



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2026
(Approved March 12, 2026)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in the Boardroom (1068) on the Oceanside Campus. President Merchat called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

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

Administrators present:

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Elba Gomez
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Hayley Schwartzkopf
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik

The Board held a moment of silence to recognize those who have had negative impacts on their lives, their families, and their communities resulting from over-policing, over-enforcing, and the failure to grant constitutional rights to individuals in this country. Trustee Merchat read a statement regarding immigration enforcement and reiterated MiraCosta's commitment to supporting all of our students and the need for civility, even when views differ.

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

- A. Special Meeting/Closed Session of January 15, 2026
- B. Workshop of January 15, 2026
- C. Special Meeting/Closed Session of January 22, 2026
- D. Regular Business Meeting of January 22, 2026

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the board approved the minutes of the special meeting/closed session and the workshop of January 15, 2026, and the special meeting/closed session and regular business meeting of January 22, 2026.

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

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

The Board acknowledged the retirement of Jeanne Koschwanez, the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President, who has served MiraCosta College and the Board for 16 years. Board members expressed their gratitude for Jeanne's work and positive attitude.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2025 Annual District and Measure MM Audit Presentation

The 2025 Annual District and Measure MM Audit Presentation was pulled from the agenda and will be brought to the Board's March meeting.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. Approve Academic Personnel Advancement**
- C. Approve New Job Description, Manager, Digital Accessibility and Compliance**
- D. Approve PUENTE Project Agreement**
- E. Approve Curriculum for 2026-2027 Catalog, Part II**
- F. Approve FY2026/27 Nonresident Tuition Fee**
- G. Approve Astute Business Solutions for Oracle Cloud Planning and Migration Services**
- H. Approve Price Increase for Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Services for Cloud Based Hosting**
- I. Approve Renewal of Nth Generation Computing for Arctic Wolf Security Software and Services**
- J. Ratify Budget Transfers/Revisions**
- K. Approve Guaranteed Maximum Price and Corresponding Change Order to Design-Build Services Contract for the Oceanside B4700 Professional Development Renovation Project**
- L. Ratify and Approve Contracts and Purchase Orders**

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Clendening, consent items A through L were approved.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: Cassar

Absent: None

VIII. SECOND READ – BOARD POLICIES (Action Required)

A. Board Policy 3440 – Service Animals on Campus

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Crosbie, the Board adopted Board Policy 3440.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

B. Board Policy 3720 – Computer and Network Use

By motion of Trustee Cassar, seconded by Trustee Crosbie, the Board adopted Board Policy 3720.

Vote: 7/0/0
Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

C. Board Policy 4220 – Standards of Scholarship

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Cassar, the Board adopted Board Policy 4220.

Vote: 7/0/0
Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

D. Board Policy 6150 – Designation of Authorized Signatures

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee Cassar, the Board adopted Board Policy 6150.

Vote: 7/0/0
Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

E. Board Policy 6250 – Budget Management

By motion of Trustee Cassar, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the Board adopted Board Policy 6250.

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 5500 – Standards of Student Conduct

By motion of Trustee Cassar, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the Board adopted Board Policy 5500.

Vote: 7/0/0
Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, Crosbie, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adopt Resolution No. 13-25/26 – Excuse Board Member Absence

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the Board adopted Resolution No. 13-25/26 to excuse the absence of Trustee Cassar from the January 22, 2026, Board meeting.

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

XI. INFORMATION

A. Report Update of Emergency Declaration and Emergency Actions to Elevator Repair at the Oceanside Campus Building 14 Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Gomez reported the elevator in the Student Services Building, which has been inoperable since an incident occurred on September 8, 2025, is finally now fixed and up and running. The final cost is estimated at approximately \$57,000.

B. Second Quarter Fiscal Report

The Second Quarter Fiscal Report was provided for information.

C. Superintendent/President Search Update

Trustee Merchat thanked the campus community for its partnership and continued commitment to a successful search process, and he thanked those who participated in the listening sessions for their meaningful engagement, which helped inform the profile for the recruitment of our next superintendent/president. The Board deeply appreciates the time, thoughtfulness, and candor shared throughout the process.

The announcement with the job profile has been posted on our website and is being actively advertised in various publications. The campus community is encouraged to nominate individuals who match the position profile.

The screening and interviewing committee has been finalized with representatives from every constituency group for the college. They met last week for the first time to begin their work on the hiring process. The timeline was reviewed and questions are being developed to ask potential candidates. The committee and the Board will undergo anti-bias training.

XII. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

All Board trustees attended the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA) Trustee Dinner at Southwestern College.

Trustees Crosbie, Merchat, and Pedroza attended the National Legislative Summit (NLS) in Washington, D.C., alongside Dr. Cooke and Executive Director of Public and Governmental Relations, Marketing, and Communications Kristen Gonzales.

Trustee Pedroza expressed concern about the lack of open dialogue and differing opinions at the NLS, noting the importance of elected officials, as representatives of the community, appreciating differences of opinions and looking for commonalities and ways in which they can work together.

Trustees Clendening, Conklin, and Crosbie attended the Community College League of California's Effective Trustee Conference and the Legislative Summit conference in Sacramento, which provided opportunities to engage with and learn from other board members and trustees. They also enjoyed hearing directly from students who emphasized the importance of support in their academic endeavors.

Trustee Conklin participated in the annual Point-in-Time count in Oceanside to help collect data that informs service providers and policymakers regarding the need for assistance and resources for those experiencing homelessness.

Trustee Conklin shared the California Community College Women's Caucus will hold an International Women's Day event, themed *Celebrating Phenomenal Women*, on March 6 at Fullerton College. Additionally, she shared Pride by the Beach will be held on June 6, with the theme *The Fabric of Community*.

Trustee Clendening attended the MiraCosta women's basketball game on January 28, the Women of Dedication Induction Luncheon hosted by the Salvation Army on January 29, the campus opening ceremony for Black History Month on February 4, and she participated via Zoom in the Social Mobility Conference hosted by California State University, San Marcos.

Trustee Simon attended a virtual listening session with Trustee Conklin, during which community members discussed the qualities they would like to see in the next leader of the college.

Trustees Cassar, Merchat, and Simon and Cassar all attended the Cardiff Farmers Market on February 14.

Trustee Cassar reported that he attended two women's basketball games and one men's basketball game. He noted the women's team remains undefeated and is highly ranked in the state.

At the men's basketball game, Terry Burgess, a former president at San Diego City College, was recognized for his service and dedication. Trustee Cassar emphasized the importance of acknowledging individuals who have dedicated their careers to serving students.

Trustee Merchat reported that he is serving as co-chair of the presidential search committee and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work alongside Curry Mitchell, Carl Banks, Denée Pescarmona, Hayley Schwartzkopf, Elba Gomez, Diego Padilla, and Julie Bollerud, as well as other committee members.

B. Student Trustee

Vice President Wojcik shared that ASG efforts continue with filling vacant positions. A successful Club Rush was held, featuring many new and returning clubs. During the event, the Inter-Club Council hosted a fundraiser to support student clubs, raising more than \$500.

Dr. Wojcik shared that 25 students will attend the San Diego State Leadership Summit on March 7. In addition, six students have been selected to represent MiraCosta at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges General Assembly in San Francisco in March, where legislative advocacy and student leadership issues will be discussed at the statewide level.

Associated Student Government (ASG) leaders also met with the North County African American Women's Association to discuss their leadership journeys and experiences at MiraCosta.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Carl Banks reported a recent CS meeting included a robust discussion that was disruptive and did not adhere to appropriate meeting decorum. As a result, meeting format changes have been implemented to help ensure a safe and respectful environment for attendees.

Access to Classified Executive Officers and Senators has been enhanced through the SharePoint portal page. A process has been established to collect, track, and respond to constituent feedback and suggestions.

The Classified Senate is collaborating with constituents to develop questions for the upcoming Classified Senate survey and has begun recruitment efforts for shared governance committees for the upcoming year.

D. Faculty

Academic Senate (AS) President Curry Mitchell shared numerous professional development activities focused on artificial intelligence (AI) that have been held and are forthcoming. On January 30, the Statewide Academic Senate and the Chancellor's Office hosted a webinar addressing the challenges of agentic AI. On March 14, NCHEA will host a conference titled Instruction with Imagination and Influence at Palomar College. On March 19, the Statewide Senate will hold a conference on AI and academia in Costa Mesa. Lastly, on April 17, the Statewide Chancellor's Office is planning an on-campus watch party to be held across the state.

MiraCosta's AI Discovery Labs continue weekly on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Room 4803B and via Zoom, hosted by Rick White and Jim Sullivan. In addition, "30/30/30 AI Communities of Practice" meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Erica Duran is developing a website to curate workshop recordings and resource guides for pedagogical professional development. This will complement the YouTube channel and regular newsletter already established.

The Academic Senate is nearing completion of its election process. Open positions include Vice President of the Academic Senate, five full-time faculty senator seats, and two associate faculty senator seats.

The Academic Senate continues to advance its priority of educating its members on student-centered scheduling and is also reviewing AP 7160 (Professional Development) in two phases to align with new Title 5 regulations, with a March 17 deadline.

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona reported 12 MiraCosta Theatre students participated in at the National level as in the American College Theater Festival, and 3 students advanced to the finals. One of the finalists, Wyatt Van Hazel, is also starring in the MiraCosta Theatre production of *Cinderella*, opening March 5. She encouraged all to attend *Cinderella*, as well as the campus Art Gallery to view the *In Print* exhibit currently on display.

The College is working on two systemwide implementation initiatives from the Chancellor's Office. The first is a new standardized attendance accounting method, with a committee working to ensure compliance by 2027. The second is a districtwide conversion from TOP (Taxonomy of Programs) to CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) codes by fall 2027. This transition involves Administrative Services, Instructional Services, and faculty through the curriculum process, and it will subsequently impact the budget process, as all budget codes are currently tied to TOP codes. Appreciation was expressed to the various groups and colleagues engaged in this significant systemwide change.

Lastly, it was announced that 14 Honors students have been accepted to the Honors Transfer Council of California conference at University of California, Riverside and will present in March.

2. Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Wojcik reported the women's basketball team finished the season 27-0. She emphasized, however, that the greatest achievements of our student-athletes are academic, and this showed in fall 2025, when every athletic team maintained an average GPA of 3.1 or higher.

Southwestern College visited MiraCosta's Student Services Building to observe the "one-stop shop" model and explore how to implement a similar structure at their campus.

Outreach and the Public Information Office are preparing a welcome letter to all high school students, planned for early April and timed with university acceptance letters. The initiative aims to help students feel connected to the MiraCosta community.

Thanks was expressed to the committee for organizing the Lunar New Year celebration held today. Also recognized were the contributions of the Black Alliance, Office of IDEA, and Student Equity for events held during Black History Month.

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Gomez reported she is working on the programming of the Facilities Futures Plan. An update on the plan and associated costs will be provided to the Board in May.

Meetings with faculty regarding sustainability efforts are ongoing and have focused on policies and physical changes

Daniel Sanfelice from Accelerate was introduced as the project manager for the implementation of the agenda management system; he will work with a team of MiraCostans to implement the system. He is expected to be involved for the next three to four months and will meet with stakeholders as needed.

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Schwartzkopf reported fulltime faculty committee training is underway, and candidate pools, which have been released to the hiring committees, are large and diverse.

Updates to AP 7160 are in progress, with collaboration from the Academic Senate, Classified Senate, and Administrators Committee, for compliance with new Title 5 regulations by the March 17 deadline. Appreciation was expressed for the significant amount of work this process entails.

A new classification and compensation study is also in progress, with vendors currently being selected and ranked.

The EEO Advisory Committee is updating the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan for 2026–2029. Once finalized, the plan will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for review before being presented to the Board. While the Chancellor's Office

completes its review within the required 90-day period, feedback will be requested from the campus community.

Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Cooke was attending the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) conference, where she received the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award. Vice President Alketa Wojcik, spoke on her behalf.

On June 13, the Oceanside Campus will host a fundraising event in honor of Dr. Cooke's retirement. Donations are being collected for the Sunny Futures Fund, which will remain unrestricted to support student success. In addition, mini *Cookies with Cooke* events are being organized at all four campus locations to allow faculty and staff to share time with Dr. Cooke. These events are scheduled: San Elijo Campus on April 29 from 2–3:30 p.m. in SAN 1131; Technology Career Institute on May 6 from 1–2:30 p.m. in the TCI Community Room; Community Learning Center on May 8 from 3–4:30 p.m. in CLC Building 300; and the Oceanside Campus on May 15 from 2:30–4 p.m. at the OCN Fountain.

Appreciation was expressed for Jeanne Koschwanez and her work and dedication to the College, and Elizabeth Lurenana was welcomed as the interim replacement.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Frank Merchat
President

Alketa Wojcik
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President