

**-SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**  
**PROVISIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (SCCPCCD)**  
**GOVERNING BOARD**  
**SPECIAL Board Meeting Minutes**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024**  
  
 2021 North Grand Avenue  
 Nogales, AZ 85621

**1. OPENING ITEMS**

**A. Call to Order:**

Mr. Greg Lucero, Chairman, called a Special Public Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Friday, May 31, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Skylie Estep led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call / In Attendance:**

Present at the meeting were Mr. Greg Lucero- Chairman, Ms. Liz Collier- Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Board Member, Dr. Angela Meixell- Board Member, and Mrs. Georgina Tavera- Finance Manager. Mr. John Fanning, Board Member, was not in attendance due to a family trip. Mr. Pat Risner, Ms. Skylie Estep, and Ms. Sandra Moraga from South32 Hermosa Inc. were also in attendance. Mr. David Pauole, PCC District Attorney, joined virtually.

**B. Adoption of the Agenda**

Ms. Collier motioned to accept the adoption of the agenda of Friday, May 31, 2024, SCCPCCD Special Governing Board Meeting as presented, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

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

There was no one signed up for Call to the Public.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING TO PRESENT PROPOSED BUDGET & BUDGET ADOPTION**

**A. Conversations with South32 about Workforce, Training, and Certification**

Chairman Lucero spoke about the approved letter sent to South32 requesting a meeting to address some items and read the letter.

- South32 stated that they had watched the recording of the March 13th meeting and asked for the opportunity to provide context and explain how they can move forward. Chairman Lucero expressed concern about not being informed about the discussion among the County Supervisors regarding educational institutions. He suggested that it would be beneficial for South32 to update them on their interactions with other local governments.
- Mr. Risner clarified that they were not working with any other entities or local governments besides their task force. He mentioned the Recompute Grant, stating that it was not initiated by them, and not aimed at South32. However, if it made sense to them, they would support initiatives that help education in the community. He also mentioned that they were asked for a commitment letter to support the pre-apprenticeship program, and they have done that on a number of occasions. He explained that he understood the relationship between SCCPCCD and Pima College. He mentioned that Ms. Collier was invited to be on the Board because of her involvement with the Chambers Workforce Development. He apologized if it was not clear but said the intent behind all of that was that SCCPCCD plays an integral role and knows they have to work through the college to get things done. He clarified that they are only working directly with the provisional college. It was added that as part of the Task Force, they are reporting to an executive committee comprised of Pat, Superintendent Velasquez, and Supervisor Ruiz to keep the county and the school districts informed. Dr. Varona asked for clarification on the Executive Committee, and Mr. Risner explained the process.
- Chairman Lucero clarified that the County School Superintendent does not interact with SCCPCCD and does not report to us. Mr. Risner concurred with this, and Dr. Varona stated he fully understood the process.
- Mr. Risner talked about the plans for local hiring and training; he clarified their commitment emphasizing that 80% of their long-term operational workforce should be residents of Santa Cruz County and has never changed. He also addressed misconceptions about the construction jobs, stating that the construction part of the project were short-term jobs and their focus is on long-term jobs/benefits; he mentioned the underground shaft-

sinking; he added they never had a plan to train a workforce to do construction as they hire constructors to do their construction, pushing them to hire locals. He explained the reason why they did not do the construction. Their goal is to provide high-paying changing opportunities for people to have a job for decades within our county. Finally, he said until the board authorized the construction of this project, they could not commit to any training programs because they did not know if they were going to build a project. He said they needed to collectively focus their efforts on how to maximize people that live in the county and going to work for 30-50 years. The decision not to invest in training local construction workers was made because it was seen as a short-term idea. By the time the workers would have been trained, the jobs available would likely have been elsewhere, not in Santa Cruz County.

- Chairman Lucero stated that everyone was in agreement and suggested figuring out how to come together and start working on a plan to assess the facility, identify a new space, etc., all while staying within the college's budget. Ms. Collier emphasized that their main focus should be on the students.
- Mr. Wisner continued to elaborate on the advantages and opportunities;
- Chairman Lucero stated that the key points from the meeting were to review best practices for the organization under an MOU and, on the college's side, to begin coordinating with other educational institutions to establish a unified point of contact. Dr. Varona suggested that this could be a complex task but it is achievable.
- Mr. Risner said all he asked of stakeholders was to work across in its entirety; he added they wanted to be good citizens of the community and work with all stakeholders in the right way and appreciated all of their efforts;
- Dr. Varona said they needed to keep the good neighbor agreement separate from the MOU; he also hoped that the other educational agencies do it the right way and not try to go directly to South32.
- Mr. Risner committed to getting back to Chairman Lucero on the timing sometime next week; he also encouraged the Board to reach out to him or Skylie if any questions arose, particularly if they heard something inconsistent with the conversation they already had; Ms. Collier emphasized this was a point where we are trying to grow and to grow in a way that meets the community's needs and not specifically our needs; Dr. Varona said it was an excellent statement.
- The Board was grateful and thanked them for attending the meeting; Skylie offered to come back and provide updates incrementally;
- In conclusion, Ms. Moraga, as a resident, praised the college for its excellent performance, congratulating them on the graduation and the positive perception of the college by the community.

**B. Discussion and possible action on the Letter to Santa Cruz County concerning EDA Recompute Grant Application**

- Chairman Lucero requested to add this item to the agenda due to the timing and the upcoming June meeting. He emphasized the importance of addressing the county's concerns promptly and suggested drafting a letter to clarify the partnership between the college and the county, as well as the training programs offered. He asked the Board to review the letter and make suggestions.
- Ms. Collier suggested listing the programs being offered; Dr. Varona asked to include a sentence instead of listing everything; Dr. Meixell said it was already included;
- Chairman Lucero recommended including Mr. Alfredo Velasquez, Senators Kelly and Sinema, and Congressmen Grijalva and Ciscomani in the correspondence. Dr. Varona suggested adding Angie to the email thread but emphasized that she should be bcc'd due to the inaccuracy of her previous statements. Dr. Meixell expressed concern about the potential risks to the project if the letter is shared with too many individuals. Chairman Lucero provided an explanation of how this collaborative effort was established.

Chairman Lucero entertained a motion to submit the letter adding one sentence to read, "The Provisional College is currently offering training plus certification pathways that align with local business and industry needs". Dr. Varona made a motion to approve the above motion as stated, seconded by Ms. Collier. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

**C. Discussion and possible changes to the Job Description for the new position for SCCPCCD**

- Ms. Wendy Farr joined the meeting virtually to discuss and approve the changes to the job description for a new position at SCCPCCD and final approval for the Strategic Plan;

- Chairman Lucero stated that the Strategic Plan was not part of this agenda, therefore, would be added to the next board agenda as an item;
- Ms. Farr updated the job title from Strategic Liaison to Director of Strategic Initiatives. She asked Dr. Varona for clarification on the request for "levels." Dr. Varona did not recall any changes and asked Ms. Farr to share the job description. She concluded by saying she was waiting for connections with Mr. Pauole and Dr. Phillips which were expected to be finalized later.

Ms. Collier motioned to accept the job description as presented with the changes and move forward with the recruiting process, seconded by Dr. Varona. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

- Nothing was discussed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Varona made a motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

Having no further business to discuss, Chairman Lucero adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:12 a.m.

*Minutes presented respectfully by:*

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