoming year. Next week, a Fringe Benefits Committee meeting is scheduled to review the new rates and discuss implications for employees and the district.

The district's Leadership Development Program, designed and facilitated by the Executive Leadership Team, concludes on a high note. This year, 15 individuals participated in the program to cultivate internal talent and support professional growth. The final session will take place on May 1.

F. Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke reported that this past week, she attended the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference along with Drs Wojcik and Stewart. Dr. Alketa Wojcik delivered a powerful presentation on MiraCosta's Culture of Care, reinforcing the importance of connection, equity, and compassion in serving students and each other. Dr. Wendy Stewart and I also presented on Futures and Planning, engaging the campus in a meaningful conversation about preparing MiraCosta College for 2040 and beyond.

The California state audit of the 50 Percent Law was recently published. MiraCosta College received no findings or recommendations, reflecting our responsible and transparent fiscal practices. She noted several concerns in the data used, including the fact that the audit relied on inaccurate and poor-quality data, including miscounts of administrators. Also, despite seven prior attempts to modernize the 50 Percent Law, it continues to exclude the full salaries of essential faculty, such as librarians and counselors, from the instructional side of the calculation. And, finally, most frustratingly, the report failed to acknowledge the vital role of classified professionals, omitting any recognition of the direct support they provide to students.

Dr. Cooke also reported that we closely monitor developments at the U.S. Department of Education, where major changes are underway. The department is being dismantled, with nearly all staff from IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System)—our nation's primary higher education data system—being let go. Only three employees remain. This raises serious concerns about federal accountability, data integrity, and accreditation processes. The weakening of regulatory infrastructure may open the door for predatory institutions, which could have devastating effects on students, particularly those from vulnerable populations.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
President

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