

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
PROVISIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (SCCPCCD)  
GOVERNING BOARD**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024**

  
2021 North Grand Avenue  
Nogales, AZ 85621

**1. OPENING ITEMS**

**A. Call to Order:**

Mr. Greg Lucero, Chairperson, called a Regular Public Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Nelson 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, Dr. Angela Meixell- Board Member, Mr. John Fanning- Board member, Mrs. Georgina Tavera- Finance Manager, Dr. Morgan Phillips, and Mr. Brian Nelson. Mr. David Pauole, PCC District Attorney, joined virtually.

**B. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Fanning motioned to accept the adoption of the agenda of Wednesday, March 27, 2024, SCPCCD Regular Governing Board Meeting as presented, seconded by Ms. Collier. Dr. Varona asked why an agenda item was not listed as requested during a previous board meeting concerning an anonymous letter received. Mrs. Tavera apologized for the omission. Mr. Pauole said it will be added on the next agenda. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

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

**C. Public Comment – Call to Audience**

There was no Call to the Public.

**2. STANDING REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Financials**

Mrs. Tavera, Finance Manager, provided the following recap of the February 2024 Financials

- The withdrawal of the funds to the AZ Treasury; she is waiting for the auditor’s response before she shares the statement with the Board and discusses how to spend the funds (\$7,000 each); Dr. Varona asked for clarification;
- Chairperson Lucero asked about the allocation of funds earmarked for them from Senator Gabaldon; Mrs. Tavera stated there were currently \$150K, needed \$50K and were limited to expenditure; Dr. Varona asked Dr. Phillips to gather information about the Governor’s decision to eliminate funding to the Provisional Community College of \$50K; Dr. Phillips said it did not make sense to him and will look into it; Mrs. Tavera clarified this was for 2024-2025;

**B. Chairperson of the Governing Board**

*SCCPCCD Governing Board Chairperson addressed the following updates.*

- Chairperson Lucero mentioned he was working with the Chamber Workforce Development Sub Committee, Mariposa and Carandolet Holy Cross to develop a workforce training program; he met with Pima to look at the jobs the organizations are recruiting for, programs that could be implemented by our local districts in partnership with Pima;
- He submitted a proposal to the county under their ADE recompute grant, but faced challenges due to Pima County and the City of Tucson being heavily dominated by them; he added we were outnumbered and most of the money will go North;
- Mr. Velasquez, School’s Superintendent, is looking at the Department of Labor grant and coordinating between the Chamber, local businesses, industries, and educational institutions, to set up an apprentice and prepare a grant program to start getting locals into career paths with local industries;

### **C. Members of the Governing Board**

- Dr. Varona reported he attended the Pima Fair and was wonderful; he added it was well organized, had great presenters, powerful presentations, and a lot of students attended; the culture was magnificent, and congratulated Mr. Nelson and his team;
- Ms. Collier had the last mine committee meeting and was unaware if the program would continue or not;
- Mr. Fanning also attended the Pima Fair and concurred with Dr. Varona's report; he attended the education, psychology, law enforcement, fire, safety, and student union presentations; he commended Mr. Nelson and his team for putting it all together; he surpassed the attendance goal; he thanked law enforcement students from our CTE Program as they did a great job at presenting;

### **D. PCC-Santa Cruz Center Report – Summary of PCC and SCC Updates**

Mr. Brian Nelson, Advanced Program Manager/PCC, provided the following report:

- He thanked them for their support and positive comments; he commented on the fair and areas attended; he congratulated Mr. Navarro for the great job he is doing with the RRHS CTE program; this has been the best event of the year with 16 organizations attending; students attendance were 12 from Patagonia, 149 from NHS, 34 from RRHS, and Pearson; he commended the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office for providing transportation, Gear-Up, C-Creo, Provisional College, Nogales International, and lunch for participants; he also thanked the Santa Cruz Center team for the student workers, Alex and Maria under Mrs. Tavera's leadership and ensuring the event's success; he also talked about the students being the peer presenters; an idea that aroused for the first time was to run demonstrations to promote science classes and careers with 150 attending;
- The second Pre-HLC meeting is scheduled for Friday; he is still working on the first open enrollment EMT 100 planned as well as other training led by the Nogales Fire Department;
- Ms. Collier inquired about the possibility of expanding the science lab and the potential programs that Pima could offer. Mr. Nelson mentioned that there were ongoing discussions about this, and he would need to consult with experts for guidance. Chairperson Lucero added that he had requested support from health institutions to set up the program and provide training with their equipment to give students access. Ms. Collier mentioned that the funds available were for facilities;

### **E. PCC-Santa Cruz Center Reports – Summary of PCC and SCC Updates**

Dr. Morgan Phillips, PCC Supervising Administrator, provided the following recap:

- He said he has been focused on connections to the programs with high school students, and university partners; through the A++ Arizona Attainment Alliance program connected with NAU, they are working on developing baccalaureate pathways; he said the aim is to allow community college students to transfer a large number of credits into a baccalaureate degree, completed either locally or online, if they have enough numbers; he explained further;
- Since NAU started with this, he stated there was growing interest from other universities in providing similar service and support for students; they were attracted to the ones starting in Santa Cruz County. Dr. Phillips said as they move forward with this, there are potential grant opportunities to increase the availability of these classes and degrees for students;
- In the healthcare arena, he mentioned the challenges with students getting masters, degrees, or PhD's within Pima Community College but they could do it with some of these university partners with connections to upper-level programs; he elaborated on the opportunities out there including many scholarships connected to that for those students as well, adding this was another way to potentially address current gaps;
- He has been spending time on technology and discussed the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and it's potential to revolutionize operations at the center; he attended a meeting in Phoenix where Adobe showed their new Adobe Firefly Product which easily creates any type of audio visual item (he shared an example created by the Adobe representative during their meeting); he shared the different products being offered through AI such as multimedia content, developing online courses, and assisting with financial aid and student services in a rapid pace and lower cost;
- Dr. Varona asked Dr. Phillips if he could present a proposal for their budget for a financial aid person during the month of August and December; also more concrete evidence for next year about marketing between SCC being offered;

- Chairperson Lucero mentioned about South32 working task force and addressed the potential for employers working directly with Pima Community College’s Economic Development Workforce Group for their specific needs and as much as they would like for organizations and businesses to work through us, there is nothing that prevents them from working directly with PCC;

**F. FY24-25 Draft Budget Review**

- Chairperson Lucero stated that the draft budget was discussed during the Special Session earlier today and the only comment provided to Mrs. Tavera was to increase salaries by 3% across the board by including the IT Consultant; this was opened for discussion;
- Dr. Varona suggested bringing back an improved IT Consultant’s compensation plan due to his excellent performance such as mileage reimbursement, and transportation; he added he was a loyal worker and very knowledgeable;
- Dr. Meixell asked about the evaluation process; Mrs. Tavera informed the Board that Mr. Fanning conducted hers and she conducted Alex’s evaluation formally; this item was suggested to be placed on the next agenda by Mr. Fanning;
- Mr. Fanning stated he would like to see a 5% increase instead of a 3%; Chairperson Lucero asked to run the numbers again showing 5%;
- Per Dr. Varona’s request for one full-time English and/or Math Teacher, Mr. Nelson will provide a cost-benefit analysis of adjunct faculty full-time and will have it ready for the next meeting;

**G. Discussion on Becoming Members of Local Organizations**

- Mrs. Tavera informed the Board that she reached out to two local organizations: the Port Authority and the Chamber of Commerce. The Port Authority informed her they would discuss it with their board and give her a final decision. The Chamber of Commerce fee last year was \$6,000; the information with benefits was provided to each board member;
- Dr. Varona believed they could be in the same tier as the other two districts, which he thought was the Silver Platform.

**H. Submission of a Federal Appropriation Request to Arizona Senators Kelly and Sinema for a Training Center**

- Chairperson Lucero brought up the topic of submitting a Federal Appropriations request to Arizona's Senators. The request is for funding a campus training facility that is estimated to cover around 300,000 square feet. He attached a document that needed to be filled out and submitted by April 5th in order to move forward. He also asked Mr. Nelson to provide him with a ballpark figure. Additionally, he discussed the possibility of acquiring land for the facility or staying at the current location.

Dr. Meixell motioned to submit an authorization request or proposal to our Arizona Senators and Congress for the design of a training center as presented by Chairperson Lucero, seconded by Ms. Collier. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

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

**I. Lease Contract Discussion**

- Chairperson Lucero touched base on the lease contract discussions, with Ms. Collier noting that their current lease runs until 2028 and the building’s condition is not ideal but the location is great; are we interested in staying here or our landlord is interested in selling? Chairperson Lucero added that part of the planning discussion was doing an assessment of this facility to see if it would fit our future needs; it was added it was a flood zone; she will reach out to the landlord; Dr. Meixell mentioned the issue was to be sold in pieces;

**J. South32 Impact on SCCPCCD**

- Chairperson Lucero mentioned that he took action on a letter to be submitted to South32. He drafted the letter, which was reviewed and approved by Attorney Paule.;

Dr. Varona made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to send a letter to Mr. Pat Risner, South32 Hermosa Project President, expressing our concern, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Mrs. Tavera will process the letter;

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

**K. Discuss SCCPCD’s Strategic Action Plan/Retreat**

- Mr. Fanning said Ms. Wendy Farr was doing a wonderful job, had excellent leadership skills, and was leading the Board in the right direction. He thanked the Board for their dedication to staying on task;

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

- No Executive Session took place.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Fanning motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting held on February 28, 2024, as presented, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

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

**B. Future Meeting Agenda Items**

- a. Discussion on anonymous letters received
- b. Proposal for additional services from Wendy
- c. Staff Performance Evaluations
- d. Continue to keep the facilities question
- e. Bylaws review
- f. Budget review

**C. Future Meeting Dates**

- a. April 24, 2024, with retreat

Note: Chairperson Lucero invited Dr. Phillips to join them for lunch on their next retreat

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, Chairperson Lucero adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:59 p.m.

*Minutes presented respectfully by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ms. Liz Collier**  
**SCCPCCD Vice-Chairperson**