

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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 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, November 29, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vice-Chairperson Lucero 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, Mr. Brian Nelson, and Dr. Morgan Phillips. Mr. David Pauole, PCC District Attorney, and Ms. Libby Howell joined virtually.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Collier motioned to accept the adoption of the agenda of Wednesday, November 29, 2023, SCCPCCD Regular Governing Board Meeting as presented, seconded by Dr. Meixell. 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		

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 October 2023 Financials and updated the Board on the SCC Educational Foundation:

- The Foundation held a meeting 10 days ago and has another one scheduled on January 16th at 5:00 p.m. in the SCCPCCD Boardroom. Mr. Robert Brubaker, Ms. Sandra Davila, and Mrs. Lou Jeong will attend this meeting. Board members have been invited to attend as well.
- Two exact non-recurring amounts mentioned were \$178.51 for the televisions in the student union classroom; \$357 for a newspaper ad;
- Deposits made: \$450 for the County Port Authority annual invoice, \$15,000 from C-CREO deposited on October 5th, U of A lease annual payment of \$20,284, and Adult Ed promised payment of \$22,500 by December 5th;
- Dr. Varona addressed his concerns about the management of the board's finances. He mentioned that he was reading the minutes of Gila Provisional and that they are going through a similar accreditation process to what the SCCPCCD went through a few years ago. Dr. Varona pointed out that Gila Provisional had more staff and were hiring an Administrative Assistant for the Governing Board in January; they are receiving more interest on their invested money than the SCCPCCD board was. He added that the Board should do something about the finances and explore other ways to increase interest on their money;
- Mrs. Tavera informed him that this item would be covered later on the agenda;

- Ms. Collier said she was glad that something was being done about it and felt that Chase Bank could provide better service and perhaps SCCPCCD should look for a new bank;

B. Chairperson of the Governing Board

SCCPCCD Governing Board Chairperson will address any updates.

- Chairperson Fanning said this was his last meeting as Chair and thanked everyone, it had been an honor;

C. Members of the Governing Board

- Ms. Collier asked if anyone had attended the Board of Supervisors meeting, saying there seemed to be a lot of community resistance to the mine and the manganese; South32 may end up changing, it was a very interesting meeting;

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

Mr. Brian Nelson, Advanced Program Manager/PCC, briefly covered the Spring 2024 Schedule:

- He first congratulated Chairperson Fanning for being selected to be on the Chancellor’s search committee; he will be receiving information shortly;
- He shared the following:
 - Fall 2022: 126% / Fall 2023: kept all 126% increase plus 1%
 - Spring 2022: 50% increase / Spring 2023: strong start, great numbers
- He briefly covered the EMT/Fire Science classes offered; there is a meeting on Friday for EMT for Spring 2024; he also talked and elaborated on the Student Life Activities/FWS (clubs); he showed a few pictures from the Santa Cruz County of Aging;
- Dr. Varona said the “Love Notes” were very well received by the Senior Citizens and really enjoyed them; he added the girls who participated had positive interactions with the group; they were asking questions about Pima Community College and was a very positive activity. He asked Mr. Nelson why they were not offering a Young Republicans Club;
- All Board Members were happy to hear the positive news; Chairperson Fanning added it was great to see the parking lot full of cars;
- The meeting was turned over to Ms. Libby Howell who briefed the Board on the recent and ongoing legislative developments. She gave a brief overview of the session that took place in June. At 204 days, this was the longest legislative session in the state's history, and approximately 1,672 bills were introduced. She was pleased to report that SCC received significant funding during the session. The total allocation was \$318,200, with \$21,200 allocated to Stem, \$97,000 to Rural Aid, and \$200,000 to Special Aid. This was a great accomplishment for SCC. She also addressed Dr. Varona's concerns regarding the Gila Provisional, stating that they did not receive the one-time special allocation that Senator Gabaldón had given to SCCPCCD. Additionally, Ms. Howell discussed the expenditure limitation issue faced by Community Colleges. She also said that starting in January, the budget situation in the State will be a very different situation, adding the Finance Committee that advised the Senate and the House had indicated that the short-term outlook for the general fund is bleak and elaborated on the funding situation saying the revenues through tax collections were down about 6-7%;
- Ms. Howell informed that many bills were introduced that would have suppressed voter rights, but fortunately the Governors vetoed them. On a brighter note, she mentioned that the Federal front is making significant progress in implementing short-term Pell, which would enable students who complete short-term workforce programs to benefit from it. She also shared that SCCPCCD might benefit from a bill that was passed, allowing community colleges to include certain types of non-credit workforce training in its FTSE count if the growth continues as described by Mr. Nelson. Ms. Howell explained that this would be beneficial to everyone in the end, even if it does not happen immediately;
- Dr. Varona expressed his concern regarding the allocation of funds to Gila Community College. He stated that Gila had recently invested heavily in retaining a lobbyist and received hundreds of

thousands of dollars annually from Representative Cook. On the other hand, our college had only received its first outside allocation. Dr. Varona found it discriminatory that the equalization fund was not being used to ensure that Gila and Santa Cruz colleges become accredited. He did not understand how it is considered equal when it seems to prevent them from receiving equalization funds;

- Ms. Howell said the four colleges receiving equalization aid were Cochise, Graham County, Navajo County, and just recently added, Yuma La Paz;
- Dr. Varona said equal to him meant that every community college in the State should be entitled to it; he asked why all community colleges received State Aid except for SCCPCCD and asked Mr. Nelson to look into it as we should be entitled to it based on our enrollment;
- Ms. Howell reported to the Board that Pima and Maricopa community colleges had not received Operational Aid since 2015. However, Dr. Varona clarified that he was not referring to this aid and added that there was a list released for all community colleges. He further explained that Pima and Maricopa were receiving this allocation, except for SCCPCCD. According to Dr. Varona, the aid was called Operating State Aid;
- Ms. Howell stated that Pima and Maricopa have not received it since 2015 because they followed the President's Executive Order and allowed dreamers who lived in the county to pay resident tuition; Dr. Varona said they did receive an allocation and were on the list;
- Additionally, Dr. Varona addressed the \$200,000 issue and said he was disturbed by the way he learned about it during dinner one night by Senator Gabaldón. Nobody informed the Board about the allocation and said they could have followed up with some lobbying themselves. He requested a breakdown because of the promise made to the Chancellor about not going to hire a lobbyist, even though Gila had their own. He asked how they could keep up with this and be aware of what was happening; Ms. Howell explained the process they used to discover the information as it was a surprise to them, too. She also highlighted the differences between Mr. Cook and Senator Gabaldón. According to her, Mr. Cook tends to use his vote for the budget as a bargaining chip to get what he wants for Gila College. This is something that the Democrats from Southern Arizona cannot do. Mr. Cook is very devoted to the college and is not hesitant to use his leverage to benefit it;
- Vice-Chairperson Lucero mentioned that he had a conversation with Senator Gabaldón. He thanked her for her hard work and inquired about the chances of getting the project appropriated again next year. Senator Gabaldón responded by saying that she would try and suggested working with Mr. David Cook. Vice-Chairperson Lucero suggested getting in touch with Mr. Cook as he represents the rural areas of the State. He suggested developing a strategy and approaching Mr. Cook, who might be receptive to the idea of continuing to fund or find allocations for the college. Moreover, he suggested working with Ms. Gail Griffin, as she has been supportive in Santa Cruz County;
- Dr. Meixell thanked Ms. Howell for her good news and for looking out for us;
- Ms. Collier also thanked Ms. Howell for her thorough report; she also brought up the vouchers and how families are spending them by buying groceries, taking vacations, etc. She said students are not being educated and asked if there was any plan of accountability with the money and how it should be spent. Are they going to make the students take the State test? Ms. Howell said it was a good question but she was not aware, and will look into it;
- Ms. Collier mentioned that the Workforce Training offered a good opportunity for the Santa Cruz Center;
- Chairperson Fanning thanked Ms. Howell for everything she did and said he was appreciative; he added anything they could do to help;

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

- Dr. Morgan Phillips, PCC Supervising Administrator, started his presentation by sharing good news related to FTSE. He said they did not have official numbers yet. He thoroughly explained that when FTSE is calculated for the institution, they are given the opportunity to use either a 5-

year moving average, using the prior year, or using FTSE based upon the fall semester currently in; normally, the community colleges use the 5-year moving average and SCC has been using this formula for the past several years, but due to the dramatic increase in FTSE last academic year, this will not be the best method to use at this time for the SCCPCCD, exceeding the 5-year average almost by double; he continued to say that when looking at the budget, one of the things they will discover is the amount of funds from expenditure limitation that are available will be constrained by the funds not expenditure limit (he elaborated); moving forward, there will be things that will impact enrollment and FTSE to help in the future and added it was nice they are in this situation; areas they are looking at are workforce non-credit. He further explained. The State Auditor General Office appears to be looking for places to work against things that the Legislature has historically done; therefore, one of the things they are working around is for that FTSE for the non-credit. They added that the FTSE calculations for expenditure limitation are based upon comparing what the institution does now to what the institution did back in 1980 (he elaborated adding the information did not exist); the step taken is to respond to the Auditor General saying this is not functionally possible and trying to get the other community colleges saying the same thing.

- Dr. Phillips said on a positive note that there was additional funding for dual enrollment they may be able to access. He explained how they do not have a process in existence yet, and the money was allocated sitting in a pot; they will know more in the next couple of months; he also explained how other community colleges have it easier with the funding because they do not get the funding, it goes directly to the high school, paying the tuition;
- On another note, Dr. Phillips said that this did not have a major impact at Pima but he said that the State Auditor General Office decided that the number of students attending a community college in the district has in the past interpreted that to mean the community college that is in the District, the community college is here. They are now saying it is the community college in the district that the district students are going to. Therefore, for FTSE calculations, students who are not AZ residents have to be excluded from the FTSE and Expenditure Limitation calculations. He added that the Newsweek report listed their top 100 colleges and universities with Pima Community College listed as number 44 in the nation;
- He concluded this topic by saying the Expenditure Limitation and FTSE calculations would be completed in the next few weeks and will have the official numbers in January. The enrollment in the fall semester is bigger than last fall, including the FTSE using method three;
- He also talked about the screening committee that they are looking into finding individuals to participate; they are also in the process of hiring a search firm to do consulting work. He said they are probably looking at some time around this time next year as the time for having a Chancellor;
- He has been meeting with Northern University and Catholic University about articulating courses from Pima to the university and programs where students can take their Pima credits such as 90/30 programs (significant cost savings for students); he's meeting with them again and looking at an Interdisciplinary Studies Degree (90/30);
- Dr. Varona asked Dr. Phillips for information on accreditation. Dr. Phillips said it was going well and provided information; he will provide the Board with the link for their next online meeting; he added that when the accreditor visits the school, they would talk to different people around the school about their experiences. Dr. Varona asked if our facility was meeting all standards. Dr. Phillips said all was good so far;
- Vice-Chairperson Lucero suggested discussing whether the college should participate in the upcoming legislative session or create a separate program to formally establish goals and objectives;
- Ms. Howell said they had their agenda prepared already; they have a committee of Administrators who participate in their Legislative Priorities Group; the Government Affairs people create a draft list; they also work with their contract lobbyist and it then goes to that group for review; this does not go to the Board for approval but as an informational item only;

she said the agenda might change due to the budget situation; as a side note, their foundation would like to have a license plate but needs the Legislature approval; they are going to get a bill introduced to approve a license plate for the Pima Foundation;

- Vice-Chairperson Lucero asked for a report on what they are doing and they need to somehow figure out how they want to participate or not participate and how to pursue it; she will discuss this with Dr. Phillips to see what is the best way to do that;
- Dr. Meixell said the FTSE was where it should be; she explained the 5-year average history; it is wonderful news on the FTSE right now;
- Ms. Collier said that when they implemented dual enrollment in Patagonia back in 2015, she had to raise money for their tuition as some parents could not afford it; it was good for one year; she was pleased to hear how they do dual enrollment and was very appreciative; Dr. Phillips said in a national report, in many communities, dual enrollment increases educational gaps;
- Chairperson Fanning thanked him and said this was an incredible opportunity for the students with dual enrollment; he asked to continue with FTSE and find a way (win-win situation);

F. Resolution Authorizing Investment in “Local Government Investment Pool” (LGIP)

- Mrs. Tavera stated that thanks to the resolution, it brought them more than \$1M to spend; she does not anticipate using it all due to enrollment and planning on investing into this account; Mr. Fanning signed the resolution including a letter of intent and must be approved by the Governing Board stating it is agreed to open this account and assign the approver(s); Mrs. Tavera provided Dr. Varona with a copy of the Resolution; she said it was a draft being reviewed and approved by the Auditor;
- Vice-Chairperson Lucero suggested approving everyone as signers;
- Dr. Varona asked if this draft had been approved by Mr. Pauole first before anyone else signed it; Mr. Pauole said he was familiar with the concept but had not seen the specific form;

Dr. Varona motioned to approve the resolution authorizing investment in the local government investment pool pending approval by Attorney Pauole, seconded by Ms. Collier. An open discussion took place. Dr. Meixell asked how accessible the funds were. Mrs. Tavera said within one week. She also asked what the interest rate available was. Mrs. Tavera said 5.37%. She will share the form with everyone. Vice-Chairperson Lucero said “point of order”, asking if signers were supposed to also be approved and be part of the motion. Mr. Pauole said it was a good idea to include it as part of the motion. Dr. Varona suggested making the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the only two people authorized to sign, making them accountable. Dr. Varona made a motion to amend the main motion to add the signature on the bank card will be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairperson Lucero seconded the motion. No further discussion took place. 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		

The original 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		

G. South 32, Discussion concerning the adoption of a resolution supporting the development of a workforce training center and remote operation center in Santa Cruz County

- Vice-Chairperson Lucero reviewed everyone’s comments and tried to make it the most neutral, generic resolution possible; he spoke to the Santa Cruz County officials and said they were going to be adopting a similar resolution supporting the remote operation center, adding they were adopting a second resolution specific to their manganese processing;
- Dr. Varona mentioned that efforts were being made by Chairperson Fanning, Ms. Collier, and himself to ensure that the location of the project remained within the county, along on the I-19 corridor. He added that during the last meeting, the CEO stated that a decision on the location would be made and announced by December;
- Chairperson Fanning confirmed that the project would be indeed within our county; he added that Dr. Varona had been very supportive;
- Dr. Varona clarified that IROC is different from the magnesium project and had nothing to do with the 250 acres; he is not taking a position on that, only the resolution on IROC and the training to be able to provide to Pima Community College. Dr. Varona requested to have the five signatures on the document and to purchase a newspaper advertisement in the Nogales International once the Resolution was passed;
- Dr. Meixell and Ms. Collier supported it and said they were very pleased with the way it was worded;
- Dr. Varona suggested reading the resolution to the public/community;
- Chairperson Fanning thanked Ms. Collier and Dr. Varona for discussing this and showing support for this during the panel meetings; in addition, he fully supports it and said it will be great as this is what is best for our students/kids; he thanked Vice-Chairperson Lucero for all of his homework being done in putting this resolution together;
- Vice-Chairperson Lucero read the Resolution in detail for the record;
- Mrs. Tavera asked how this resolution should be numbered; Dr. Varona said 2023-1 and filed by year; due to the previous resolution, it was suggested 2023-2 instead.

Dr. Varona made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-2. Vice-Chairperson Lucero seconded the motion. 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		

H. SCCPCCD Governing Board Seats

- Dr. Varona stated that he wanted to follow the Board protocol and recognized that it was time to appoint Vice-Chairperson Lucero as the new Board Chairperson and Mrs. Collier as the new Vice-Chairperson, as they are next in line for these positions.

Dr. Varona made a motion that effective January 1, 2024, Vice-Chairperson Greg Lucero be named Chairman of the Board, and Mrs. Collier be named Vice-Chair of the Board. Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Lucero. 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		

I. SCCPCCD Governing Board 2024 Retreat

- Chairperson Fanning agreed with Dr. Varona to wait until January for the retreat; he asked for date suggestions; Ms. Collier said a weekday would work fine, too; it was suggested Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, in conjunction with the regular board meeting. A

second choice suggested was Wednesday, January 31, 2024. He will submit both of these dates to Wendy and follow up with Mrs. Tavera;

- Dr. Meixell mentioned that she discovered a mining training center and asked when would it be an appropriate time to share with the Board; it was suggested by Vice-Chairperson Lucero to be added to the retreat agenda as “Discussion in Mining Training”;

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- No Executive Session took place.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Collier motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting held on October 25, 2023, as presented, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Dr. Varona said a simple editorial change needed to be made on page 4, H (should be Vice-Chairperson). 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. Dr. Varona asked Mrs. Tavera to have the new 2024 notebooks in place for the January meeting for all Board Members;
- b. Vice-Chairperson Lucero commented on the workforce development topic that was discussed earlier. He mentioned that he serves on the County's WIOA Board and they have been working on compliance issues for the past year. Vice-Chairperson Lucero suggested adding an agenda item to discuss engaging local organizations to start implementing workforce development training programs. He emphasized that no one was talking to them or they were not communicating with the people who needed it. He also mentioned that we should start considering being more active in the community since we are in a better financial situation. He met with Jaime Chamberlain and inquired if they had considered having the college be a part of their board. He suggested meeting with the Port Authority and asking to become a member or to consider adding them to the Executive Board. The purpose of this was to ensure that the community and other organizations recognized the work they were doing. He recommended adding this item to the agenda to discuss and devise a plan for moving forward;

C. Future Meeting Dates

- a. January 24, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Chairperson Fanning adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:39 p.m.

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Ms. Liz Collier
SCCPCCD Board Member