

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4  
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
4:30 p.m. – via Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Kathryn Bennett, Chair

Ms. Mariko Doerner

Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero

Ms. Megan Scott O'Bryan

Mr. Chris Skinner

Dr. Thomas Keegan, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Kathryn Bennett, recognized that a quorum of Board members were present.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No media guests were present.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2021

2. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report

3. Correspondence

It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Chris Skinner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The Chair requested a roll call vote: Christon Skinner – aye, Flora Perez-Lucatero – aye, Megan Scott-O'Bryan – aye, Mariko Doerner – aye, Katherine Bennett – aye.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chair welcomed Mariko to the Board. Mariko stated she is looking forward to serving on the Board and provided a brief self-introduction.

## V. ACTION ITEM

### 1. Resolution 21-01, Regarding Ms. Lindsay Fiker (Attachment A)

Flora Perez-Lucatero read Resolution 21-01, Regarding Ms. Lindsay Fiker

It was moved by Christon Skinner and seconded by Megan Scott O'Bryan to approve Resolution 21-01, Regarding Ms. Lindsay Fiker, as presented.

The Chair requested a roll call vote: Christon Skinner – aye; Flora Perez-Lucatero - aye, Megan Scott O'Bryan – aye, Mariko Doerner – aye, Katherine Bennett – aye.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board members praised Lindsay's work as a Trustee and thanked her for ten years of outstanding service.

Dr. Keegan presented a Crystal Cube Award to Lindsay. He thanked her on behalf of faculty, staff, and students for her strong advocacy work.

The Chair announced that Lindsay will continue to be a member of the ACT Awards Committee through May, and she has invited Lindsay to return and provide an update at a future meeting.

## VI. COLLEGE REPORTS

### 1. ASSVC

Jennifer Juniper, ASSVC President for the Whidbey Island Campus, reported the following:

- Staying active to keep students engaged remotely, including events such as a firewood drive and weekly meditation sessions.
- Working on bylaws for establishing a student senate, expect to have in place by fall.
- Excellent civic engagement talk presented by Natalie Magnus was recently held.
- Scheduling talks on diversity, equity, and inclusion and with possibly a class presented by Dr. Farhana Loonat.
- Food Pantry is going strong. Each week providing 12-15 bags at the Mount Vernon Campus and five to seven bags at Whidbey Island Campus. Brian Murphy and Leah Eberle are coordinating the effort and including masks with each pick up. Adding a diaper drive in the near future.

## 2. SVCFT

No report.

## 3. WPEA

Lance Levesen, WPEA Shop Steward, reported the following:

- The Shop Stewards appreciate the opportunity to work and meet with administration, especially with President Keegan, during their monthly meetings.
- Classified staff are concerned with returning to work on site without vaccinations readily available for all. We have brought these concerns up with both President Keegan and in Labor Management meetings. We have been assured by both Carolyn Tucker, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, and President Keegan that the College will work with staff members for a safe return to work.
- The WPEA contract is getting closer to being tentatively agreed upon and will be sent to the members for a ratification vote.
- WPEA held their officers elections last month and Dana Spain has been elected by the membership as President. Lance announced that he has been elected as Vice President of District 6, which includes Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties. Lance stated that it is an honor and a privilege to have been elected, and he looks forward to serving all District 6 employees.

## 4. President

### Introductions

Dr. Keegan welcomed Mariko and thanked for her willingness to serve on the Board and that he is looking forward to working together.

- New Employees:
  - Angel Aguilar Corrales – Navigator, Job Corps Scholar
  - Jacqueline Lassiter – Program Coordinator, Enrollment Services
  - Misty Rydberg – Office Assistant 3, Marine Technology

### Enrollment

Enrollment is currently down about 18% from this time last year and down about 15% overall, expect to be in about the middle of the system enrollment numbers.

Typically, when unemployment is high our enrollment is high, however, COVID-19 has impacted this and now we are positioning ourselves for when the unemployed/under-employed return.

One of the focus priorities for our upcoming Operational Plan for the next two years will be providing both additional capacity and additional instructional programs. Later in the meeting information on two new degrees will be presented for action at the March meeting.

### College Capital Projects

- Advanced Manufacturing project: Contaminated soils have been found in Reeves Hall in a spot where we once had an oil/water separator.
  - No hazardous material—but it is being remediated in concert with the Department of Ecology.
- Early Learning Center
  - Currently preparing bid documents.
  - Next step—project will be put out to bid and determine lowest bidder.
  - On pace for ribbon cutting end of March next year.
- Pickleball Pavilion
  - Currently in pre-construction/design phase—TRICO is contractor, HKP Architects providing design. The donor is participating on the design team.
  - Last week, the donor increased his pledge by \$100,000, bringing his total commitment to \$1.6 million.
  - Within the next few weeks, TRICO will present a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1.6 million or less. If they are not able to meet this budget, then the project is done. If all goes as planned, it should be completed in June.
  - The Pickleball Pavilion will be located in the east parking lot, in front of the soccer field. We will create additional parking at the East Campus Building to replace the parking eliminated by the Pavilion location. There will be no net loss of parking a result of the Pavilion.

### Grant Updates

- During the 2020 calendar year, we scoped 41 grants, applied for 34 and received 24. Some of the notable grants received:
  - Department of Labor Job Corps Scholars grant - \$1.2 million;

- Department of Education TRIO grant - \$2 million;
- Career Launch Marine Maintenance Technology - \$96,000 for this year and renewable for 5 years;
- Three COVID-specific grant totaling \$242,000.

### Legislative Report

- Operating Budget:
  - Concerns about the Governor's budget, which includes mandated furloughs for all employees and cuts to exempt staff salaries. Our position is:
    - Don't undo what was done last session.
    - Colleges operate differently than other state agencies. Difficult to put faculty on furlough and meet our core mission.
    - Provide us with a budget and then let us manage it.
  
- Capital Budget:
  - The Governor's budget includes the Campus Commons, replacement of the Library on the Mount Vernon Campus. The current Library would be demolished and replaced with a building that will include the Library, Culinary and social space, as well as instructional support space for computer and tutoring labs. If the Governor's budget is accepted as presented, design would begin this summer and the new Commons building would open in four years.
  
- SVC student Sydney Sharp, of Anacortes, has been selected as one of the two State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' Legislative Interns for the 2021 Legislative Session.
  - Sydney will serve as an advocate and voice for students. In addition she will also participate in Dr. Keegan's upcoming virtual meetings with legislators.
  - Sydney received an Associate in Science as a member of SVC's class of 2020. She is continuing her studies at SVC and is also earning an Associates of Science in Bioengineering.

### College Advancement

- Foundation:
  - Year-end Giving and Annual Appeal was more successful than ever before, raising more than \$27,000 than last year.
  - Expect to award a record number of scholarships this year thanks to our Endowment which has increased by more than \$2 million in each of the last 2 years—now exceeding \$17 million.
  - Received \$100,000 in December from the estate of Anna King, the gift will support the J. George King Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 1996 by Anna King and family in memory of J. George King.
  - Received a pledge of \$3,000 from the Tulalip Tribe for the Salish Art Project.
    - Total project has raised over \$26,000, with an original goal of \$10,000.
    - Faculty member Chuck Luckmann is working with the Art Committee on art selection and placement.
  
- International
  - As previously reported, International student enrollment began a steep decline in 2016 and dropped significantly more with the world-wide pandemic; resulting in layoffs and reduced budgets in International.
  - Hired Associate Director, Young Kim, who the Board met in December.
  - Young will begin an extended recruiting trip in the next week that will continue through August; visiting Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Malaysia.
  - Expectations are that International enrollment will increase as a result of Young's work and the change in administration in Washington, D.C.
  - Nine new International students have enrolled for Spring Quarter.

### Administrative, Instructional & Student Services

- Basic Education for Adults (BEdA)
  - The admissions and intake process for our English Language Acquisition (ELA) populations has been under review and a new, streamlined process will be implemented for spring quarter 2021.
  - Significant organizational changes—embraced by staff to create better, more inclusive pathways for ELA and other BEdA students. Appreciate the efforts of Dr. Kenneth Lawson, Dr. Claire Peinado, Ms. Yadira Rosales, and the many staff working on the details.

- Recruitment efforts have been significantly increased, some highlights include:
  - Faculty and staff will be hosting virtual “Try-A-Trade” days during the months of February and March. High school participants will be able to gain exposure to several of the College’s amazing career pathways.
    - Programs participating in this year's event include Manufacturing Technology, Welding, Emergency Medical Technician, BASAM, Nursing, Automotive Technology, Environmental Conservation, Human Services, Early Childhood Education, Fire Protection Technology and Allied health.
  - SVC staff and colleagues are planning a “SVC Complete” event. This event is targeted toward individuals who are 25–44 years old without a high school diploma, or those who have previous college credit but did not earn a certificate or degree.
  
- Running Start
  - In January, we were notified we received funding for the Running Start Summer Pilot Scholarship Program for Summer 2021 and Summer 2022.
  - This program will allow up to 250 incoming 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as students within five credits of receiving their associates’ degree, to take up to five credits Summer Quarter through the Running Start Program.
  - We will be reaching out to our district high schools shortly to line up partnerships to provide this program for their students.
  - Thanked Representative Dave Paul for his sponsorship and detailed work on this legislation.
  
- Financial Aid
  - The Office of Financial Aid has reopened emergency aid for Winter Quarter to support students who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19.
  - Additional funding will be available for students to access via application during spring quarter.
  - Most of the second round CARES student funding allocation will be allocated to support Fall Quarter student enrollment.

### Community Partnerships

- The Center for Participatory Excellence is partnering with the Accelerating Systemic Change Network; a national network of individuals and institutions formed with the goal of advancing STEM education programs in the work of equity and inclusion. Our Center will be showcasing SVC’s efforts and facilitating a conversation with webinar participants.

- Maritime Center of Excellence
  - SVC led the Seattle Colleges, Clark College, and Portland Community College in the development of an application for designation as a National Maritime Center of Excellence.
  - The College will serve as the lead institution of the six-college consortium.
  - We anticipate notice of designation status to be later this month or early March.
  
- Leadership Whidbey held their kick-off on January 8. Dr. Laura Cailloux, Dr. Dave Paul, and Dr. Keegan spoke to the initial class, along with other community leaders. Expect to realize new partnerships and cement our current relationships on Whidbey Island through this effort.
  
- The Maestros Para el Pueblo Leadership Team developed a five-year strategic plan for the Maestros program.
  - The plan focuses on recruitment and retention, healthy transition points between institutions, and data sharing so we can collectively provide more seamless wrap-around support to students.
  - The Maestros management team has met to review and implement work plans to implement the strategic plan. These teams will meet once a month for the remainder of the academic year.

### People in the News

- SVC Nursing faculty Christy Gough has co-authored an article in the *Journal of Nursing Education* titled, “The Lived Experience of Stress in Latinx Nursing Students: Implications for Recruitment and Retention.”
  - This article is a result of her academic work as she pursues her doctoral degree while working full time.
  
- Social Science Faculty member, Dr. Farhana Loonat, provided College employees with a Jill Fugate presentation Jan. 21, titled “The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion’ Illusion.”
  
- Kristina Hutchinson, HR Operations Manager, recently earned national certification from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).
  - The SHRM-CP credential recognizes her as an expert and leader in the HR field—and as a valuable asset to the College.
  - Kristina is currently leading the HR Team in the implementation of ctcLink.



## President's Office

### Office for Equity and Inclusion:

- The Office of Equity & Inclusion and the Center for Participatory Excellence led a series of conversations and debriefs in regards to the Jan. 6 Insurrection.
  - Faculty and staff came together to learn about the history of violence in the United States and engaged in conversations about how to support students in the classroom to have related conversations, as well as to identify support structures they need to be part of anti-racist institution.
- The second session of Escuela de Padres will begin April 10.
  - The nine-week program will be offered a second time this year due to its popularity with parents who have students in the school district or at the college.
  - The program offers training in Spanish about leadership and advocacy skills, social justice, navigating the K-12 and higher education systems in the United States.
- Office of Equity and Inclusion has coordinated an Equity and Social Justice Series which includes numerous opportunities for professional development for our faculty and staff. Topics include:
  - Bias trainings, Grounding our Movements in Disability Justice, Best Practices for Working with Undocumented Students, Safe Zone Training, Disrupting Whiteness, and many more.
- Yadira Rosales is also collaborating with Mount Vernon School District to offer a Sheconnects Institute of Teaching and Organizing training May 21-23.
  - Faculty from the College and Mount Vernon School District will come together to focus on building and developing new pedagogical practices that emphasize the importance of cultural and historical pedagogy to support our growing Latinx and Migrant student populations.

### COVID-19

- As previously reported, we have made the decision to remain in remote operations and online modes through Spring Quarter.
- We will begin the process for planning a return to broader, face-to-face instruction and services beginning Fall Quarter.
  - This will require extensive planning from many perspectives, including health and safety, logistics, finances, legal, and contractual.

- Cabinet will develop a set of principles and Dr. Keegan will convene a District-wide task force to identify issues, develop processes, and make recommendations for Cabinet's approval.
  - Expect to begin this work in March.
  - While a plan will be developed, implementation will depend on the state of the virus, vaccinations, advice from county health departments and Governor's Directives.
- Meanwhile, we are continuing our community partnerships related to serving our local communities:
    - Working on a plan for Mount Vernon Campus COVID Vaccine Mobile Events for the Indigenous/Latinx farmworker community of Skagit Valley.
    - We will be hosting a Skagit County vaccination site in the Cardinal Center. Details are still being worked out and are being coordinated by Scott Snider, Director of Security.
    - Jim Jolly, leader of Whidbey Island Campus has been working with the Island County Department of Emergency Management to have our campus serve as both a pop-up and sustained site for vaccination clinics.
    - More details will be provided as they emerge.

## 5. Board of Trustees

- Board Chair, Kathryn Bennett, thanked Dr. Keegan for his impressive and sustained leadership through these challenging times.
- Flora Perez-Lucatero reported that she attended the ACT virtual conference. Excellent speaker on democracy and discussions were held about tenure, reflecting equity practices and the experience of students of color on campuses.
- Kathryn Bennett reported that at the ACT meeting the book Equity Talk to Equity Walk was discussed in a very engaged and robust conversation.

## VII. STUDY ITEMS:

Dr. Keegan reported that six items were sent to the Trustees for study and will be brought to the Board for action at the March 9 meeting. He acknowledged Lynnette Bennett's, Dean for Instruction - Program Development, work on the two proposed degrees. Trustee Megan Scott O'Bryan stated that she is happy to see the two degrees being recommended.

1. Recommendation of Associate in Applied Science-Transfer in Web Development (MIT)
2. Recommendation of Bachelors of Applied Science in Application Development
3. Recommendation of Fees

4. Recommendation of Revisions to WAC 132D-122-010 Policy
5. Recommendation of Revisions to WAC 132D-122-020 Notification
6. Recommendation of Revisions to WAC 132D-133-020 Organization Operation Information

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

March 9, 2021, 4:30 p.m., via Zoom

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:35 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board would convene into Executive Session to review the performance of public employees. She stated that the session would take approximately 25 minutes and that the Board did not plan to take action when they reconvened into open session.

Convened into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m.  
Adjourned Executive Session at: 6:10 p.m.  
Reconvened into Open Session at 6:11 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and no action taken following the Executive Session, this meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

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Kathryn Bennett, Chair

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Dr. Thomas A. Keegan, President  
Executive Secretary to the Board

# **ATTACHMENT A**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4  
RESOLUTION 21-01

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4  
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE  
REGARDING MS. LINDSAY FIKER

WHEREAS, Ms. Lindsay Fiker has served Skagit Valley College as a member of the Board of Trustees from March 2011 through January 2021, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay served as Chairperson of the Board for two terms; during the years 2013-2014 and 2018-2019, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay loyally provided service to the College as a member of the Board of Trustees, and provided excellent representation of the College and the Board in all her activities, including the selection and appointment of Dr. Thomas A. Keegan as President of Skagit Valley College, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay is well-respected throughout Washington's community and technical college system, serving as Member-at-Large on the Association of College Trustees (ACT) Board of Directors and the ACT Awards Committee, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay's willingness to continually be involved and participate on the Head Start Policy Council on behalf of the College and the community at large has shown her to be a valued and respected leader who is extremely generous in the giving of her time and expertise, and

WHEREAS, service to the community is of paramount importance to Lindsay. As a Board member she has looked for opportunities to share the Mission of the College, by bringing the community to campus and the campus to the community. Lindsay has been a strong advocate for the College with our K-12 partners, service organizations, and foundations. She has participated in strategic planning, developing core themes and has led the ongoing review process of the Board's policies. Lindsay is the Trustee that had her ear to the ground and was constantly listening for opportunities to cultivate relationships and partnerships within the greater community, and

WHEREAS, during Lindsay's tenure on the Board, the College began offering its first four-year degree; launched the Craft Brewing Academy, the first in the State to be offered at a community or technical college; developed a goal to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and increased the enrollment of Latinx students from 10% to 20%. In addition, the College completed a number of significant facility improvements including: the opening of Charles Lewis Hall, remodel of Reeves Hall, and the establishment of the Sue Krienen Early Learning & Childcare Center, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay has been constant in her passion and belief that every student must have the opportunity to succeed and that opportunity begins with the work of the Trustees, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay has provided thoughtful insight, analysis, and counsel to her Board colleagues and the College President, and

WHEREAS, Lindsay's service, leadership, and guidance has been extraordinary. She was always present at College and Foundation activities; and has consistently demonstrated compassion, strength, and dedication in her service as a Trustee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 4, that Ms. Lindsay Fiker receive special recognition for her significant service to Skagit Valley College, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 4, on behalf of the entire College community, expresses deep appreciation for Lindsay's service as a most valued member of the Board and extends sincere appreciation for a job well done and best wishes for the future.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4  
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Bennett, Chair  
Board of Trustees

Dated this 9th day of February 2021

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Thomas A. Keegan, Secretary