



1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order:

Chair Varona called the Public Regular Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Dr. Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call / In Attendance:

Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Chair, Dr. Carrie Pottinger - Vice-Chair, Dr. Angela Meixell – Member, Dr. Melisa Lunderville- Member (via Zoom), Mrs. Dina Sanchez- Member (via Zoom), Mrs. Georgina Tavera- CFO, Mr. Greg Lucero- CEO, Mr. Jose Corrales- IT Manager, Ms. Denissa Peiro (Records Technician), Mr. Edgar Soto (PCC Desert Vista Campus Vice President, via Zoom), Mr. David Pauole (Legal Counsel, via Zoom), and other staff and guests.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Varona entertained a motion to adopt the agenda of Wednesday, March 18, 2026, as presented and recommended by Mr. Lucero. Motion was made by Dr. Pottinger to adopt the agenda of Wednesday, March 18, 2026, as presented, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

	Dr. Marcelino Varona Jr.	Dr. Angela Meixell	Mrs. Dina Sanchez	Dr. Melisa Lunderville	Dr. Carrie Pottinger
AYE	X	X	x	X	X
NAY					
ABSTAIN					

C. Public Comment – Call to Audience

No Call to the Public.

2. STANDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Monthly Financials

Mrs. Tavera presented the February 2026 Financials. Balances reported were \$1,067,000 in checking, \$1,478,000 in savings, and \$4,930,000 in the Arizona Treasury account. Non-recurring expenses included a smart board upgrade for Lab 4, medical insurance, CEO mileage reimbursement (covering three months), and IT password security software. Property tax income of \$76,600 was reported.

Chair Varona noted that IT expenses remained high but acknowledged that a purchase order from South32 had been received, and reimbursement would lower the net cost to the District. He requested a footnote on future reports indicating South32's participation. The financial report for February 2026 was received and filed.

B. Chairperson of the Governing Board

No reports were given.

C. Members of the Governing Board

No reports were given.

D. PCC-Santa Cruz Center District Report

Mr. Soto reported via Zoom, requesting grace due to a campaign event for his State Senate run.

- **Student Update:** He confirmed that concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding safety and security have been discussed with Pima College leadership. New protocols are being developed and will be presented to both boards at a joint meeting in April.
- He introduced Ms. Victoria Clark, Pima Community College's Director of Business Development and Engagement, who has been advising on workforce program expansion at the Santa Cruz Center.
- **Dual Enrollment:** In response to a question from Dr. Meixell, Mr. Soto clarified that Pima College is currently overseeing dual enrollment administration. A dedicated dual enrollment position for SCCPCCD was determined to be unnecessary, as Pima is already providing these services. Efforts are underway to add Nogales High School as an approved location, which will allow for expanded dual enrollment offerings.

Dr. Pottinger requested that future reports include enrollment data, which has historically been provided by Ms. Ruiz.

E. Setting a meeting date for the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District CEO Performance Evaluation

The board discussed scheduling the second CEO performance evaluation for Mr. Lucero, which is tied to the budget cycle.

Chair Varona proposed holding the evaluation during the first two weeks of April. Board members indicated availability during the second week of April. The evaluation will be conducted in Executive Session, with legal counsel present. Mr. Lucero will distribute evaluation forms to board members in advance.

Ms. Denissa will coordinate a date during the second week of April for the Executive Session.

F. Approving the Statement of Work (SOW) between the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District and South32 Corporation to provide an Automated Industrial Technician certificate program

Mr. Lucero presented the second Statement of Work (SOW) with South32 for the AIT certificate program, following the electrician certificate program.

- **Program Description (Ms. Victoria Clark):** The program is 16 credits over two semesters in a hybrid format (online coursework with in-person lab sessions two days per week). Ten students will be fully funded by South32 scholarships. All participants must be Santa Cruz County residents, with one slot reserved for a South32 employee.
- **Administrative Fee:** Mr. Lucero reported that after meeting with South32, a 20% administrative fee will be added to the program cost to cover the District's increased workload for equipment procurement and onboarding. This fee will be invoiced to South32.

Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to approve the agreement with South32 Corporation, to include a 20% administrative fee to the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District, and to authorize the CEO to sign the document on behalf of the district, seconded by Dr. Pottinger. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

	Dr. Marcelino Varona Jr.	Dr. Angela Meixell	Mrs. Dina Sanchez	Dr. Melissa Lunderville	Dr. Carrie Pottinger
AYE	X	X	X	X	X
NAY					
ABSTAIN					

G. Presentation of Draft Budget FY26-27

Mrs. Tavera presented the draft budget, including a proposed Truth in Taxation notice for a property tax increase of approximately \$37,000 (raising the levy to \$1.9 million).

- **New Positions:** The "original request" budget includes a full-time math faculty position, a full-time workforce development position, a student engagement coordinator, and a part-time security officer. The "recommended changes" budget retains the workforce position, pending potential funding from South32.
- **Expenditure Limitation:** The District has forecasted 270 FTSE (Full-Time Student Equivalency) for the upcoming year, an increase that includes dual enrollment students.
- **Funding Gap:** Mr. Lucero informed the board that the full requested budget would require drawing approximately \$1 million from contingency. He outlined two long-term options to address the structural deficit: a voter-approved tax rate increase or a one-time adjustment tied to the construction of a new college campus.
- **Board Priorities:** Chair Varona identified the full-time writing faculty (to be continued), a new full-time math faculty position, and a part-time security officer as his top priorities. Dr. Meixell noted that full-time faculty in basic skills have been a long-term goal of the board.
- **Next Steps:** Board members will submit questions and recommendations to Mr. Lucero, who will consolidate them for a revised budget presentation at the April 15th meeting.

H. Review and discuss Gila Community College's accreditation process and status

Chair Varona introduced this discussion as a pathway toward future accreditation for SCCPCCD.

- **Consultants:** Dr. Homero Lopez (founding president of Estrella Mountain Community College) and Dr. Mary Vanis (former Vice President of Accreditation Services for the Higher Learning Commission) joined the meeting to offer guidance.
- **Discussion:** The board discussed two regional accrediting bodies: the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which Gila Community College is currently pursuing. Dr. Meixell cautioned against automatically following Gila's choice, noting her extensive experience with ACCJC and its rigorous standards. Dr. Lopez noted recent statutory changes in Arizona that provide more flexibility, including the ability to seek accreditation from either body and to partner with a university (as Gila did with NAU) instead of another community college.

Chair Varona directed Mr. Lucero to prepare a brief presentation for a future meeting outlining the initial requirements and eligibility determination process for ACCJC, and to coordinate a similar overview for HLC (potentially through Pima College or Dr. Vanis). The board will then make an informed decision on which accrediting body to pursue.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

N/A

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Varona entertained a motion to approve the recommendation of CEO Greg Lucero, to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Dr. Meixell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Pottinger. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0. (Mrs. Dina left for other meeting at 4:22)

	Dr. Marcelino Varona Jr.	Dr. Angela Meixell	Mrs. Dina Sanchez	Dr. Melisa Lunderville	Dr. Carrie Pottinger
AYE	X	X	Excused Absence	X	X
NAY					
ABSTAIN					

B. Future Meeting Agenda times

- a. Addition of bank signing authority for Vice Chair Dr. Carrie Pottinger.
- b. Review of facility leasing policy. Chair Varona requested an agenda item to review the policy on leasing District facilities while students are present on campus, citing safety concerns.

C. Future Meeting Date

- a. Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
- b. The board agreed to meet to the second week of April.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Varona entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting at 4:38 p.m. Dr. Meixell made a motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Dr. Pottinger. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

	Dr. Marcelino Varona Jr.	Dr. Angela Meixell	Mrs. Dina Sanchez	Dr. Melisa Lunderville	Dr. Carrie Pottinger
AYE	X	X	X	X	X
NAY					
ABSTAIN					

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Mr. Greg Lucero
SCCPCCD CEO