

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
PROVISIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (SCCPCCD)
GOVERNING BOARD
Special Board Meeting Minutes
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024**


2021 North Grand Avenue
Nogales, AZ 85621

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairperson Collier called a Special Public Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Varona led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call / In Attendance:

Present at the meeting were Ms. Liz Collier- Chairperson, Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Board Member, Dr. Angela Meixell- Board Member, Mr. John Fanning - Board Member, and Mrs. Georgina Tavera- Finance Manager.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Dr. Varona motioned to approve the agenda as presented for Thursday, July 25, 2024, Special Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

C. Public Comment – Call to Audience

There was no Call to the Public.

2. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Chairperson of the Governing Board

- Chairperson Collier informed the Board about a grant opportunity to work with the University of Arizona for \$160 million over five years. As requested by the University of Arizona, Mr. Lucero obtained signatures from all five superintendents of the K12 school districts, including a pending signature from Mr. Thompson at the Pima Workforce. Chairperson Collier also stated that no one had submitted a letter of interest to take Mr. Lucero’s place. She urged the board members to consider recommending someone if they felt they had the passion and knowledge to join the board. She said she had asked someone but they were unable to apply because they were in District 2. Dr. Varona then asked if Mr. Lucero had received a 24-hour notice for the executive session. Dr. Meixell responded that she confirmed with their attorney that Mr. Lucero was notified of the executive session via a statement included with a Zoom link because it was a continuation notice from the previous meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- A. Chairperson Collier made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Fanning. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0. Executive Session convened at approximately 8:35 a.m.

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

- Regular Session reconvened at 9:35 a.m after an interview was conducted with Atif Qarni.

- B. Chairperson Collier made a motion to go into Executive Session to interview the 2nd candidate, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

- Regular session reconvened at 11:06 am after interviewing both candidates.
- Chairperson Collier stated that they had successfully conducted two interviews.

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

A. Discussion and possible action to identify the applicants with whom the Governing Board wishes to conduct additional interviews for employment as the Director of Strategic Initiatives.

- Dr. Varona stated that there is no need for discussion and that they are ready to move on to the next item.

B. Discussion and possible action to identify the applicants with whom the Governing Board wishes to begin negotiations for employment as the Director of Strategic Initiatives.

- Dr. Varona expressed that the final two candidates were extremely well qualified in knowledge and experience in strategic planning. Dr. Varona then states that Mr. Lucero had the advantage of coming from a border community where he obtained experience working both in government positions for the City of Douglas and with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. He also shared that Mr. Lucero started and oversaw the separation of the community college from the County Board of Supervisors to an independent board. Dr. Varona added that the other candidate, Mr. Qarni, would require 6-8 months of training that Mr. Lucero would not need due to previous knowledge and experience.
- Mr. Fanning thanked all involved in the interviewing process. Mr. Fanning concurred with Dr. Varona in his recommendation of Mr. Greg Lucero. He highlighted Mr. Lucero’s work ethic, his knowledge of how to navigate governmental entities, and his educational background, including a passion and emphasis on education and workforce development
- Dr. Meixell expressed how fortunate they were to receive applications from so many qualified candidates. She expressed how Mr. Lucero was passionate about workforce development and had made many connections in the county and the state to allow him to “hit the ground running”. Dr. Meixell recommended Mr. Lucero for the position.
- Chairperson Collier concurred that Mr. Lucero was the best fit for the position. She asked to keep Mr. Qarni’s application on file for any future positions.

Dr. Varona asked for a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to enter into negotiations with Mr. Lucero and to report to us as soon as possible. Dr. Meixell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

Chairperson Collier stated that she would start discussions with Mr. Lucero. She thanked Ms. Wendi Faar for her assistance with the interviews. Dr. Varona then asked Mrs. Tavera to add to the following meeting’s agenda the issue of addressing Ms. Faar’s salary and possible bonus.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fanning motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

Having no further business to discuss, Chairman Collier adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15 A.M.

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Ms. Liz Collier
SCCPCCD Chairperson