



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 16, 2026
(APPROVED MAY 14, 2026)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, April 16, 2026, in the Community Room at the Community Learning Center. 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:

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

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Special Meeting/Closed Session of March 12, 2026

B. Workshop of March 12, 2026

C. Regular Business Meeting of March 12, 2026

By motion of Trustee Cassar, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the Board approved the minutes of the special meeting/closed session of March 12, 2026.

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

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the Board approved the minutes of the workshop of March 12, 2026.

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 March 12, 2026.

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

Diego Padilla, Associate Student Government (ASG) president, reported that the delegation connected with student leaders at the SSCCC Annual General Assembly, ASG elections are underway, the Legislative Affairs Workgroup is engaging with local legislators, voter outreach events are planned for early May, and a student banquet is scheduled for April 23 at 5:00 PM in the Oceanside Cafeteria.

Maria-Isabel Rocha-Duarte, HSI Project Grant Director, addressed the elimination of the Title V grant, advocated for continued commitment to Latinx students, and emphasized the importance of the HSI designation remaining central to MiraCosta's identity.

Several students expressed concern over the elimination of the Title V grant and HSI Project Grant Director position, and they advocated for continued commitment to Hispanic-Serving Institution values.

Several associate faculty members commented on the need for consistency in assignments, sharing personal stories and colleague experiences. They advocated for the recognition of faculty longevity and expertise and highlighted the value of associate faculty contributions.

Andrew McKinnell, president of the Spartan Society for Political Action Club and chair of the Inter Club Council, shared survey findings that show most students exceed textbook vouchers and the additional cost to students can be a barrier in completing their education. He expressed the need for expanded zero-cost textbooks and greater financial transparency in the enrollment process, so students are aware of the anticipated textbook cost prior to enrollment.

V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

Information Item X.B was moved up in the agenda, and Trustee Merchat gave a brief description on the role of the Board Parliamentarian.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Spotlight on Career Education Programs and Outcomes - Design

Dean Annie Ngo, joined by faculty members Paul Clark and David Parker from the Design Department, discussed data, challenges, and opportunities for career development.

The presentation showcased MiraCosta's Career Education programs, specifically highlighting the Design Department's applied learning model. This approach empowers students to progress from certificates to degrees while gaining hands-on experience through maker lab projects and industry partnerships.

With rising enrollment and strong retention rates, the program is successfully bridging the gap between the classroom and the workforce, propelling students toward top-tier universities and high-paying careers. By prioritizing robust internship pathways, facility renovations, and a commitment to equity, MiraCosta is effectively

aligning its curriculum with industry demands to ensure every graduate is prepared for professional success.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Ratify Recommendations of Superintendent/President in Approving Personnel Actions**
- B. Approve Professional Experts Salary Schedule Human Resources Consultant**
- C. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding 26-02 with Faculty Assembly (New Full-Time Faculty Institute)**
- D. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding 26-01 with Associate Faculty (Light the Fire)**
- E. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding 26-03 with Faculty Assembly (Light the Fire)**
- F. Approve Job Description, Chief Information Systems Officer and Salary Schedule**
- G. Approve Curriculum for 2026-2027 Catalog, Part III**
- H. Approve College and Career Access Pathway Partnership Agreement with Coastal Academy Charter**
- I. Approve College and Career Access Pathway Partnership Agreement with San Marcos Unified School District**
- J. Approve 2026-2027 Material Fees List**
- K. Approve Legal Services Rate Amendment**
- L. Approve AV Equipment Purchase for Classroom Technology Refresh and Replacement**
- M. Approve District-Wide Mechanical Equipment Replacement Project**
- N. Approve District-Wide Modernization Project**
- O. Approve Oceanside Campus Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment Project**
- P. Approve Contract for RFP #03-26 Classification and Compensation Study to The Segal Company**
- Q. Approve Oceanside Campus Existing Leased Modular Buildings Purchase Project**
- R. Approve Purchase from Community College Library Consortium for FY2027**
- S. Approve Renewal of Okta Identity and Access Management Security Software**
- T. Ratify and Approve Contracts and Purchase Orders**

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Clendening, consent items A through T were approved.

Vote: 7/0/0

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

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

VIII. FIRST READ – BOARD POLICIES

A. Board Policy 2200 – Board Duties and Responsibilities

Proposed edits to Board Policy 2200 were reviewed and discussed. The policy will be placed on a future agenda for adoption by the Board.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Adopt Resolution No. 14-25/26 to Reduce or Eliminate Classified Services

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the Board adopted Resolution No. 14-25/26 to reduce or eliminate classified services as stated.

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

B. Approve MiraCosta Community College District Classified Employee Manual

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the Board approved the MiraCosta Community College District Classified Employee Manual as presented.

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

C. Appoint ICBOC Member

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the Board appointed Ian Vargas Polo as the ICBOC student member.

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

D. Adopt Resolution No. 15-25/26: Authorize Purchase of Modular Buildings from Class Leasing, LLC

By motion of Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Clendening, the Board adopted Resolution No. 15-25/26 to authorize the purchase of modular buildings from Class Leasing, LLC.

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

E. Approve Naming of Bio Processing Lab 13103, Within Biotechnology/Chemistry Building 13

By motion of Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Pedroza, the Board approved the naming of the Bio Processing Lab 13103 as stated.

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

F. Adopt Resolution No. 16-25/26 Authorize Purchase of Modular Buildings with Williams Scotsman

By motion of Trustee Pedroza, seconded by Trustee Conklin, the Board adopted Resolution No. 16-25/26 to authorize the purchase of modular buildings from Williams Scotsman.

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

X. INFORMATION

A. Superintendent/President Search Update

Trustee Merchat shared the application window for the superintendent/president search closed on April 9, and we had a robust pool of interested candidates apply for the position. He appreciated everyone's efforts to share the job announcement with their professional networks to support our recruitment efforts. The hiring committee is now hard at work reviewing the applications of candidates and will meet next week to select semi-finalists to interview. These interviews are scheduled for the first week of May. We will continue to keep the campus community updated as we move into the next phase of the selection process.

B. Role of Board Parliamentarian

Trustee Merchat provided information on the role of the Board Parliamentarian.

XI. COLLEGE-RELATED REPORTS

A. Trustees Activities

Trustees Cassar and Simon attended the Cardiff Farmers Market on the San Elijo Campus and the Encinitas State of the City address.

Trustees Merchat and Crosbie reported attending a Facilities Liaison meeting, and Trustee Crosbie also attended an Oceanside Chamber of Commerce event.

Trustee Pedroza reported attending a webinar on protecting students and campus leadership related to ICE, and she reminded the Board about the Latino Book Fair on April 25 on MiraCosta's Oceanside Campus.

Trustee Conklin reported attending the MiraCosta Theatre production of *Cinderella*, participating in an Oceanside Chamber of Commerce event, a Greenspaces Coalition meeting, volunteering at CSUSM Professional Night, and engaging with a Progressive Labor Summit in San Diego.

Vice President Clendening reported attending the Women of the Year in San Diego County event in Oceanside, meeting with the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, and participating in the North County Philanthropy Volunteer of the Year Awards.

B. Student Trustee

No report given.

C. Classified Employees

Classified Senate (CS) President Carl Banks reported (CS) elections are underway and conclude on April 17. All positions are contested, with results to be announced on April 28. The CS is also conducting a governance self-evaluation and is navigating the challenge of increasing committee participation. The Spring Celebration of Excellence will take place on April 17 and will feature award recognition for staff.

D. Faculty

Academic Senate (AS) President Curry Mitchell shared ongoing professional development efforts include weekly sessions on accessibility and AI, highlighted by Accessibility Week, recent and upcoming events focused on teaching in the AI era, and the development of a new flex planning calendar to better curate and sustain programming; additionally, Academic Senate participation at plenary was noted, along with appreciation for collaborative partnerships that support student success

E. Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents

1. Instructional Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Pescarmona expressed appreciation for the Career Services team, who hosted a successful internship fair with over 30 employers and 300 students. The summer and fall class schedule is now available and live in SURF, with registration beginning in May, and the course catalog will be released on May 5. Feedback on the Educational Futures Plan is still being collected through an open survey, and appreciation was expressed for staff contributions while noting the disappointing loss of Title V grant funding.

2. Student Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Wojcik provided updates on upcoming ASG elections and student engagement efforts, noting strong student interest and participation, including candidates for student trustee. She highlighted availability of the summer and fall class schedule alongside targeted outreach to support priority registration for disproportionately impacted students, she shared progress on commencement and end-of-year events with significant student and guest participation, and she outlined recent financial aid and student parent support initiatives, including events and resources that served approximately 300 students.

3. Administrative Services

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Gomez detailed the reorganization of Civic Center operations to improve efficiency and the implementation of the CivicPlus agenda management system with a soft launch planned for June. She noted that the 2024/25 Foundation audit was completed with no findings, the external audit is beginning, and budget meetings with departments are being finalized. Additionally, she provided facilities updates including progress on the 3000 Building complex, multiple projects in closeout phases, efforts to modernize classrooms, and development of the five-year capital construction and on-interest spending plans. She highlighted technology initiatives such as transitioning Oracle to the cloud and implementing recommendations from the Information Technology Services assessment, and she announced the selection of Pacific Dining as the new food service vendor for the district.

4. Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Schwartzkopf submitted a written report. She expressed appreciation to the Board for Appreciation for approving the RFP for the class and compensation study, which has now launched. Recognition was given to the Clothesline Project display for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, gratitude was extended for continued collaboration with labor partners and to the health benefits team for the Bloom Challenge and the introduction of a new healthcare advocate benefit, and updates were provided on the restructuring of responsibilities within the senior Human Resources (HR) team.

F. Office of the President

Superintendent/President Cooke acknowledged the impact of recent news regarding Cesar Chavez, noting that certain actions conflicted with institutional values and condemning actions that contradict principles of respect, equity, and inclusion. In response to this news, the Day of Service was renamed the North County Day of Service and imagery in the Student Services Building was covered. Also recognized were the broader challenges facing community colleges nationwide due to divestment and ongoing layoffs, describing it as a difficult time for many colleagues. Participation in the APAHE (Asian Pacific

Americans in Higher Education) conference was noted, including recognition of Jose Antonio Vargas and Dr. Cooke as award recipients.

Faculty updates included progress in hiring, with seven of ten finalist selections completed—half filled by associate faculty transitioning to full-time roles—and three additional instructional interviews scheduled, highlighting efforts to bring diverse perspectives to the college.

Student achievements were highlighted, including two dual enrollment students from Oceanside graduating from college before high school, with one earning two associate degrees with plans to attend Yale and another with plans to attend Harvard.

The Spring Celebration is scheduled for April 17, and Dr. Cooke extended appreciation to Elizabeth Lurenana, the HR team, and the Advancement team. Retirees and employees will be honored for milestones, years of service, distinctions, and awards.

Dr. Cooke provided details about how the college is continuing to fund parts of the Title V HSI grant that were particularly impactful by embedding them in structures that already exist in the work we do at the college.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Frank Merchat
President

Sunita V. Cooke
Superintendent/President