

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**



2021 North Grand Avenue
Nogales, AZ 85621

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order:

Mr. John Fanning, Chairperson, called a Regular Public Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. Collier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call / In Attendance:

Present at the meeting were – Mr. John Fanning- Chairperson, Mr. Greg Lucero- Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Angela Meixell- Board Member, Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Board Member, Ms. Liz Collier- Board Member, Mrs. Georgina Tavera- Finance Manager, Dr. Phillips, and Mr. Brian Nelson. Mr. David Pauole, PCC District Attorney joined via ZOOM.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairperson Fanning entertained a motion to accept the adoption of the agenda of Wednesday, September 27, 2023, SCCPCCD Regular Governing Board Meeting as presented. Dr. Varona made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented and recommended, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

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

C. Public Comment – Call to Audience

There was no Call to the Public.

2. STANDING REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

A. FY22-23 Financials

Mrs. Tavera, Finance Manager, noted there was a typo at the end of the page (Ago vs Aug). She provided the following recap of the August 2023 Financials:

- Non-recurring expenses were Pima Community College, 2023 Spring Semester for \$68,807; she added they are monitoring the electricity as it has increased significantly (6.4), keeping in mind there are more people attending college and there is an extra computer lab; the rates and kilowatts are also higher; rental income for the AZ Department of Agriculture for \$5,400 and might return in November;
- Mrs. Tavera informed the Board about an upcoming Scholarship Event scheduled for October 3rd and mentioned that the Board had received an invitation to the event. Furthermore, Mrs. Tavera shared that they have been working with several individuals, including Ms. Lourdes Jeong as the Board Chair for the Foundation. As for the funds collected, the Board was informed that they have received a total of \$4,500. In addition, a donation of \$3,000 was received anonymously for

the ceremony. Primavera pledged \$7,000 and Shipley promised to donate \$5,000 towards the event.

- She presented the Board with the In-Kind report that is submitted bi-annually at the end of March and September for the C-CREO Gear Up Program; she explained the report in detail; so far, they have supported this program for \$97K; Dr. Varona asked for clarification on the totals; he pointed out that their commitment was costing money.
- Mrs. Tavera informed everyone that the current contract is set to expire in two years. Dr. Varona inquired whether they had received any formal communication about the obligation to pay rent at the end of the contract. He also requested that they be informed well in advance. Mrs. Tavera agreed to review the contract with Mr. Pauole and notify the team with sufficient notice;
- She updated the Board that Senator Gabaldon's new bill had not been received yet. However, she was provided with the notice for \$200K in State funding. She further informed that she spoke to the Auditor, who was also unclear about how to use it. She assured the Board that she would continue to work on it and keep them updated about how these funds can be utilized. The funds are expected to be deposited within a month;
- She also informed the Board that she approved approximately \$10K to purchase 15 computers as recommended by the IT department; she met with Mr. Fanning to review this expense; the total value is \$22K and are only spending \$9K;
- Mr. Lucero inquired about investing in the money market, currently yielding 5-5 1/4 percent. Mrs. Tavera informed him that the Auditor was aware of the matter and had a meeting scheduled with Chase next week. She will keep him updated;
- Dr. Varona stated that this conversation had been ongoing for about three to four years now, yet no progress had been made. As an educational institution, he believes that they do not possess the capability to make such deposits to Chase. The only legal course of action available to them was to submit the matter to the State Treasurer;

B. Lease Policy Approved by the Board on March 2023

- Mrs. Tavera shared the Superintendent's Office Summer Program invoices; this was calculated and amounted to \$1,950, June-5-July 28; \$312 for the Gear Up startup Program;
- C-CREO: Maya asked to bill them \$15,000
- Dr. Varona inquired about the process for reserving a classroom or any other room; he recommended requesting a PO, a check, or a credit card payment and adding this to the board's agenda for approval. Dr. Varona emphasized that not requesting anything would be problematic and that they should not discourage individuals from making such requests;
- Dr. Meixell asked if they were made aware of the summer rentals and what rationale they were giving to waive the fees; Mr. Lucero elaborated; Dr. Meixell shared her issue that we have to be careful with picking and choosing;
- Ms. Collier said we need a policy and must be consistent across the board;
- Due to no motion, Chairperson Fanning proceeded by approving to bill for \$2,262;
- Dr. Varona suggested asking them to present to the Board;
- During the meeting, Mr. Lucero suggested reviewing the policy to ensure that the wording for exceptions, such as benefits for children, was appropriate. Mrs. Tavera informed the Board that they had researched the fees of surrounding areas and confirmed that we were within the range. Additionally, it was mentioned that 5013c was half the rate. Ms. Collier expressed her opinion that listing exceptions might lead to unnecessary complications. Chairperson Fanning shared the process for SCVUSD;

C. Chairperson of the Governing Board

SCCPCCD Governing Board Chairperson will address any updates.

- Chairperson Fanning met with Wendy Farr in Vail and discussed what is coming next; very positive meeting, moving forward;

- He also attended Mr. Velasquez’s ART kick-off month of October for the SCC School Superintendent; it was a big gathering of school officials countywide including PCC, great to see everyone there; doing great murals and other great art;

D. Members of the Governing Board

- Nothing was shared at this time by any of the Board Members;

E. PCC-Santa Cruz Center Report – Summary of PCC and SCC Updates

- Mr. Brian Nelson, Advanced Program Manager/PCC, shared the following:
 - A Summer Leadership Summit was hosted by the Southern AZ Better Business Bureau, a table was purchased by Pima with eight of our students participating; this was an all-day event and was a great experience for them; the speakers were HR and business oriented;
 - For the first time, they have three federal work study students making up for past years; one of them will work as a math tutor, and two other students will work on preparing for different events and organizing clubs and activities such as the Honors Club;
 - Ms. Jessica Frederick talked about the Honors Club, Love Notes for Seniors, and explained in detail what they do; their goal is to deliver the notes every month to Seniors; she shared some of the notes for the Board Members to see; Board Members asked questions;
 - Dr. Varona asked Mr. Nelson how were the students taken to the Casino del Sol. Mr. Nelson said there were two barriers: time and transportation; students were carpooled; the students’ comments were very positive and enjoyed the experience and most of the amenities; they also said there was not enough networking time due to the full agenda;
 - Chairperson Fanning suggested asking the students to attend a future board meeting and share their experiences;

F. PCC-Santa Cruz Center Reports – Summary of PCC and SCC Updates

- Dr. Morgan Phillips, PCC Supervising Administrator, shared the following updates:
 - The college is still going through leadership adjustments and changes. Dr. Duran-Cerda has been identified as the Interim Chancellor. The Board had a study session to begin the process of identifying the firm that will assist the college in securing a new permanent chancellor. Realistically, the new chancellor will be appointed sometime around fall 2024, which also corresponds with board elections. Three board members are up for election, and the board is trying to decide before the new board starts;
 - Dr. Duran identified three different areas for them to work on between now and that time:
 1. HLC Accreditation
 2. Focus on Streamlining Programs and Pathways
 3. Focus on Culture of Care such as customer service, help the student get things done, support them, be successful;
- He talked about the auto conferral process and also the reverse transfer process; Mr. Lucero asked for clarification on this process;
- In conclusion, Dr. Phillips said that on Friday, he has a meeting to figure out the process for the appropriate amount and how they can go about shifting some additional FTSE in the calculations to SCCPCCD, helpful for the operations here and everyone else to see how the FTSE is connected; he added he had reached out to the government series asking about the \$200K questions and they said they would look into it and let him know; regarding the lobbying question, he said the response he got sounded like that was not connected to our lobbying at all;
- Dr. Varona expressed his concern about the possibility of the board encountering problems with the Pima Board if they discovered that the facility was compromising accreditation in any way. He requested that the necessary measures be taken to prevent this from happening. Dr. Varona reminded the board that Pima was planning a visit to check the facility, and would suggest a

checklist with recommendations to start appropriating the necessary funds to correct any issues. He asked Dr. Phillips to ensure that someone plans a visit and notifies the board at least six months prior to the on-site visitation for accreditation. He also requested that this be added to the agenda;

- Dr. Phillips confirmed his commitment to ensuring it happens and stated that Santa Cruz County is not currently experiencing the same level of issues as other locations;
- Dr. Varona expressed his concern about the comments regarding the idea of using old computer parts to upgrade our systems. He strongly believed in having the latest state-of-the-art equipment and felt that the students would benefit from this learning experience. He emphasized the need for computers to be replaced every year to ensure the best experience for the students; Mrs. Tavera clarified her previous conversation saying they were brand new and not old; Jose explained the process and how they saved money; Dr. Varona asked for a tour of the computer lab before the next meeting; Dr. Meixell asked if there was a “project schedule” in place and that this should be an agenda item;
- Mr. Lucero inquired about the Foundation President's willingness to collaborate with our foundation. How can we facilitate their meeting to discuss fundraising plans and goals?
- Mr. Nelson asked Mrs. Tavera for the main contact information and they will make it happen;
- Mr. Fanning shared he liked the auto conferral idea and that will bring in some interest; he thanked them for going to bat for our FTSE, anxious to see where it’s leading; he loved the Culture with Care, truly believes in customer service;

G. South32

- Mr. Lucero opened a discussion concerning adopting a resolution supporting the development of a workforce training center and remote operating center in Santa Cruz County;
- He shared that the council had contacted the county to organize a workforce development summit aimed at a binational workforce training program for the mining sector. The summit was held in May and was well attended with subcommittees formed on the Mexican and US side. However, it was determined that creating a binational program would be challenging, and a decision was made to focus on supporting South32. A meeting was held with South32 human resources in July, but there has been no follow-up. Additionally, there is concern that there is no computer lab to support the necessary training for large groups. The question was raised whether we should take this issue alone or a joint resolution to support the local community;
- Dr. Meixell said Arizona had a lot of rules; she asked Mr. Pauole if it was legal to take a stand on what has become a political issue in Santa Cruz County because of this group; she also mentioned that at the retreat, it was discussed;
- Mr. Pauole said the prohibition is against the college influencing the election not necessarily the college weighing in on a political issue; he said unless there was something on the ballot that is the only restriction legally; it is controversial and could impact you individually if you seek to be reelected; as a board is fine;
- Dr. Meixell also said that during the retreat, the mission was discussed at length; she said that our mission was higher education and the workforce-training center is absolutely higher education; but why is the remote operating center a higher education? She disagreed;
- Mr. Lucero explained this is where the money operations will take place; Dr. Meixell said this was not part of this mission and should be restricted to the higher education element;
- Dr. Varona expressed disagreement with Dr. Meixell's opinion. Dr. Varona believes that it is important to help middle and high school students understand the significance of STEM-related education. He emphasized that it is essential for students to have access to these studies, such as science, math, and biology classes so that they can visualize the practical application of these subjects. Dr. Varona appreciated the Chancellor's shift in focus; he stressed that the mission will always be the same. He added that seeing engineers and technicians working with equipment on the streets is one of the best ways to motivate students to pursue STEM-related fields;

- Dr. Varona expressed a different opinion. He believed that IROC was part of our responsibility, especially in terms of providing core curriculum classes such as science, math, and technology in that particular area. This would help students see the relevance of these subjects. He also mentioned that STEM courses are not easy to take. It was made clear by South32 that if the proposal is accepted, they will present a study on the matter in the next meeting;
- Dr. Meixell said to write the justification into the resolution as to why we are supporting this;
- Ms. Collier said we are going to be a part of a community group that is working with South32 to locate an importance piece of their operation in our community; she added we needed to be part of this resolution; and it was an excellent idea to get everybody involved with it;
- Chairperson Fanning asked Dr. Meixell if the IROC also doubled as workforce development. He said it was important for IROC to be part of the resolution and be both; this will appease Dr. Varona and Dr. Meixell’s thought process;
- Dr. Meixell also said this should be part of a meeting;
- Mr. Lucero suggested that focusing solely on education would be more effective; he offered to draft something and send it to Mr. Pauole;
- Chairperson Fanning said he will add this topic to the SCVUSD Management Council to get feedback; this item will placed on the next agenda;
- Dr. Varona asked to go back to finances and shared the following:
 - He noticed that every community college, including Gila, is receiving operating state aid for \$200K, except for Santa Cruz County. He asked if Dr. Phillips could assist us with this matter;

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- No Executive Session took place.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Varona motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 23, 2023, as presented, seconded by Ms. Collier. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

<i>NAME</i>	<i>AYE</i>	<i>NAY</i>	<i>ABSTAIN</i>
Mr. John Fanning	X		
Mr. Greg Lucero	X		
Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.	X		
Ms. Liz Collier	X		
Dr. Angela Meixell	X		

B. Future Meeting Agenda Items

- a. Money Market – Mr. Pauole said there is a local government investment pool authorized and established by Arizona statute; it operates under the umbrella of the State Treasurer; most of the counties in the State participate- about half dozen of community colleges within the state participate, close to 100 cities and towns with a pool of about \$6 billion; he said this would be the starting point to see if SCCPCCD is a provisional and eligible to participate and look at an application; he added to have someone from the local government investment pool to make a presentation;
- b. \$200K status
- c. Follow up with PCC lobbyist to assist Provisional Community College
- d. Report on accreditation - Dr. Varona suggested Report on Pima Community Colleges Site Visit Accreditation, get an inspection, make sure we get it in writing;
- e. Computer Lab – Dr. Varona asked Jose to do a presentation;
- f. Operating State Aid – why is SCCPCCD not included?

- g. Mr. Lucero suggested that we should focus on the current dispute between Gila and Eastern at the upcoming Board Retreat. He emphasized the importance of developing a transitional plan towards accreditation and improving the working relationship between the two parties. He stressed the need for a well-thought-out plan; open discussion took place;

C. Future Meeting Dates

- a. October 25, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.
- b. November 18 @ 9 am (Board Retreat). Chairperson Fanning will review the date since Dr. Varona will not be available on this day-TBD

5. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Chairperson Fanning adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Ms. Liz Collier
SCCPCCD Board Member