



**SCCPCCD GOVERNING BOARD
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026**

2021 North Grand Avenue ~ Nogales, AZ 85621

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, April 15, 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 arrived at 3:01), Mrs. Georgina Tavera- CFO, Mr. Greg Lucero- CEO, Mr. Jose Corrales- IT Manager, Ms. Denissa Peiro (Records Technician), Mr. Andres Galaviz (Student Worker), Mr. Edgar Soto (PCC Desert Vista Campus Vice President), Ms. Libby Howell (Pima CC Government Relations), Mr. Joseph Mais (Pima CC Federal Relations), Ms. Victoria Clark (Pima CC Director of Business Development and Engagement) and 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, April 15, 2026, as presented and recommended by Mr. Lucero. Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to adopt the agenda of Wednesday, March 18, 2026, as presented, seconded by Dr. Pottinger. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

	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					

C. Public Comment – Call to Audience

No Call to the Public.

Chair Varona requested that Mr. Lucero work with IT staff to establish a clear procedure for public comment from remote participants, referencing recent issues observed at a County Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Lucero acknowledged the request. (Mrs. Dina Sanchez entered Via Zoom)

2. STANDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Monthly Financials

Mrs. Tavera presented the March 2026 Financials. Balances reported were \$1,054,000 in checking, \$1,478,000 in savings, and \$4.9 million in the Arizona Treasury account. Non-recurring expenses included a electrical outlet upgrades for safety (\$3,900), a gaming table for the student area (\$1,444), annual financial audit fee (\$5,500), headphones for the testing center (\$397), and furniture for the boardroom and lobby (\$20,108). Mrs. Tavera noted that the furniture deposit was made with confidence due to a purchase order from South32, which is expected to reimburse the District within two weeks.

Dr. Lunderville noted a clerical error on the agenda stating "February" instead of "March." The board acknowledged the correction for the record.

Chair Varona inquired about the ASBA medical insurance coverage. Mrs. Tavera reported positive experiences and noted that staff are satisfied. The financial report for March 2026 was received and filed.

B. Chairperson of the Governing Board

No reports were given.

C. Members of the Governing Board

Dr. Pottinger reported attending the April 8th Pima Community College Board Meeting virtually, where Mr. Soto and Mr. Lucero presented. She noted that new Pima board members asked questions about the financial relationship, and Mr. Soto effectively communicated that what benefits Santa Cruz County benefits Pima County and the entire region. A study session is scheduled for April 27th.

D. PCC-Santa Cruz Center District Report

Mr. Soto reported on the positive energy and activity at the Center. Highlights included:

- A podcast featuring Maricruz Ruiz and Alexis to promote the Center.
- A news story on Channel 13 coordinated with Mr. Lucero.
- The food pantry continues to serve students.
- He introduced Ms. Libby Howell (Government Relations) and Mr. Joseph Mais (Federal Relations) to provide legislative updates.
- He noted that Pima's new police chief was unable to attend due to a family medical matter but is committed to visiting and addressing campus safety protocols.

Legislative Update – Libby Howell and Joseph Mais (Pima Community College)

Ms. Howell provided a state legislative update:

- The federal "skinny budget" proposes eliminating Adult Basic Ed, TRIO, CCampus and other programs. However, this is a starting negotiating position, and community college advocates are working to protect funding.
- Arizona faces significant budget challenges, including a \$1.1 billion revenue loss if the state conforms to federal tax law changes (H.R.1).
- Governor Hobbs has halted bill signings until Republicans produce a budget plan addressing tax conformity and education funding.
- The legislative session has seen a record 2,122 bills introduced, with very few Democratic bills advancing.
- Bills Monitored: HB2255 (Teacher's Academy funding) passed and was signed; SB1066 (concealed weapons on campus) is likely to pass but faces a likely veto; SB1144 (veterinary tech certification) is being opposed.

Mr. Mais provided a federal update:

- Changes to student loan eligibility will impact students attending less than full-time.
- Workforce Pell Grant regulations for short-term programs take effect July 1st.
- The Department of Education is moving student loan portfolios to the Department of Treasury.
- The administration's "skinny budget" proposes adding \$10.5 billion to Pell Grants while eliminating other programs. Congress will now begin the appropriations process.

Chair Varona thanked Ms. Howell and Mr. Mais for their excellent presentations. He confirmed that Mr. Lucero should continue efforts to assume responsibility for adult education programs. Board members expressed appreciation for the detailed updates.

E. Discussion/possible action: Approving a request to allow the SCCPCCD CEO to attend the 2026 Flinn-Brown Fellowship Academy, August -November 2026 (15 days total)

Mr. Lucero requested board approval to attend the 2026 Flynn Brown Fellowship Academy, a rigorous leadership program requiring approximately 15 days of travel to Phoenix over the summer and fall. He was selected as a finalist. There is no cost to the District for the program, though travel expenses would apply. Motion was made by Dr. Lunderville to approve the CEO's participation in the 2026 Flynn Brown Fellowship Academy, authorize the Governing Board Chair to submit the required approval form, and authorize the District to cover the CEO's travel expenses, 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					

F. Presentation of Second Draft Budget FY26-27

Mrs. Tavera presented the second draft budget.

- **Tax Rate:** The proposed property tax levy is \$1.904 million, with a tax rate of 39.84 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (a 2% increase).
- **Expenditure Limitation:** The District has forecasted 270 FTSE (Full-Time Student Equivalency), including 50 from dual enrollment, resulting in an expenditure limitation of \$4.105 million.
- **Revenue:** The budget anticipates \$933,000 in tuition credits from Pima (a conservative 40% estimate), \$276,000 from Prop 207 (marijuana sales tax), and \$850,000 in state aid (workforce, STEM, rural). Adult education funding is not assumed but would be an additional \$22,500 if received.
- **Workforce Programs:** The \$1.039 million in workforce training programs (AIT, Medical Assistant, EMT, Plumbing) are budgeted at zero net impact, as Mr. Lucero is seeking sponsor funding. Any shortfall would be brought back to the board.
- **Pima IGA Costs:** Mrs. Tavera detailed the full cost of Pima staff and the 26% administrative fee, totaling \$1.556 million before tuition credits.
- **Contingency:** The proposed budget includes a contingency of \$394,000, compared to approximately \$150,000 last year, largely due to more realistic tuition credit accounting.
- **Security:** Chair Varona expressed a strong preference for a full-time security officer. Mrs. Tavera noted the current proposal includes a part-time position. Mr. Lucero stated he would consult with Pima's new police chief for a recommendation before finalizing the budget.
- **Board Discussion:** The board discussed the importance of accurately communicating to the public that the District pays Pima for all services plus a 26% administrative fee. Chair Varona noted that the District receives no "freebies."
- **Next Steps:** A public hearing and final budget adoption are scheduled for May 20th at 2:00 PM, followed by the regular board meeting at 3:00 PM.

G. Discussion and approval on adding Dr. Carrie Pottinger as an authorized signer to our JP Morgan Chase Checking and Saving account

Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to authorize Dr. Carrie Pottinger as an authorized signer on the District's JPMorgan Chase checking and savings accounts, as presented, seconded by Dr. Lunderville. 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					

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 March 18, 2026 and Special Board Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2026, as presented. Dr. Pottinger made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0. (Mrs. Dina Sanchez left for another meeting at 4:22 p.m.)

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

B. Future Meeting Agenda times

- a. Approve Dr. Meixell Retirement to the Board.
- b. Finalize Performance Evaluation and Contract CEO of Mr. Greg Lucerob under executive session.
- c. Copy of recent Auditor’s General Report (Expenditure limitation and Finances).

C. Future Meeting Date

- a. Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. with a Budget Public Hearing at 2:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Varona entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting at 4:32 p.m. Dr. Pottinger made a motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Dr. Meixell. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Mr. Greg Lucero
SCCPCCD CEO