

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
PROVISIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (SCCPCCD)
GOVERNING BOARD
SPECIAL Board Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024**


2021 North Grand Avenue
Nogales, AZ 85621

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order:

Mr. Greg Lucero, Chairperson, called a Special Public Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Dr. Varona led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call / In Attendance:

Present at the meeting were Mr. Greg Lucero-Chairperson, Ms. Liz Collier-Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Board Member, and Mrs. Georgina Tavera-Finance Manager. Mr. David Pauole, PCC District Attorney, joined virtually. Dr. Angela Meixell-Board Member was unable to attend due to a doctor's appointment, and Mr. John Fanning-Board Member due to car issues.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Dr. Varona motioned to accept the adoption of the agenda of Wednesday, March 13, 2024, SCCPCCD Special Governing Board Meeting as presented, seconded by Ms. Collier. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

	Mr. Greg Lucero	Ms. Liz Collier	Dr. Marcelino Varona	Dr. Angela Meixell	Mr. John Fanning
AYE	X	X	X	Excused Absence	Excused Absence
NAY					
ABSTAIN					

C. Public Comment – Call to Audience

There was no Call to the Public.

2. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. South32 to begin construction in Santa Cruz County, Discussion with Stakeholders

- Chairperson Lucero requested a special meeting to discuss the potential impacts and opportunities of the proposed South32 mining project. Dr. Varona raised key issues during the last planning retreat meeting about follow-through implementation plans. The mining project will impact local educational institutions as the newest employees are expected to live outside the school district boundaries. He expressed concerns about the project’s potential effects on tax revenue and workforce training programs due to the reduction of expenditure limits. Chairperson Lucero attended the Board of Supervisors’ meeting and asked as they negotiate to include local stakeholders like the college and be involved in grant opportunities or training programs discussions related to the project. Entities from other areas like Pima County and Tucson are involved but not coordinating with local schools or talking to us. He expressed interest in representing the college and pursuing grant opportunities through involvement in meetings. He added that he attended another meeting today and the apprenticeship program was discussed. The training facility continues to be brought up and the ADA grant said it should be at their location. Chairperson Lucero emphasized the need for increased involvement in discussions surrounding the South32 mining project and its potential impact on the local workforce. He mentioned his participation in the meetings, representing the college and the board, but he has not been assigned to take any direction on these programs or grant opportunities. He suggested sending a letter to them about discussing the impact on us. He asked to have some discussion on what the college wants in terms of a facility location being here not north. In addition, the college should be more involved with the WIOA Program. He said we should reach out to Santa Cruz County and request a study session. Chairperson Lucero agreed there was a need for a coordinator or consultant to represent the college’s interests in meetings and help monitor and respond to these discussions. He opened the meeting for discussions;
- Dr. Varona stated that these issues have been discussed for 3-5 years now. He said when originally proposed, the mining company said they would need a trained workforce but lacked details in positions or requirements

needed. He added that a training facility was suggested to meet the needs of all students and consolidate the college's rental fees. He said he wanted the mine to donate the facility for these specific purposes. One of the reasons for having a CEO was to stay on top of these factors, know the needs, and coordinate between the mining company, Pima Community College, and ourselves, but we have to set the direction as we are paying for all of this. His suggestion was to look at developing a job description to hire a full-time coordinator to stay organized, attend meetings, coordinate with other colleges, and keep us informed. This will be a joint effort with Pima Community College. Without proper representation, important opportunities may be missed;

- Ms. Collier suggested starting with Chairperson Lucero representing us and making decisions for us during the meetings; she concurred with the hiring of a coordinator;
- Chairperson Lucero suggested having this action item at the next regular board meeting on March 27th and setting aside funds for this position; he pointed out the outside organizations are looking at what they can get out of this project; he said if we don't pay attention, a lot of opportunities will be lost;
- Ms. Collier said WIOA was very effective at one point and if there was a way to turn that around;
- Chairperson Lucero suggested having a meeting with the Board of Supervisors and asking to take over some of the programs as the service providers; he provided other examples; he said it was discouraging;
- Dr. Varona stated that our priorities should be training the population and making sure they qualify for these positions and meet the mining needs;
- Ms. Collier agreed to write a letter to South32 with a copy of the resolution; the Santa Cruz County, City of Nogales, and Town of Patagonia will be included; she agreed to have a group meeting soon;
- Dr. Varona suggested organizing ourselves first, meeting our mission as a school to educate our students and ensure there is a corporation; Chairperson Lucero concurred but said that in the meantime, we should have a discussion with the county officials and discuss the details; Dr. Varona said he did not want the burden to fall on him;
- Chairperson Lucero asked to place as action items for a letter to be sent and submit a request to the county for a meeting after the South32; he will draft a letter for Mr. Pauole's review and have it at the next meeting, discuss the budget process for a consultant/administration;
- Ms. Collier suggested each board member make a list of things that they need to do and develop a job description;
- Dr. Varona asked to set aside 90 minutes at the board retreat and suggested discussing the letter at the board meeting, followed by the budget; he said this was a good beginning despite the repetitions; he wanted to make it clear for the public to understand that we are not behind or trying to catch up. Dr. Varona asked Mrs. Tavera what had happened to the approved resolution supporting IROC to be built in SCC that was supposed to be on the newspaper; Chairperson Lucero stated it was going to be in the county along the I-19 corridor either in Nogales or Rio Rico; it will be announced within the next couple of weeks; he suggested attaching a copy of the resolution to the letter;
- Recap for the next board meeting: the letter will be drafted, a budget discussion for a consultant, a job description to be reviewed, reach out to the county to meet with them in the future, set aside 90 minutes on the board retreat;
- The Board Members thanked the audience and Mr. Pauole for their participation;

3. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Chairperson Lucero adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Ms. Liz Collier
SCCPCCD Vice-Chairperson