

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES

February 11, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Solano Community College District Governing Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, in the Administration Building, Room 626, Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield, California, 94534-3197, by A. Marie Young, Governing Board President.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the request of Board President Young, Interim Superintendent/President Lisa Waits led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

A. Marie Young, President
Denis Honeychurch, J.D., Vice President
James M. Claffey
Pam Keith
Phil McCaffrey
Stephen Murphy, J.D.
Rosemary Thurston
David R. Brannen, Student Trustee
Tom Henry, Special Trustee
Lisa J. Waits, Ed.D., Interim Secretary

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Ross Beck, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Communications
Richard Christensen, Ed.D., Director, Human Resources
Jay Field, Vice President, Technology and Learning Resources
Don Mourton, Ph.D., Interim Vice President, Student Services
Robin L. Steinback, Ph.D., Vice President, Academic Affairs
Nora O'Neill, Executive Coordinator, Superintendent/President and Governing Board

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Young announced the following change in the Agenda: Item 9, Budget Information Session, will take place after Item 5, Comments from Members of the Public.

Moved by Trustee McCaffrey and seconded by Trustee Keith to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The first blue card was submitted by Danielle Widemann; however, she was not in the room at this time. Her comments are included in these minutes under Item 9, Budget Information Session.

A second blue card was submitted by Mr. Tom Grube, who requested to speak on Item 9; however, he was not present at the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Board President Young moved to Item 9, Budget Information Session.

6. CLOSED SESSION

- a) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
(No additional information required.)
- b) Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: Richard Christensen, Ed.D.
Employee Organization: CCA/CTA/NEA, CSEA, Operating Engineers—Local 39
- c) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
(No additional information required.)

Board President Young called the Closed Session to order at 5:50 p.m., and adjourned the Closed Session at 6:12 p.m.

7. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Board President Young reconvened the regular meeting at 6:15 p.m.

8. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Board President Young reported that relative to Item 6 (a), Public Employee Employment/Appointment, the District has entered into an agreement with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), to employ Dr. Robert Jensen, as Interim Superintendent/President, for the period of March 1, 2009, thru June 30, 2009. The vote passed unanimously 7-0.

The following roll call vote was taken in Open Session:

AYES: Vice President Honeychurch, Trustee Murphy, Board President Young, Trustee McCaffrey, Trustee Keith, Trustee Thurston, and Trustee Claffey
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Special Trustee Henry and Student Trustee Brannen both supported the Board's decision.

Board President Young also reported that, in connection with Item 6 (b), Conference with Labor Negotiator, no action was taken; and, in connection with Item 6 (c), Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release, no action was taken.

9. BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION

Note: At the meeting, Item 9, Budget Information Session, was actually discussed after Item 5, Comments from the Public.

Board President Young introduced Interim Superintendent/President Lisa Waits for her budget presentation.

Interim Superintendent/President Waits began by introducing Special Trustee Tom Henry, who stated his comments would be in connection with the efforts Staff has made regarding review of the budget, specifically, the current status of the budget and what proactive steps the Institution needs to take relative to the State's fiscal crisis. He said that this discussion is as much about the fiscal stability of the Institution as it is adjusting fiscal stability relative to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Special Trustee Henry stated that current work has been focused on making sure the numbers in the 08/09 budget year are understood, clarifying how those numbers will impact next year relative to what is going on with the State of California budget, and, ultimately, identifying some decisions that will have to be made by this Board. He apologized for the fact that decisions are being made in real time and stated that, in some instances, they are ahead of their partners relative to the collaborative and shared governance process that the College embraces and wants to incorporate. Special Trustee Henry said he wanted to let everyone know that the discussion tonight is an opportunity to speak globally about what is in the universe in terms of potential reductions that might be made in order for the College to be fiscally stable, what cuts that have to be addressed, what the liabilities are, what the expenditures are over what was budgeted, and what the structural deficit is. He commented that, unfortunately, these change daily relative to the variables. He stated that a new revised budget will be brought to the Board for adoption in the near future and that the purpose of tonight's discussion was to present the results of work that started last week and continued through this week. He pointed out that there are areas that need to be refined and that the items listed are not in concrete – there will be a full discussion on the matter.

Special Trustee Henry explained that he asked Interim Superintendent/President Waits to discuss the expenditure side of the budget in terms of unfunded liabilities, the structural deficit that he alluded to in his EdMAC report, and other issues that have since materialized. At this stage, cost savings of the District should be considered from a global perspective. He cautioned everyone to

not get excited or nervous about what will be discussed tonight because, in time, some things will fall off the list, some things will be added to the list, and everyone will have every opportunity to provide input, both individually as well as through the shared governance process that the College embraces, affirming that the shared governance process will be fully vetted and involved as well.

Interim Superintendent/President Waits began by stating that this is the beginning of this process, and one of the goals throughout the last few months has been to be transparent about the budget and have the participation that is needed in this process. She stated that planning in connection with the budget is a recommendation that needs to be addressed. She began her PowerPoint presentation by outlining the following structural deficit changes that need to be made to the budget she brought to the Board at their December 17, 2009, Board meeting.

- (1) \$ 71,848 structural deficit
- (2) \$ 233,000 needed to be added to the budget beginning in 08/09 for the ongoing additional cost for the Actuarial Study in connection with GASB 45
- (3) \$ 217,000 Measure G 1-time cost
- (4) \$1,000,000 CMF Clean-up 1-time cost
- (5) \$ 95,000 to cover the cost of the power outage repair
- (6) \$ 25,000 in ongoing assessed fees from the City of Vacaville; \$3,000 1-time assessment; \$25,000 assessment in 09/10
- (7) \$ 60,000 legal fees for anticipated litigation
- (8) \$ 200,000 electrical savings were not realized
- (9) \$ 60,000 reduction in lottery funds from last year
- (10) \$ 10,000 TRANS cost of issuance
- (11) \$ 940,000 for Recovery costs
- (12) \$ 550,000 – \$1,600,00 potential employee compensation options for 07/08 and 08/09 (CTA, CSEA, ALG)
- (13) \$6,000,000 State recommended cash-flow preserve for payroll and benefits' reserve for two months due to apportionment delays
- (14) \$ 500,000 State recommended cash-flow preserve for vendor warrants' reserve for two months due to apportionment delays

Interim Superintendent/President Waits advised that currently the College has \$2,532,000 as 5% Contingency Reserve in the 08/09 budget. She also pointed out budget variables of (1) an unknown amount of potential loss of FTES based on current accreditation status (the key to success of the District is to make 9,182 base this year; otherwise, the base will be recalculated) and (2) \$60,000 additional legal fees for potential 1-time personnel action in 08/09.

In closing, President Waits stated that she, along with Special Trustee Henry and the Executive Council, have begun to put this into balance. She distributed a draft of the SCCD Budget Reduction Impacts spreadsheet, which addresses the structural deficit budget adjustments that need to be made. President Waits said, to look forward at the challenges that are ahead, EC has drafted this spreadsheet of the issues that will need to be decided and what will need to be done in order to bring the Institution into fiscal stability. She underscored that this presentation is a draft – a starting point – to look at the reality of what needs to be accomplished.

Special Trustee Henry stated that he did not want to go into the detail this evening as the Governing Board is receiving this information for the first time at this meeting. He advised that the subject will be brought back at a future meeting after working through the shared governance process. The analysis will include the following:

- (1) What are the reductions?
- (2) What is the purpose for the reduction?
- (3) What cost savings will be generated, and will they be ongoing or 1-time?
- (4) What are the impact and consequences to the Institution?
- (5) What is the contingency for the work if the reduction is implemented?
- (6) In what year will the reduction be implemented?

Special Trustee Henry said there will be a prioritization from stakeholders and the Board to direct and focus what is eventually decided, pointing out that many colleges and K-12 schools are going through this same exercise. He added that this work will serve this Institution well.

Again, Special Trustee Henry stated that Accreditation is most important. He said that the College, as individuals or as a body of elected officials, needs to take advantage of every opportunity that becomes available to emphasize the importance, the reality, and the fact that there is excellent instruction going on now at this campus and that we have excellent students, faculty and staff. Special Trustee Henry pointed out that these facts will need to be continually reinforced relative to making sure that people know Solano Community College is accredited and will remain accredited. He said great work is being done at the College, and it is important that attention is not given to comments and media statements about what the worst scenario would be. He stated that the College is not considering the worst scenario but, rather, is looking at the only option; i.e., to remain accredited. Special Trustee Henry stated that the necessary work will be done, the Show Cause Report will be submitted to the ACCJC by April 1, there will be a team visit and the College will be prepared for that, and by June 1, 2009, the College will have met the expectations up to that point. He affirmed that more work will have to be done beyond June 1 and advised that the most important fact for ACCJC to believe that we have made the grade is evidence. Consequently, the College needs to take advantage of every opportunity it has to create evidence to serve as proof of action. Special Trustee Henry gave an example of appropriate evidence in connection with fiscal stability, stating that the SCCD Budget Reduction Impacts spreadsheet will serve as evidence that fiscal stability is important to the Institution, that the Institution believes it is important, the Institution will address it, and this spreadsheet is a mechanism by which the Institution will address it. This will serve the College well to have evidence for the ACCJC at every opportunity. Special Trustee Henry did not go through the spreadsheet by line item at the meeting and suggested people review it at their leisure. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the expenditure side and plan of attack. There were no questions.

Board President Young invited blue card submitter Danielle Widemann to speak.

Ms. Widemann advised that she teaches Geology and Geography at Solano Community College. She read a poem, entitled "Field of Dreams" from W. P. Kinsella's book Shoeless Joe. She suggested Board members visit classrooms and see the students and pointed out that Solano Community College students go on to Stanford Medical School to pursue medical careers and

UC Davis to become Geologists. She also advised that some students obtain internships in the area. Ms. Widemann stated that she is concerned about Solano County and the fact that she wants her son to be able to take classes at Solano Community College some day as she, her mother, and her siblings have done. She advised that, through her classes, she touches about 180 students each semester. In connection with the SCCD Budget Reduction Impacts spreadsheet and the budget discussion at this Board meeting, Ms. Widemann expressed concern that legal fees are increasing, yet faculty may be decreasing. In closing, she suggested the Board think of Mark Twain's comment to be truthful because, if you tell the truth, you never have to remember anything.

Board President Young thanked Ms. Widemann for her comments.

Board President Young asked President Waits to provide the Board copies of her PowerPoint presentation.

Special Trustee Henry stated that, as the College moves forward, the campus can trust and believe that for every cell there will be and should be statements that are just as passionate and truthful. He said that, for the most part, the campus is going to experience the kind of statements Ms. Widemann has made, within all of the cells, whether it is a classified position, management position or faculty position, and that the College will welcome them and expect to get the kind of compassion and passion about the positions as Ms. Widemann has displayed. He added that this makes it even more difficult to make decisions.

Special Trustee Henry pointed out that, if the College could do this in a combination of ways; e.g., increase revenue, that would be an option. However, he said that, from the State's perspective, this option is not on the horizon. Again, this only leaves the hard decisions of, How do you reduce expenditures? Unfortunately, in a budget, the biggest piece of the pie is in personnel.

10. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Student Trustee David Brannen thanked Board President Young for reminding him to pass the ASSC's letter regarding the State budget to the Board members for their signatures.

Student Trustee Brannen also stated that he submitted recently to a profile in the DAILY REPUBLIC and advised that one trustee was troubled by it, telling him that it was not helpful. He said he wanted to clarify his reasons for doing the profile and pointed out that there are a few misquotes and inaccuracies of fact in the article that are being clarified by the DAILY REPUBLIC. Student Trustee Brannen said that he submitted to the interview based on the idea that it is important to let the community know that the students are involved in this process at every level, and their voices are being heard. He said he felt it was very important that this fact be brought to the table, especially with the climate of miscommunication that is generally in the media regarding Solano Community College. Student Trustee Brannen pointed out that he did not speak with regard to any specific Board business and stated that any inferences to that are inaccurate. He stated that he discussed things that are global and not a secret regarding our most important job right now, which is ensuring that the College's accreditation is maintained.

Student Trustee Brannen said he spoke to how people are stepping up to work on the situation, that perceptions about this Board being in conflict have turned around, and that the Board has a new commitment to fixing the problems here. He said that he does not think it was controversial, but helpful; and, he wanted to make that statement at this Board meeting.

Board President Young recessed the regular meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Note: At this point, the meeting continued with Item 6, Closed Session.

11. There was no Item 11 on the Agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

LJW/no

BOARD MINUTES 2-11-09

APPROVED

A. MARIE YOUNG
PRESIDENT

LISA J. WAITS, Ed.D.
INTERIM SECRETARY

SCCD Board minutes are summarized per *SCCD Board Policy 1045 and 1046*. To listen to the full deliberation of the Board, please contact the Office of the Superintendent/President within thirty (30) days.