

**MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**JULY 18, 2024**  
*(Approved August 15, 2024)*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District met in open session on Thursday, July 18, 2024, in the Community Room at the Community Learning Center in Oceanside. President Cassar called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**II. FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL**

Board members present:

Rick Cassar

Raye Clendening

Heather Conklin

George McNeil

Frank Merchat

Anna Pedroza

Jackie Simon

Board members not present:

## **V. CHANGES IN AGENDA ORDER**

None.

## **VI. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL Update)**

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Denée Pescarmona and Associate Dean Benjamin Gamboa provided comprehensive updates to the Board of Trustees on the status and future trajectory of the College Prior Learning (CPL) implementation. Their presentation highlighted strategic initiatives aimed at empowering the college's adult learner demographic by translating their professional experiences into college credits. This approach not only accelerates their academic journey but also yields significant cost savings—potentially reducing time to degree completion by 9 to 14 months and saving students money.

With guidance from a contracted CPL consultant, the district has crafted an implementation plan, focusing on pilot instructional programs tailored for industry certifications. Process mapping sessions were held to streamline a student-centered approach integrated with existing college technologies. Success stories showcasing early achievements were shared, underscoring the program's impact on students.

Looking ahead, a pilot program is slated for full implementation by September 2024, with plans for expanding instructional programs recognizing CPL. A critical focus remains on assessing the program's efficacy and its tangible benefits for students completing pilot initiatives. Aligning with California State University (CSU) standards ensures consistency in earned credits, reinforcing educational pathways for learners.

The Public Information Office has supported the efforts by leveraging data for targeted promotional campaigns. Concurrently, discussions with non-credit partners are underway to explore potential alignments, bolstered by robust advisories involving industry stakeholders.

To enhance transparency and accessibility, a comprehensive listing of CPL opportunities, compliant with established CPL practices, will be integrated into the course catalog starting after this fall semester. These initiatives underscore the college's commitment to fostering inclusive educational practices that recognize and validate the diverse learning experiences of its student body, paving the way for broader educational attainment and professional advancement.

### **B. Sense of Belonging Survey Update for Students**

Dean Chris Tarman presented preliminary findings from the November 2023 MiraCosta College Sense of Belonging Survey, a survey deployed across all segments of our student body—credit, noncredit, and Adult High School. Dean Tarman highlighted the profound impact of “belonging”

relatively high level of belonging for most students and reflecting the rich diversity within our college community. Moving forward, there will be targeted analyses of groups that reported lower scores to uncover underlying reasons and identify areas for improvement. This deeper exploration will consider variables such as online versus on-ground learning environments, part-time versus full-

By motion of Trustee McNeil, seconded by Trustee Simon, consent item N was approved after discussion. As this was the first time this annual item was presented, the history of this item, the requirements, and all attachments were thoroughly reviewed.

Vote: 7/0/0  
 Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon  
 Abstentions: None  
 Absent: None

**VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approve Resolution No. 1-24/25 – Excuse Board Member Absence**

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee McNeil, the board adopted Resolution No. 1-24/25 to excuse Trustee Merchat's absence from the board meetings on June 13 and June 20, 2024.

Vote: 6/0/1  
 Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Pedroza, Simon  
 Abstentions: Merchat  
 Absent: None

**IX. SECOND READ – BOARD POLICIES (Action Required)**

**A. Board Policy 4025B – Philosophy and Criteria for Baccalaureate Degree and General Education**

By motion of Trustee Clendening, seconded by Trustee McNeil, the board adopted Board Policy 4025B as presented.

Vote: 7/0/0  
 Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon  
 Abstentions: None  
 Absent: None

**B. Board Policy 4100B BP – Graduation Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree and General Education**

By motion of Trustee McNeil, seconded by Trustee Pedroza, the board adopted Board Policy 4100B as presented.

Vote: 7/0/0  
 Aye: Cassar, Clendening, Conklin, McNeil, Merchat, Pedroza, Simon  
 Abstentions: None  
 Absent: None

**C. Board Policy 4100C BP – Graduation Requirements -3713 -1.11 (bs)4 (en)10 (t)Tj0.004(-)Tj0.004**

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Trustee Conklin has been actively engaging with the community informally, including proudly participating in the Oceanside Parade with MiraCosta.

Trustee McNeil shared the passing of Rita Koor, a friend and a devoted supporter of MiraCosta College.

Trustee Pedroza shared the good news of becoming an abuelita (grandmother), which she is thoroughly enjoying.

Trustee Simon attended the San Diego Community College District Chancellor reception at the San Diego Zoo with Trustee Cassar and Dr. Cooke and found it an enjoyable and well-attended event.

Trustee Cassar acknowledged Dr. Cooke's leadership as the most experienced CEO of the San Diego and Imperial County Community College (SDICCCA). He also highlighted that while managing her duties at MiraCosta College, Dr. Cooke has also assumed the role of president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

**B.**

MiraCosta College has the highest transfer rate to UC in all southern CA and the excellent numbers were included in the Student Services written report. MiraCosta student transfer rates are 10-12% higher than the CA average transfer rate, and much higher than traditional freshman admission.

### **3. Administrative Services**

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Flood reported the state passed the budget, which includes some deferrals over the next two budget years. Administrative Services (AS) established their goals and held a team building event at the sand volleyball courts.

AS staff members are moving to the Human Resources area in Building 1000, where they will share space. Facilities and custodians will be able to use some of the vacated AS space for offices and gathering.

A major voltage line that was housed in our former pedestrian bridge was replaced, ensuring the full loop is back and functioning.

The accessibility committee has launched a new program that will set up geofences to assist students who are blind or have vision impairments in navigating the campus. Students engage with their cell phone to utilize this program, which enhances accessibility services for students.

### **4. Human Resources**

HR Director Jenn Acfalle introduced herself, and she announced the loss of Sandy Muryasz, a vital member of our MiraCosta community, who served the district for almost 30 years.

Acfalle reported the recruitment team has completed their onboarding of new faculty for fall. She also expressed her excitement for being part of the MiraCosta College team and back on a college campus.

## **F. Superintendent/President**

Superintendent/President Cooke reported a theatre performance, as part of the intensive summer theatre program, was held on the same evening last week as Dancing at Dusk. It was enjoyable to see proud supporters and family members in the audience.

Significant work is happening behind the scenes across various departments, including communications and the Foundation. Extensive efforts are underway for the "Get Out the Vote" campaign, which focuses on student engagement.

MiraCosta College's excellent initiatives will be highlighted in the president's column of each AACC Magazine that is distributed to over 1000 community colleges.

Cooke and Chief IDEA Officer Wendy Stewart attended a Futures training in San Francisco, exploring the use of foresight tools. Dr. Cooke acknowledged how advanced our global partners are in addressing climate change. There is much to learn from our international collaborators. Drs. Cooke and Stewart also experienced riding in an autonomous vehicle in San Francisco and encouraged everyone to try it.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

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