

1. **OPENING ITEMS**

A. ***Call to Order:***

Chair Varona called a Public Board Meeting (Retreat) of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 12:05 p.m.

Roll Call / In Attendance:

Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Chair, Dr. Angela Meixell- Vice-Chair, Dr. Carrie Pottinger- Member, Dr. Melisa Lunderville- Member, Mrs. Georgina Tavera- CFO, Mr. Jose Corrales- IT Manager, Mr. Greg Lucero- CEO and Ms. Denissa Peiro, attended. Mrs. Dina Sanchez- Member was excused from this meeting.

B. **Retreat Purpose & Process**

CEO Lucero provided background on the strategic planning process, which utilized Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a facilitation tool. An initial AI analysis of the existing strategic plan was conducted. Each board member and the CEO then engaged with an AI platform that prompted them to articulate their personal vision and strategic priorities for the district. Dr. Pottinger aggregated these individual statements into a new AI analysis to identify common themes, differences, and generate a draft consolidated strategic statement for board discussion.

2. **STRATEGIC DISCUSSION & CONSENSUS BUILDING**

The Board engaged in a facilitated discussion using materials generated by AI, including a thematic comparison of all member inputs and a list of key strategic differences.

A. **Primary Strategic Discussion: Path to Independence vs. Strengthening Pima Partnership**

- **Long-Term Goal:** Full accreditation and independence remains the Governing Board's acknowledged long-term goal.
- **Realistic Timeline & Metrics:** The Board agreed this is a long-term endeavor (10+ years) and should be contingent upon reaching a sustainable enrollment threshold, specifically 450 Full-Time Student Equivalent (FTSE), as prescribed by statute. Reaching this benchmark would trigger the formal development of an accreditation plan and budget.
- **Near-Term Focus (5-8 years):** The immediate strategic priority is to maintain and strengthen a positive, collaborative, and fluid working relationship with Pima Community College. The board expressed strong dissatisfaction with recent bureaucratic delays (e.g., the dual enrollment coordinator position) directing the CEO to address these issues firmly with Pima leadership
- **Communication:** The Board must consistently communicate to the community and Pima that independence is a long-term goal pursued responsibly through partnership, not an imminent or rushed action.

B. **Discussion on Program Expansion Priorities**

- **Academic Core Foundation:** Chair Varona emphasized the critical need for high-quality infrastructure and full-time faculty in core academic areas (English, Math, Science) to ensure student success and institutional credibility. Investment in these areas was prioritized over diverting limited general fund dollars to new certificate programs.
- **Workforce & Certificate Programs:** Support for workforce programs (e.g., electrician, potential plumbing or Medical Assistant programs) is conditional on external funding partnerships (e.g., South32, grants, healthcare providers) that do not draw from the core academic budget. The board acknowledged high demand for such programs but also raised concerns about market saturation and the need for data-driven decisions.
- **Responsive Growth:** The board discussed the need to be nimble in adding class sections (both academic and workforce) where demand demonstrably exceeds supply, as evidenced by rapid registration fill rates.

C. Other Strategic Considerations

- **Board Sustainability & Elections:** With four Board seats potentially turning over in late 2026, current members committed to identifying and mentoring potential candidates within their precincts to ensure continuity.
- **Expenditure Limit:** The Board acknowledged the state-imposed expenditure limit will constrain the ability to spend accumulated revenues (e.g., from South32 or property taxes) on major future projects like a new facility, and this must be factored into long-term planning.
- **Earn2Learn/AmeriCorps Proposal:** The Board expressed general support for exploring the Earn2Learn partnership to place an AmeriCorps member at the center for student support services, pending verification of compatibility with the Pima IGA and a formal proposal.
- **Adult Basic Education/ESL:** Noted as a critical community need with uncertain federal funding future. The CEO will seek Pima's plan for continuing these services and report back.

3. ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

A. Staff Directed

- To develop concrete data on funding sources (industry partnerships) for proposed certificate programs and on local labor market demand to guide programming decisions

B. Future Meeting Date

- The board agreed to schedule a follow-up retreat in February 2026 to continue the strategic conversation, focusing on finalizing a formal strategic statement and discussing facilities/infrastructure priorities.

C. Technology

- Board laptops/tablets are expected to be ready for distribution and training in December 2025 or January 2026

4. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the scheduled discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Mr. Greg Lucero
SCCPCCD CEO