



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP

MARCH 12, 2026
(APPROVED APRIL 16, 2026)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, March 12, 2026, in the Room 1131 on the San Elijo Campus. President Merchat called the meeting to order at 1:32 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:

Superintendent/President Sunita Cooke
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Elba Gomez
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Hayley Schwartzkopf
Associate Vice President and Chief IDEA Officer Wendy Stewart

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

None.

IV. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

I. HIRING COMMITTEE TRAINING WORKSHOP

With extensive experience in anti-bias training, both Hayley Schwartzkopf, assistant superintendent/vice president of Human Resources and Dr. Wendy Stewart, associate vice president and chief IDEA officer, provided a two-hour session focused on best practices for equitable hiring and effective search processes to ensure the Board of Trustees and the hiring committee received guidance grounded in proven strategies. Applicable state and federal nondiscrimination laws, the educational benefits of workforce diversity, and the identification and elimination of bias in hiring decisions were covered. The training was designed to help participants recognize unconscious bias and apply safeguards that support a fair, equitable, and high-integrity search process.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Frank Merchat
President

Sunita V. Cooke
Superintendent/President