



SCCPCCD GOVERNING BOARD
SPECIAL Board Meeting
Minutes
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20,
2026
2021 North Grand Avenue ~ Nogales,
AZ 85621

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order:

Chair Varona called the Public Special Board Meeting of the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District (SCCPCCD) Board to order on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Dr. Lunderville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call / In Attendance:

Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.- Chair, Dr. Angela Meixell – Member, Dr. Melisa Lunderville- Member (via Zoom), Mrs. Georgina Tavera- CFO, Mr. Greg Lucero- CEO, Mr. Jose Corrales- IT Manager, Ms. Denissa Peiro (Records Technician), Mr. David Pauole (Legal Counsel, via Zoom), and other staff and guests. Dr. Carrie Pottinger - Vice-Chair and Mrs. Dina Sanchez- Member were not in attendance.

B. Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Varona entertained a motion to adopt the agenda of Wednesday, May 20, 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. Lunderville. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

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

C. Public Comment – Call to Audience (procedure)

Mr. Lucero informed the board that, following discussions with legal counsel, the District has established that only individual present in person may fill out a speaker form and address the board during public comment.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE AND PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

A. Budget Presentation

Mrs. Tavera presented the final draft of the FY2026-2027 budget, which had been reviewed at multiple prior meetings. The District has forecasted 270 FTSE (Full-Time Student Equivalency), including 50 from dual enrollment for the first time, resulting in an expenditure limitation of \$4,105,000.

The proposed property tax levy is \$1,904,000 with a tax rate of 39.84 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (a 2% increase over the neutral levy of 39.06 cents). This increase will generate approximately \$37,000 in additional revenue. The District's tax rate remains significantly lower than comparative districts (e.g., Cochise at 92 cents, Patagonia Union High School at \$2.23).

• Revenue Summary:

- State Aid (workforce, STEM, rural): \$850,000 (reduced due to no longer anticipating CEL grant and rental income)
- Smart & Safe Harbor Act (marijuana sales tax): \$276,000
- Miscellaneous (other grants): \$190,000
- Pima IGA Tuition Credit (estimated 40% of costs): \$933,000

- Workforce Program Sponsorships (South32 and others): \$1,039,000 (budgeted as a wash)
- **Expenditure Summary:**
 - Pima IGA (staff, faculty, 26% administrative fee): \$1,556,000 (before tuition credit)
 - SCCPCCD Wages, Taxes, Benefits (full-time employees, ASRS): detailed
 - Building Lease: \$368,000 (3% annual increase per contract through 2028)
 - IT Licenses and Supplies: \$107,000 (including \$93,000 for licenses such as Microsoft, Meraki, Deep Freeze)
 - IT Upgrades: \$78,000 (distributed across all labs, testing center, and lobby)
 - Utilities (electric, gas, water, TV, phone, internet): \$78,000
 - Building Maintenance and Cleaning Supplies: detailed
 - Contingency: \$334,000
- **Workforce Development Programs (Mr. Lucero):** Mr. Lucero detailed the following programs, all of which are anticipated to have no net financial impact on the District due to sponsorships (primarily South32) and partnerships:
 - Automated Industrial Technology (AIT) – Second cohort from Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District (~\$35,000 total; ~\$27,000 cost to provisional)
 - Electrician Certification – Second cohort funded by South32 (\$75,000)
 - EMT Program – Equipment donations from Nogales Fire Department and partnerships with local CTE programs and Arizona@Work to cover costs (~\$124,000 budgeted, expected to be substantially reduced)
 - Medical Assistant Program – Partnerships with Mariposa Clinic, Nogales Unified School District, and Arizona@Work
 - Plumbing Certification and HVAC Program – Planned for future fiscal years

3. **Public Comments**

No members of the public spoke during the public hearing.

4. **Board Discussion**

Chair Varona emphasized that the tax rate is essentially flat while the District continues to make improvements, maintain full-time faculty, and enhance infrastructure. The District has received \$420,000 from South32 this week to reimburse vendors for equipment already received.

Dr. Homero Lopez, a guest, asked three questions regarding: (1) the impact of the new Workforce Pell program on student aid; (2) whether adjunct faculty teaching workforce programs are on the same salary scale; and (3) existing space for future programs. Mr. Lucero responded that Pell matters are coordinated with Pima College, adjunct faculty recruitment remains a challenge with Pima's HR process, and the District is strategically managing space with a goal of a new facility when the lease expires in 2028.

RECESS

The board took a brief recess from approximately 2:40 PM to 2:55 PM to allow time for any members of the public from the eastern part of the county to arrive, consistent with board tradition.

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Approval of Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Chair Varona entertained a motion to approve the tax increase as presented during the public hearing. Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to approve the tax increase for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as recommended by the CEO, seconded by Dr. Lunderville. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

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

B. Approval of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Chair Varona entertained a motion to adopt the proposed budget as presented during the public hearing. Motion was made by Dr. Meixell to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as recommended by the CEO, seconded by Dr. Lunderville. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Varona entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting at 2:59 p.m. Dr. Meixell made a motion to adjourn this special board meeting, seconded by Dr. Lunderville. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

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

Minutes presented respectfully by:

Mr. Greg Lucero SCCPCCD CEO