

RANCHO SANTIAGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
2323 North Broadway, #107
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Board of Trustees (Regular meeting)

Monday, February 6, 2012

MINUTES

1.0 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Mr. Phillip Yarbrough. Other members present were Ms. Arianna Barrios, Mr. Brian Conley, Mr. John Hanna, Mr. Larry Labrado, Mr. Mark McLoughlin, and Mr. Andrew Hanson. Dr. David Chapel arrived at the time noted.

Administrators present during the regular meeting were Mr. John Didion, Dr. Erlinda Martinez, Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, and Mr. Juan Vázquez. Ms. Anita Lucarelli was present as record keeper.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Carol Pinkston, mother of Mr. Hanson, student trustee.

1.3 Approval of Additions or Corrections to Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Conley, seconded by Mr. Hanson, and carried unanimously to approve Item 1.8 (Authorization for Board Travel/Conferences) as an addendum to the agenda.

Dr. Chapel arrived at this time.

1.4 Public Comment

Regarding Item 1.7 (Revised Board Policies), Mr. Zeke Hernandez spoke in support of the district's recommendation to have each trustee reside in one of seven specified trustee areas and be elected by the voters residing in that area.

1.5 Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. McLoughlin, seconded by Mr. Hanson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2012.

1.6 Public Hearing – Rancho Santiago Community College District Initial Bargaining Proposal to Continuing Education Faculty Association (CEFA)

There were no public comments.

1.7 Adoption of Revised Board Policies

It was moved by Ms. Barrios and seconded by Mr. Hanson to adopt revisions to BP9003 (revised) – Membership and BP9004 (revised) – Trustee Areas.

Mr. Hanna reported the board has reviewed these policies since February 2011 and the proposed revisions will put the district in conformance with California law. Discussion ensued regarding complying with California law and assuring diverse communities are represented in the election process.

Dr. Rodríguez stated that if revisions to the board policies are approved, the next steps would include: 1) issuing a request for proposal (RFP) to select a demographer to work on the boundaries of the voting districts, and 2) having the board approve a resolution at its next meeting to submit to the Board of Governors for approval.

Mr. Labrado expressed concern that the process would be delayed and asked if the board is able to approve the resolution at this meeting. Dr. Rodríguez indicated the resolution is not prepared for approval.

Ms. Barrios expressed concern over the timeline and asked if the district is still on schedule for the November election. Dr. Rodríguez answered affirmatively.

Mr. Yarbrough expressed concern over the representation of trustees serving one college and not the other; therefore, he proposed the following amendment.

It was moved by Mr. Yarbrough and seconded by Mr. McLoughlin to amend the second paragraph of BP9003-Membership to read:

It is the intent of the Board that beginning with the November 2012 election, each trustee will reside in one of seven specified trustee areas, and be elected at large by the voters ~~residing in that area~~.

Discussion ensued regarding at-large voting not conforming to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). Dr. Rodríguez asked legal counsel, Mr. Warren Kinsler of Atkinson, Anderson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, to address board members' concerns.

Mr. Kinsler indicated the board would not obtain immunity with the CVRA if the board changed the language as proposed in the above amendment and the board would not be going through the Board of Governors process pursuant to AB684 (Assembly Member Block-Community college districts: trustee elections) that was recently adopted.

1.7 Adoption of Revised Board Policies – (cont.)

Discussion ensued regarding seven specified trustee areas and nine board members represented and elected by voters in the specified trustee areas.

Ms. Barrios, Dr. Chapel, and Mr. Labrado agreed that redistricting was the main topic discussed at the recent legislative conference in Sacramento.

Mr. Kinsler explained that the current configuration of the district (three areas) is potentially riskier than having an at-large system where a person is able to live anywhere in the district and be voted on by everyone in the district. He further explained that the preferences of a particular area may be submerged or diluted by the preferences of the entire district.

Mr. McLoughlin asked if a potential lawsuit could be filed against the district even if the trustees approved the revised board policies whereby each trustee is to reside in one of seven specified trustee areas and be elected by the voters residing in that area. Mr. Kinsler indicated there is a possibility of a lawsuit, but most likely if the district is in compliance with the CVRA, the possibility of a lawsuit would diminish. He stated the district must take into account a wide range of factors when drawing boundary lines to assure it does not dilute the voting strength of particular groups in the community in order to be in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Dr. Chapel indicated the district is unique since its boundaries extend from a dense population to a rural area. He requested board members discuss the possibility of the district having nine board members after discussion ends regarding the proposed amendment. Mr. Labrado indicated he would not support a nine-member board due to the additional time and expense that would be placed on the district.

Mr. Hanna encouraged board members to approve revisions to the board policies since it would put the district in a better legal position and be in conformance with the government.

Mr. Yarbrough thanked the law firm of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo for its legal opinions relating to this matter.

The motion failed unanimously to amend the second paragraph of BP9003-Membership.

The motion carried unanimously to adopt revisions to the BP 9003-Membership and BP9004-Trustee Areas.

1.8 Authorization for Board Travel/Conferences

It was moved by Mr. Conley, seconded by Mr. Hanson, and carried unanimously to approve the submitted conference and travel by a board member.

2.0 BOARD PLANNING SESSION

2.1 Community and Staff Responses to Survey on Board Vision and Goals

Ms. Nga Pham, RSCCD Director of Research, presented responses from a January 2012 survey that asked staff and the community to evaluate progress toward the district's 2011-2012 vision and goals. Ms. Pham reported there were 283 responses which included 18 community respondents and 265 staff respondents.

Regarding the 2011-2012 goals, Ms. Pham reported that staff and the community agreed that Goal 1 and 2 ranked highly, and Goal 3 ranked last. Issues the community would like the district to address include enhancing efforts to connect with the community, developing funding sources for education, and developing/enhancing partnerships and sharing of facilities. Issues the staff would like the district to address include using technology, supporting curriculum using technology, and funding of technology; low morale of staff and lack of staff development activities; and importance and contribution of continuing education programs.

2.2 Presentation of Supplemental Data

Ms. Pham presented the following 12 Measures of Success as information: Access to students, successful course completion, course retention, college-level skill attainment, graduates, transfer rates to four-year institutions, student satisfaction, matriculation of continuing education students to the credit program, vocational technical education, employee diversity, financial indicators, and resource development.

Regarding graduates (Measure 5), board members and staff discussed possible reasons for the increase of certificates issued for Santiago Canyon College (SCC) students. Mr. Vazquez indicated that prior to 2009-2010 students completed the units required for a certificate, but did not apply for it. In 2008-2009 staff began notifying students that they were eligible to receive a certificate; therefore, the 2009-2010 numbers increased in certificates issued the following year. In addition, Mr. Craig Rutan indicated both colleges had higher certificates issued in 2009-2010 due to a change in state regulations that allowed colleges to issue certification for completion of California State University general education requirements. It was noted that the certificates referred to are academic certificates, not vocational certificates. These numbers represent students who completed coursework to enable transfer to a four-year university, but did not apply for an AA/AS degree. Mr. Hanna asked for this information (combination of AA/AS degrees and certificates awarded) to be combined together in graph form with percentages listed.

Mr. Hanna congratulated staff on the high rankings in the student satisfaction area that graduates and current students gave the colleges.

2.2 Presentation of Supplemental Data – (cont.)

Discussed ensued regarding the core indicators of performance for students in apprenticeship and vocational education courses. Mr. Labrado asked that vocational programs at SCC and apprenticeship programs at SAC be reported separately.

Regarding the 12 Measures of Success presentation, Dr. Chapel asked for state-wide comparisons for all the measures.

During his recent Sacramento legislative visit, Mr. Hanna saw a document that reported state-wide financial aid comparisons for large community college districts. From this report, it appeared that RSCCD was not receiving its fair share of student financial aid and Mr. Hanna questioned the reason for this.

Mr. Didion reviewed environmental scans relating to revenue, Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES), and credit/non-credit FTES comparison.

Mr. Yarbrough called a recess at 6:03 p.m.

The board reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Pham reviewed environmental scans relating to staffing; credit and non-credit headcounts; ethnic and gender distribution; proportions of students 21 years and younger, educational goals, full-time students, and day/night status; service area population; local cities population changes; participation rates; and service area high school graduates.

2.3 Development and Approval of 2012-2013 Vision and Goals

It was moved by Ms. Barrios and seconded by Mr. Conley to approve the 2012-2013 vision statement and goals.

Discussion ensued regarding achievement of the goals by staff. Dr. Rodríguez indicated he and staff use the goals as a basis for establishing their goals. In addition, staff held a strategic planning session based upon goals the board established.

Discussion ensued regarding the district attaining “cutting edge technology” as referred to in Goal #4. Although technology moves at a fast pace, Mr. Conley noted that it is still a goal to include cutting edge technology in the district’s educational programs and services.

Dr. Chapel noted that Goal #3 included “when cost-effective” and recommended this statement be included in each goal.

2.3 Development and Approval of 2012-2013 Vision and Goals – (cont.)

Mr. Hanna asked if the language in Goal #5 and Goal #7 made it evident that board members considered these goals a priority. The chancellor indicated the language was clear and although staff has responded to these goals by participating in various programs, Dr. Rodríguez suggested establishing a method of measuring the progress toward this goal.

It was moved by Mr. Conley, seconded by Mr. Labrado, and carried unanimously to amend Goal #8 to:

Assess and address the educational needs of the communities we serve, and enhance awareness of the district and its colleges through outreach and advocacy among community constituencies and to local, state, and national leaders.

The motion carried unanimously to approve the 2012-2013 vision statement and goals as follows:

Vision Statement 2012-2013

The colleges and centers of the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) are learning communities. The RSCCD Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring access, equity, and success for students by providing comprehensive educational opportunities throughout our communities. The RSCCD will be a global leader in many fields, delivering cost-effective, innovative and sustainable programs and services that are responsive to the diverse needs and interests of all students. The RSCCD will be exceptionally sensitive and responsive to the economic and educational needs of our students and communities. The environment of the RSCCD will be collegial and supportive for students, staff, and the communities we serve.

The RSCCD will promote and extensively participate in partnerships with other educational providers, including business, industry, and community groups, to further the goal of enhancing our communities' cultural, educational, and economic well-being.

The RSCCD will be a leader in the state in student learning. Students who complete programs will be prepared for success in business, industry, careers, and all future educational endeavors. We will prepare students to embrace and engage the diversity of our global community and to assume leadership roles in their work and public lives.

2012-2013 Goals

1. Promote a learning community environment that is innovative, student-centered, and celebrates student achievement.
2. Prepare students for success in their academic, career, and personal life endeavors by providing access to education and services that foster student retention and program completion.
3. Update and implement facilities master plans, maximize college and community use of facilities, and incorporate “green” efforts into facilities development and other efforts when cost-effective.
4. Promote flexible, cost-effective educational programs and services including the use of cutting-edge technology and educational program delivery via technology.
5. Pursue alternative public and private funding sources to increase the district’s fiscal sustainability and to implement the district’s vision and goals, and encourage the foundations and district to create plans for capital and program campaigns, alumni association development, and other resource development activities.
6. Maintain a positive, productive working environment for employees, recognizing and embracing diversity and enhancing staff development opportunities that address innovation and technology.
7. Expand partnerships with business, labor, community groups, universities, schools, and other public and private agencies in order to enhance the district’s resource development; ensure student access and success; ensure robust economic development programs; and be responsive to workforce development needs and high demand career fields.
8. Assess and address the educational needs of the communities we serve, and enhance awareness of the district and its colleges through outreach and advocacy among community constituencies and to local, state, and national leaders.*

**NOTE: For clarification purposes, the board approved the following wording for Goal 8 on February 9, 2012:*

8. *Assess and address the educational needs of the communities we serve, and enhance awareness of the district and its colleges through outreach and advocacy to community constituencies, including local, state, and national leaders.*

3.0 GENERAL

3.1 Board Member Comments

Mr. Hanson announced his daughter, Jacqueline Carol, was born on February 1, 2012. He commended SAC nursing students who assisted his family in the hospital.

Dr. Chapel apologized for being late to the meeting due to serving jury duty.

Mr. Labrado, Ms. Barrios, and Mr. Hanna reported they recently attended the Community College League of California's Legislative Conference in Sacramento. As a result of the meetings, Mr. Labrado stated it is expected staff will need to plan for more budget reductions. Ms. Barrios reported that meetings with legislators regarding veteran issues went well and commended Mr. Hanson's input at these meetings. Mr. Hanna thanked staff at Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) for their hard work in arranging appointments with legislators/legislative staff and TPA's presence at the meetings. Mr. Hanna reported that board members met with Assemblymembers Jose Solorio and Jeff Miller, and staff from Assemblymember Chris Norby's office.

Mr. McLoughlin asked that follow-up be done regarding the results of the evaluation of goals survey. Mr. Hanna asked for follow-up regarding staff utilization and expectations of accomplishing the goals the board has established.

Ms. Barrios congratulated Mr. Hanson on the birth of his daughter and extended condolences to Mr. Labrado on the recent death of his mother-in-law.

Mr. Hanna thanked staff for the condolences sent regarding the recent death of his mother.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, February 27, 2012.

There being no further business, Mr. Yarbrough declared this meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. in memory of the recent passing of Mr. Larry Labrado's mother-in-law, Ms. Lupe Murillo.

Respectfully submitted,

Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Approved: _____
Clerk of the Board

Minutes approved: February 27, 2012