



**MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
One Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA**

MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION MEETING

**MAY 15, 2025
(Approved June 26, 2025)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, in the Boardroom on the Oceanside Campus. President Rick Cassar called the meeting to order at 4:05 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 April 17, 2025

B. Regular Business Meeting of April 17, 2025

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the special/closed session meeting of April 17, 2025.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the board approved the minutes of the regular business meeting of April 17, 2025.

Vote: 7/0/0

Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, 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. IDEA Update

Chief IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Officer Dr. Wendy Stewart provided an annual update on progress toward established goals, key accomplishments and initiatives, and priorities for the upcoming year and beyond.

Since its establishment in November 2022 and transition to a permanent role in April 2024, the Office of IDEA has played a central role in advancing campus-wide equity and inclusion efforts. Under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Stewart, the college has made meaningful strides in institutionalizing IDEA practices, addressing student equity gaps, fostering inclusive environments, and expanding professional learning opportunities.

Over the past year, the office has focused on aligning its work with institutional planning efforts, strengthening cross-campus collaboration, and increasing engagement among students and employees. Bias education workshops and informational webinars have been offered, in which more than 200 employees participated. The IDEA advisory, established for intentional representation and a formalized way to communicate with fellow MiraCostans, continues to serve as hub. Campus-wide book reads have been valuable, and recommendations for the next book read are now being accepted and solidified over the summer.

Dr. Stewart added they are beginning to use a Futures framework, looking ahead ten years and beyond, as the new Equity Centers are being developed. The centers are expected to open next spring.

B. Facilities Futures Plan Presentation

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood, along with Gensler's Deborah Shepley, presented the final Facilities Futures Plan. He demonstrated how to find and utilize the plan on the website, which allows users to navigate the district map, campus maps, the planning process, and the individual campus plans. The website is visually appealing and very interactive, with links that allow the user to select specific aspects of the plans that are of particular interest for a deeper dive. Additionally, future educational planning and technology planning can be tied into this website.

In summer 2023, MiraCosta College began a comprehensive update of its 10-year Facilities Plan, guided by the Educational Plan and a strong emphasis on sustainability and future-readiness. The nearly two-year development process followed five key phases—prepare, analyze, frame, explore, and recommend—to review data, gather campus and community feedback, and shape a forward-thinking, inclusive vision for the college's physical environment.

The resulting Facilities Futures Plan (FFP) outlines a high-level blueprint for creating equitable, collaborative, and adaptable spaces. After being shared with governance groups and the campus community last fall, the plan was presented to the Board of Trustees for adoption.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. Approve Revised Employment Contract for Professional Expert**
- C. Approve Employment Contract for Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services**
- D. Approve Health and Welfare Benefits Program for the 2025/26 Benefit Year**
- E. Approve Curriculum Approval for 2025-2026 Catalog, Part IV**
- F. Approve Cathedral Catholic High School Course Agreement for Summer 2025 Course Offerings**
- G. Approve Summer 2025 Program Components for the Oceanside Unified School District CCAP Dual Enrollment Program**
- H. Approve increase to enrollment fees for the Child Development Center for academic years 2025/26 and 2026/27**
- I. Adopt Resolution No. 17-24/25 Education Protection Account**
- J. Approve Award of RFP 9-25 Human Resources Recruitment Advertising**
- K. Approve Purchase of NextGen RCS Console from Motorola Solutions, Inc.**
- L. Approve Amendment 1 for the Health Services Academy, Inc.**
- M. Ratify Budget Transfers/Revisions**
- N. Ratify Contracts and Approve Purchase Orders – March 21 through April 21, 2025**

Consent items H and K were pulled for discussion.

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Conklin, consent items A-G, I, J, and L-N 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 Conklin, consent item H was approved.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

Advisory Aye Vote: Demirci (Student Trustee)

Trustee Conklin left the Boardroom.

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

Vote: 6/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: Conklin (recused)

Trustee Conklin returned to the Boardroom.

VIII. ACTION

A. Adopt Resolution No. 18-24/25 to Officially Withdraw Membership in the San Diego Risk Management Workers' Compensation Joint Powers Authority, effective July 1, 2025

By motion of Trustee Merchat, seconded by Trustee Conklin the board adopted Resolution No. 18-24/25 to officially withdraw membership in the San Diego Risk Management Workers' Compensation Joint Powers Authority as stated.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

B. Adopt Facilities Futures Plan

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Merchat, the board adopted the Facilities Futures Plan as presented.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

C. Approve Extension of Lease Agreement with Class Leasing, LLC for Oceanside Campus – Temporary Facilities

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Merchat, the board approved the extension of lease agreement with Class Leasing, LLC, for the Oceanside Campus – temporary facilities.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

IX. FIRST READING – BOARD POLICIES

A. Board Policy 4100 – Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates

B. Board Policy 4100C - Graduation Requirements for Adult High School Diploma and Noncredit Certificates

Board Policies 4100 and 4100C were reviewed and discussed, and the policies will be placed on a future agenda for adoption by the board.

X. PERIODIC REVIEW – BOARD POLICIES (Action Required)

A. Board Policy 2015 – Student Trustee

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the board adopted Board Policy 2015 – Student Trustee.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

Advisory Aye Vote: Demirci (Student Trustee)

XI. INFORMATION

A. Third Quarter Fiscal Report

The Third Quarter Fiscal Report was provided for information.

XII. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

Board trustees have been actively engaging in various events and legislative efforts to support students and strengthen connections across the district. End-of-year activities and celebrations have been especially plentiful and well-attended.

Date	Event	Attending
April 18	Spring Celebration of Excellence	Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Merchat, Simon
April 22	Ruha Benjamin Event	Cassar, Clendening, Merchat
April 26	EOPS Student Recognition Ceremony	Cassar, Simon
May 1	Medal of Academic Merit	Merchat
May 1	Monarch Celebration	Conklin, Merchat
May 2	Veterans Services Graduation Celebration	Cassar, Clendening
May 4	STREAM Festival	Cassar, Clendening, Conklin
May 4	Festival de Musica Latina	Cassar, Clendening, Conklin
May 6	Mana Fa'au'uga Celebration	Cassar, Merchat
May 7	Puente End of Year Celebration	Conklin, Crosbie, Pedroza
May 8	Lavender Celebration	Conklin, Merchat
May 9	Math Scholarship Awards	Merchat
May 9	Celebracion de Excelencia	Conklin
May 14	Rites of Passage (Black Graduation)	Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Pedroza, Simon
May 15	SDNEDC Summit	Clendening, Conklin, Pedroza
May 16	RAFFY Recognition Ceremony	Merchat, Simon
May 16	Transitions Scholars End of Year Celebration	Conklin
May 21	Biomanufacturing Graduation	Conklin, Merchat, Pedroza
May 22	RN Pinning	Clendening, Merchat
May 22	Adult High School Graduation	Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Pedroza
May 23	Commencement	Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Merchat

Trustees Cassar and Merchat attended the MiraCosta Theatre performance of The Odd Couple, and they commented it was one of the best performances they had ever seen.

Trustee Merchat attended the recent Board Facilities Liaison Committee meeting and commended Tim Flood and his team for their outstanding work and leadership in managing the district's facilities projects. Their continued dedication supports the successful implementation of MiraCosta's long-term capital improvement goals.

Trustee Clendening has been actively representing MiraCosta College at several key events this spring. She attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Congressman Mike Levin's district office in Carlsbad, showing MiraCosta's continued support for regional

and federal partnerships. Trustee Clendening also celebrated student milestones at the NAACP Black Graduation on May 4 and the GEAR UP Celebration on May 5, both of which recognized student achievement and community engagement. Additionally, she participated in the WASC Accreditation Visit alongside Trustee Cassar. Accreditation team members were notably impressed by the collaboration between the Board of Trustees and college staff, offering supportive and complimentary feedback. Trustee Clendening also attended the recent MiraCosta College Foundation Board meeting, where she noted the Foundation's diligent efforts to raise and distribute funds that directly support students' educational success and well-being.

Trustee Conklin attended the Asian and Pacific Islander Festival in Oceanside, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the AAPI community.

Trustee Crosbie has actively participated in several recent community forums, where she shared news of MiraCosta College's Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Award, highlighting how voter-supported bond dollars are delivering impactful results across campus facilities. Additionally, Trustee Crosbie was invited by Assemblymember Sharp-Collins to participate in Assembly District 79's education committee, which meets quarterly to discuss legislative and budgetary issues affecting education.

Trustee Cassar attended the recent College and Career Night held at MiraCosta's San Elijo Campus, a collaborative event co-hosted with the San Dieguito Union High School District. The evening provided students and families with valuable information on academic pathways, career opportunities, and resources available through MiraCosta College and regional partners, reinforcing the college's commitment to early college outreach and student success.

Trustee Simon was recently celebrated for her 20 years of dedicated service by the Community College League of California at its recent conference. Board President Cassar congratulated Trustee Simon and expressed deep appreciation for Trustee Simon's long-standing commitment, leadership, and contributions to the success and growth of the college and its students over the past two decades.

Trustee Cassar, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, expressed sincere appreciation to Student Trustee Rahime Demirci and Classified Senate President Omar Jimenez as they concluded their terms of service. Both were recognized for their dedication, leadership, and meaningful contributions to the MiraCosta College community.

B. Students

Student Trustee Rahime Demirci congratulated newly elected ASG leaders for the upcoming year:

Diego Padilla, ASG President

Federico Caion Demaestri, Student Trustee

Darya Forutanpour, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Gina Bonilla Cetina, Vice President for the Community Learning Center

Dottie Amézquita Monahan, Vice President for San Elijo

Demirci reported the MiraCosta College Women's Rugby team advanced to the Division III Cup Elite Eight last week. After beating defending champ and Number 1 seed Yale University on April 26, the team was knocked out of competition in the next round by the team from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania.

Demirci shared that she will be transferring to UC Berkeley in the fall, and she expressed heartfelt appreciation for MiraCosta College and the unwavering support she received from faculty, staff, and coaches, crediting that support as a key part of her success. She has witnessed the transformative impact of athletics and student support services on academic and personal achievement.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Omar Jimenez reported that CS is working to institutionalize and embed a Caring Campus initiative framework. On June 13, MiraCosta College will host the State of the Caring Campus, an event designed to highlight the impactful work being done by classified professionals to foster a more connected, inclusive, and student-centered campus culture. Following the event, approximately 30–40 classified staff will engage more deeply in the work by showcasing progress, sharing best practices, and discussing next steps in embedding Caring Campus principles across departments. The gathering will also explore opportunities for leadership development and professional growth, reinforcing the vital role of classified professionals in student success.

A Caring Campus session for administrators will be held on August 1, from 9–11 a.m.

This work will continue under new leadership, as Carl Banks assumes the role of Classified Senate President effective June 1. His presidency marks a continued commitment to collaboration, care, and community building at MiraCosta College.

D. Faculty

Academic President Curry Mitchell reported on a range of faculty-driven professional development initiatives, reflections on end-of-semester student experiences, and a preview of key upcoming Senate business.

The "Light the Fire" summer institute was recently announced, with invitations sent to faculty, especially those newer to the college. This two-day event will focus on career integration into the curriculum on the first day and AI in teaching on the second day. Interest has been strong, reflecting growing faculty engagement in evolving instructional practices.

Jim Sullivan, who has led the "Joyful Teacher" initiative, is concluding his tenure in this role. His work has included themed resources and discussions around teaching with technology, post-COVID pedagogy, STEM education, and mindfulness. Sullivan also curated and promoted access to the AI Discovery Lab archive, a valuable online resource of 21 recorded sessions led by faculty, students, and AI curriculum leaders. Erica Duran, from the noncredit program, will carry forward the "Joyful Teacher" work starting this summer.

As part of tomorrow's Academic Senate meeting, members will review the senate's annual report, which captures accomplishments across all subcommittees and outlines forward-looking priorities. Evidence of breaking down silos and building cross-functional engagement is emerging, though this remains a long-term goal.

A personal reflection was shared by Mitchell from time spent in the Learning Center observing students engaging in tutoring, studying, and simply continuing to show up. While end-of-year ceremonies highlight achievements and milestones, it's equally important to recognize students' ongoing effort and persistence. The Learning Center, in that sense, serves as a living metaphor for striving, growth, and the heart of what teaching truly supports.

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Pescarmona recognized the Adult High School for their recent successful accreditation, a significant accomplishment that reflects the dedication of faculty and staff in supporting adult learners on their educational journey.

Pescarmona also noted the celebration of Cindy Dudley, who will retire on June 30, after years of committed service to the college, including being instrumental in the success of the recent Adult High School accreditation. She expressed her gratitude for Cindy's contributions and wished her the best in retirement.

Summer and fall enrollment is currently up slightly over last year, which is encouraging. Priority registration has been completed, and open registration for summer and fall continues.

Pescarmona shared the college, over the last academic year, offered more than 3,000 course sections, generating approximately 1.2 million student learning hours, not including the extensive training conducted at TCI. Nineteen new credit and noncredit courses were introduced, including a new Certificate in Data Sciences, and she acknowledged the faculty who led this innovative effort.

While we celebrate these achievements, articulation continues to be a system-wide challenge, especially in aligning courses with UC and CSU pathways. The college remains committed to strengthening these partnerships to ensure seamless transfer opportunities for our students.

Pescarmona shared exciting news about 80 middle school families who recently expressed interest in a new opportunity for their children to begin taking biotechnology courses while enrolled in the Oceanside Unified School District. These students will be dually enrolled at MiraCosta, with a pathway to eventually join our biomanufacturing bachelor's degree program—a remarkable model for early college engagement and career readiness, and inclusive workforce development.

Pescarmona expressed deep gratitude to Alketa for her leadership as we near the conclusion of the current Five-Year Educational Futures Master Plan. Planning dialogue continues, and we look forward to sharing the outcomes and future direction with the broader community at All College Day in August. She thanked MiraCostans for their continued support as another impactful academic year is closed out.

2. Student Services

Vice President/Assistant Superintendent Wojcik submitted a written report. She thanked Jimenez and Demirci for their outstanding service and advocacy for students. They did a remarkable job in elevating the voices of classified professionals and students.

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood thanked the board, Superintendent/President Cooke, and the college community for their ongoing support of the Facilities Futures Planning. He extended a special thanks to Gensler for their valuable collaboration and insight throughout this important process. He shared sincere appreciation for Zak Ruvalcaba and the ITS team for their dedication to integrating Facilities Futures into the district website.

Flood shared a warm thank you to the board for approving Elba Gomez's contract as incoming Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services. An overlap period will ensure a smooth transition—the college is in excellent hands.

Flood proudly shared that MiraCosta has been recognized by the San Diego Chapter of the Construction Managers Association of America (CMAA) for our Chemistry/Biotechnology project—an achievement that reflects an ongoing commitment to excellence in capital project management.

The new pedestrian bridge on the Oceanside Campus will officially open on Friday, May 16. A celebration is scheduled for May 21 from 8–10:30 a.m. at the bridge, which will include a milestone group photo. This project marks another important step forward in improving campus accessibility and infrastructure.

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Schwartzkopf thanked the Human Resources (HR) recruitment team as we enter the home stretch of faculty and classified professional hiring. We're actively finalizing 10 full-time faculty hires and 25 classified professional recruitments—an incredible effort that supports our college's continued growth and excellence.

Schwartzkopf thanked the Board of Trustees for approving the Health and Wellness plans for next year. Communication of details to employees will begin shortly, with open enrollment scheduled to begin August 8.

The HR Operations team has done an outstanding job supporting our student workers, particularly with the upcoming transition to a tiered student worker pay structure. This change streamlines the process and improves consistency, and we're working closely with departments to ensure a smooth rollout. Tier rates will be brought forward to the board for approval in June.

Classified Professionals Week is next week, and we'll take time to recognize and appreciate the dedicated work and contributions of our classified professionals across the district. We are grateful for all they do to support student success and operational excellence.

F. Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke noted this past week has been filled with numerous campus events, and she expressed her sincere appreciation to the Board of Trustees, college leaders, and especially employees and student workers. It truly takes a village to bring these events to life to celebrate our students, and the collective effort across the district is a testament to our strong, collaborative culture.

She acknowledged that this coming week, the final stretch of the semester, is a particularly stressful time for everyone—students, faculty, and classified professionals alike. She expressed gratitude for the commitment and compassion our teams continue to demonstrate during this high-pressure period.

In addition to thanking Demirci and Jimenez as they prepare to depart from their current roles, Cooke congratulated Trustee Simon, who is celebrating 20 years of dedicated service to MiraCosta College as a trustee, an incredible milestone and a reflection of her dedication.

Looking ahead, she is excited to welcome Elba Gomez to our team in mid-June, and we look forward to the energy and expertise she will bring to her new role.

On the advocacy front, MiraCosta has been active at the federal level. She thanked Kristen Gonzales for submitting a formal letter and advocacy on behalf of the college in opposition to the proposed Pell Grant cuts included in the House Education Reconciliation legislation. While we support positive reforms like Workforce Pell and the Tax-Free Pell Grant Act, we voiced serious concern over provisions that would limit aid for low-income and working students. Over 2,700 MiraCosta students could lose nearly \$3.3 million in Pell funding if full-time status is redefined as 15 units and aid for less-than-half-time students is eliminated. Objections were also raised to proposed risk-sharing models that would penalize open-access colleges based on student repayment and earnings data, disproportionately impacting institutions like ours.

The college continues to advocate for sustained federal support of programs like GEAR UP and NSF Grants, which are critical to student access and workforce readiness.

While it's been a challenging semester, it has also been a remarkable year. Our transfer rates remain strong, and the continued dedication of our entire college community has been nothing short of inspiring.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
President

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