



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF BOARD WORKSHOP

January 15, 2026
(Approved February 19, 2026)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in a workshop on Thursday, January 15, 2026, in the John MacDonald Boardroom on the Oceanside Campus. President Frank Merchat called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Rick Cassar	Frank Merchat
Raye Clendening	Anna Pedroza
Heather Conklin	Jacqueline Simon
Ann Crosbie	

Administrators present:

Superintendent/President Sunita V. Cooke
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Hayley Schwartzkopf

Others present:

AGB Seach Consultant Dr. Kim Bobby

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

None.

IV. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Contract for Search Firm to Conduct Superintendent/President Search for MiraCosta College

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Cassar, the Board approved the contract for AGB Search to conduct the superintendent/president search for MiraCosta College as stated.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: 0

Absent: None

VI. CEO SEARCH WORKSHOP

Dr. Kim Bobby from Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Search facilitated the workshop and informed the Board about best practices in the executive search process, from forming and organizing a search committee, through the appointment and the leadership transition process.

The workshop framed the philosophy, design, and implementation of a successful presidential search. Trustees reviewed tested practices, discussed common pitfalls and how to avoid them, and had the opportunity to ask questions about the process.

A draft timeline for the search process was shared with the Board, which includes scheduling listening sessions for each of the employee groups, students, and the community – an opportunity for them to express important characteristics in a new superintendent/president and to identify priorities and challenges for which a new leader should be prepared. A survey link will also be available where written comments can be made.

The timeline also includes the formation of the hiring committee. Trustees Merchat, Clendening, and Crosbie volunteered to take an active role in the search by being involved in the screening and interviewing committee or on the transition committee. Vice President Denee Pescarmona will serve as co-chair of the hiring committee, and nominations will be solicited from each of the employee groups and ASG for committee members. It was noted that confidentiality agreements will be signed by all of individuals serving on the hiring committee. An anti-bias workshop will be included as part of the process, as well as the completion of MiraCosta’s hiring committee training.

A separate transition committee will be formed to help set the new superintendent/president up for success.

The Board discussed challenges and priorities for a new superintendent/president, as well as opportunities and beneficial attributes in candidates.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.