



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING / WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
(Approved October 17, 2024)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in a regular meeting/workshop on Thursday, September 5, 2024, in the Boardroom (1068) on the Oceanside Campus. President Cassar called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Board members present:

Rick Cassar (left at 5:13 p.m.)	Frank Merchat
Raye Clendening	Anna Pedroza (arrived at 4:13 p.m.)
Heather Conklin	Jacqueline Simon
George McNeil	

Administrators present:

Superintendent/President Sunny Cooke
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Tim Flood
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Alketa Wojcik

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

None.

IV. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER

None.

V. WORKSHOP

A. Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Workshop

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Tim Flood provided a workshop of the FY2025 final budget, so board members could address questions with the superintendent/president and to provide input before the board is asked to adopt the final budget at the regular board of trustees meeting on September 12, 2024.

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Tim Flood reviewed the district's budget priorities for fiscal year 2023/24 and reviewed projections for fiscal year 2024/25. Funding allocations supported the district's highest-priority goals and objectives (enrollment, programs, and services), consistent with the Long-Term

Planning Framework, the Facilities Master Plan, institutional Program Review activities, as well as the district's mission, vision, and values.

Flood provided a synopsis of the 2023/24 revenues and expenditures and noted the district is in a very firm financial position. Budget transfers to Fund 41 have continued when surplus funds are available. Growing this fund is important as it:

- helps to cover the cost of future facilities projects that are needed, and,
- ensures the institution is protected financially by prudent planning.

Additionally, maintaining healthy reserves is important to have access to an AAA rating, which keeps the cost of re-payment as low as possible for our taxpayers.

The state economy is fluid, with a multi-year deficit forecasted. Currently, the state is reporting revenues are down, with a \$45B deficit in 2024/25 and an anticipated \$30B deficit in 2025/26. It was noted, however, that the state has increased the budget for community colleges, as they attempt to shield K-12 educational institutions from budget reductions. Budget allocation deferments will help the state navigate the next several years. Although these deferments create a cash flow problem for the college, the college will eventually receive the deferred funding.

The state budget indicates a 1.07 percent cost of living (COLA) increase in funding for selected categorical programs, which equates to a total of \$176K for MiraCosta. Other allocation changes include a one-time increase for Financial Aid FAFSA delay assistance, equating to \$190K for MiraCosta, and an estimated \$130K increase for MiraCosta part-time faculty office hours.

The district is in a very healthy position with 78 percent of the district's budget devoted to salaries/benefits and 22 percent to other expenditures, and revenues exceed expenditures. Flood reminded the board of the district's budget landscape, with an estimated 5.31 percent property tax revenue increase (\$7.5M). CalSTRS and CalPERS have seen annual cost increases of \$1.3M, and health care has seen an annual cost increase of \$1.0M. At these rates, the cost projection is expected to increase by \$20.1M by 2028/29. Since the district no longer has access to federal and state HEERF and Covid-19 relief funding, it's especially important we allocate our budget appropriately. Flood noted as an example the need to start investing significantly in our roads, parking lots, and infrastructure.

Parking fee revenues are coming in short by \$500K. This is in part because MiraCosta has the lowest parking fee in the area (\$35 per fall/spring semesters, and \$17.50 for summer session), and also online learning. Additionally, the cafeteria service is being subsidized by approximately \$500K by the district so that food service is available on the campuses. While this expenditure is on the wrong side of the 50% law, the board expressed that is the right thing to do for our students.

Having presented a balanced budget, Flood acknowledged his team for their work on the budget and the Public Information Office for creating a beautiful budget book, a truly collaborative college-wide effort.

Board members asked questions and provided input. The board will be asked to adopt the final budget on September 12, 2024.

B. Facilities Futures Presentation

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Tim Flood provided highlights of the work completed to date and next steps.

Flood expressed the importance of being transparent and inclusive in the planning process. He reviewed the planning framework and provided an overview of the initial recommendations, which focus on providing hubs throughout the Oceanside Campus, and opportunities at both the Community Learning Center and the San Elijo Campus.

Forums for the college community are scheduled at each campus in September, as well as sharing sessions with the governance groups, to provide updates. Additionally, a “living document,” a resource aimed at keeping the community updated, will be available online.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Rick Cassar
President

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