



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, February 18, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Sandra Moraga 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 joined at 3:05PM), Mrs. Georgina Tavera- CFO, Mr. Greg Lucero- CEO, Mr. Jose Corrales- IT Manager, Ms. Denissa Peiro (Records Technician) Mrs. Maricruz Ruiz (PCC Santa Cruz Center Director), Ms. Alexis (Front Desk Coordinator), Ms. Kimberly Martinson (Full-time Writing Faculty), Mr. Edgar Soto (PCC Desert Vista Campus Vice President, via Zoom), Mr. David Pauole (Legal Counsel, via Zoom), Mr. John Dominguez (Auditor, CWDL), Ms. Carla Wall (AZ Auditor General's Office, via Zoom), and other staff and guests.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Varona entertained a motion to adopt the agenda of Wednesday, February 18, 2026, as presented and recommended by Mr. Lucero. Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to adopt the agenda of Wednesday, January 21, 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 (late)	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 January 2026 Financials. Balances reported were \$1,478,000 in savings, \$1,041,000 in checking, and \$4,914,000 in the Arizona Treasury account. Non-recurring expenses highlighted included IT software licenses, mini-PC upgrades, scheduling software fees, acoustic panels for the boardroom, and a payment for the Pima Summer 2025 semester. A refund from the University of Arizona for leased rooms was also noted.

Chair Varona noted a significant budget over-expenditure in the IT equipment category. Mrs. Tavera acknowledged the error and committed to reclassifying the expenses, as the majority were for system upgrades, not routine supplies

B. Chairperson of the Governing Board

Chair Varona reported that he would be attending a meeting with Pima Community College on Friday to finalize the agenda for the upcoming joint board meeting.

C. Members of the Governing Board

No reports were given. Ms. Sanchez joined the meeting at this time (3:05PM).

D. PCC-Santa Cruz Center Campus Report/Full-Time Faculty Presentation

Mrs. Ruiz reported on spring enrollment figures and highlighted several key initiatives:

- **Student Safety:** Provided a report on recent safety incidents at the Center, including an individual carrying a weapon. She has developed an incident report form for use at the Center.
- **Upcoming Events:** Announced an Electrician Certificate student graduation planned for August 7th and an Educational Fair scheduled for April to connect students with universities and community partners.
- **New Programs:** Planning continues for a Medical Assistant program and an Automated Industrial Technology (AIT) program, both targeted for a Fall launch. A scholarship from South32 for the AIT program is being developed.

Chair Varona expressed strong concern regarding the safety incidents, specifically the individual with a weapon who was not in uniform. He stressed the need for clear protocols, including immediately contacting law enforcement when an individual refuses to comply with weapons-free zone policies. Dr. Pottinger suggested exploring the feasibility of visible security personnel during evening hours. Mr. Lucero confirmed these issues would be a top priority in discussions with Pima College. Chair Varona also suggested using local student photos on promotional flyers to better reflect the Center's community.

Ms. Martinson-Writing Faculty presented data on the language needs of students at the Center. Her research, including surveys of faculty and placement testing of students, indicates a significant number of students face language barriers that impede their academic success. She is pursuing a TESL certificate to teach a specialized writing course and is working to create a pathway for students to access Pima College's Intensive Academic ESL program via hybrid-flexible mode.

The board commended Ms. Martinson for her initiative and the value of having full-time faculty to address such critical student needs. Dr. Meixell suggested that a full-time math faculty position should be considered in the upcoming budget cycle, a sentiment echoed by Mr. Lucero and Chair Varona.

E. PCC-Santa Cruz Center District Report

Mr. Soto reported that the meeting scheduled for February 20th would include a presentation of three options for the future growth of the Santa Cruz Center, based on data from the ASU Helios Data Center and discussions with South32. He noted that the projected growth for Santa Cruz County is significant. Chair Varona requested that Mr. Soto attend future meetings in person. Mr. Soto agreed.

F. Audit Update – FY24 Auditor General Audit

Mr. John Dominguez (CWDL) and Ms. Carla Wall (AZ Auditor General's Office) presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 audit.

- **Audit Opinion:** An unmodified (clean) opinion was rendered, meaning the financial statements are presented fairly and accurately.
- **Financial Highlights:** The District's net position increased by just over \$1 million to \$6.1 million. Primary revenue drivers were property taxes and state appropriations.
- **Internal Controls:** The auditors noted that while a district of this size faces challenges in segregating duties, the controls in place are strong and sufficient to mitigate risks. No findings or concerns were identified.
- **Board Discussion:** Chair Varona emphasized the importance of the "conservative" financial approach noted in the report, given the community's past experience with financial mismanagement by other entities. The board thanked the auditors for their report.

The audit report was received and accepted by the board members.

G. Presentation of Board Policies for the SCCPCCD – Topics 5000-5100: District Administration and General Institutional Issues (Second Reading)

Mr. Lucero presented the second reading of Policies and Procedures Section 5000 through 5100, incorporating corrections from the previous meeting, including clarifying the CEO's role as HR Director and requiring legal counsel review for PTO payouts upon separation. Legal counsel confirmed review of the final versions. Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to approve the addition of Policies 5000 through 5100 and their associated procedures to the District's Policies and Procedures Manual, as listed on the agenda, seconded by Dr. Pottinger. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

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

H. Approval of Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. Lucero explained that the Emergency Operation Plan had been discussed in Executive Session at the prior meeting and was now properly agendized for action. Motion was made by Dr. Pottinger to approve the Emergency Operation Plan as presented to the Governing Board in Executive Session, 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					

I. Governing Board Upcoming Elections Procedure Update

Denissa provided an overview of the 2026 election process, identifying the seats up for election and key filing dates. She is working with county officials to ensure a smooth process. Dr. Pottinger issued a plea to current board members to assist in recruiting candidates for the upcoming election to ensure a quorum can be maintained. It was clarified that while the primary election date for partisan races has moved to July 21st, community college board races are nonpartisan and will appear on the November 3rd General Election ballot. Mr. Lucero will correct the initial information provided by county officials.

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 January 21, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Dr. Meixell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez. 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					

B. Future Meeting Agenda times

- a. Items discussed at this meeting, including safety protocols, security personnel, a full-time math faculty position, and the budget.
- b. Presentation of the draft budget at the March meeting.

C. Future Meeting Date

- a. Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
- b. The board agreed to move the June meeting to the second Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 3:00 PM

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Varona entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting at 4:15 p.m. Dr. Pottinger made a motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Mrs. Sanchez. 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