

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Mariko Doerner – Chair
Mr. Ozell Jackson III – Vice Chair
Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero
Ms. Megan Scott O’Bryan
Dr. Christopher Villa, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Mariko Doerner, recognized that a quorum of Board members was present.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No guests.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023
2. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report

It was moved by Megan Scott O’Bryan and seconded by Ozell Jackson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. COLLEGE REPORTS

1. ASSVC – Leah Eberle for Jasmin Flowers

Leah Eberle and Black Smith will be traveling with five students to the Circle of Change Leadership Conference in Los Angeles on November 16th.

Mount Vernon ASSVC are in discussions about potential legacy projects.

The District ASSVC Constitution Review Committee will be meeting at the conclusion of Winter Quarter to review and update all ASSVC governing documents.

Skagit Valley College has been challenged to a “food fight” by the associated students of Whatcom CC and Bellingham Technical College. The food drive will conclude on January 26th and the winner will be announced at the Whatcom vs. Skagit Women’s basketball game at WCC on January 27th. The school that receives the most donations by weight to the respective food pantries will receive bragging rights and a fancy trophy.

Each Campus celebrated Veterans Day on the November 9th. Mount Vernon had a flag ceremony and a time for conversation with Veterans. Whidbey Island had a grand opening for the new Veteran's Lounge.

Whidbey Island Campus Student Life is partnering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Island County to host dungeons and dragons. This is an opportunity for our college community to meet with folks from the community and maybe become a big brother or big sister. They will be meeting on November 18th and December 16th.

2. SVCFT – Kip Zwolenski - no report at this time.

3. WPEA – Lance Levenson

This is an election year for WPEA, all Executive Board positions are open, elections will be the first week of December. Lance represents the shop stewards and shared that some employees have expressed that they perceive a lack of recognition and appreciation from their supervisors. It is suggested that supervisors align themselves more closely with the guiding principles. Concerns regarding adherence to guiding principles have been raised with Lance and Carolyn, and efforts are underway to address these issues through the courses outlined in the collective bargaining agreement.

4. PRESIDENT – Christopher Villa

On Thursday, October 26th, Dr. Villa attended the National Diversity in STEM Conference sponsored by the Society for National Association of Chicanos and Native Americans (SACNAS) in Portland, Oregon. Over 3,000 faculty, staff, and students participated in this networking conference as we learned more about research opportunities for diverse groups of students. SVC was represented by five SVC faculty and STEM students and we organized a data base of universities that sponsor summer research opportunity programs targeting underrepresented students.

On Monday, November 6th, representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited Skagit Valley College to learn more about the Horizons Partnership Grant proposal submitted by SVC, Mount Vernon Unified School District, and the Northwest Educational Service District. If successful, the grant will provide the partnership 5.4 million dollars spread over three years beginning next fall. Its primary objective will be to increase the college-going rates of students from Mt. Vernon High School and other schools in the valley, with an

emphasis on increasing enrollment at SVC. SVC will know about the status of this grant proposal by mid-December. Many thanks go to our partners and particularly Dr. Gabriel Mast and Marilyn Franklin for their efforts.

CAMP, MPEP and the new cohort program Cardinal Achievement Program (CAP) have moved to the Cardinal Center to be housed in a shared space. The programs together will serve over 300 students with a large emphasis on building a space to support Latinx students' retention and completion through the various programs and collaborate with offices to support student engagement.

OEI is excited to be a partner in the Education First- Limitless, a Postsecondary Enrollment Learning Network for the next four academic school years till 2026-27 through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The partnership includes the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation and Oak Harbor School District and the goal is to partner on strategies to increase higher education enrollment, the grant is \$25,000.

5. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Claire Peinado – VP Student Services

Leah Eberle (Assistant Director of Student Life – WIC) and Whidbey Island Campus students and staff hosted a fantastic Grand Opening of the Beaver Tales Coffee location at the Whidbey Campus. The event was attended by Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Staff, Representative Dave Paul, and others. President Villa provided a wonderful welcome and message of thanks to everyone. Swinomish Master Carver Kevin Paul and SVC Student Charles Green shared a drum welcome, and former Whidbey Island Campus ASSVC Representatives Gio and Julie Capelli were honored to cut the ribbon. The Whidbey Student Government was a key financial contributor and visionary to the project, providing funding and a great deal of energy and encouragement.

We have a robust set of programs and events for Native American Heritage Month scheduled for November. Events include beading workshops with Elders at the Swinomish Elder Center, documentary screenings, a field trip to the Tulalip Hibulb Center, storytelling of the Maiden of Deception Pass, which is the mural showcased on the wall of the new Beaver Tales coffee shop, and more!

Financial Aid: As of 11/1/23 \$5,266,931.71 has been disbursed to student accounts for summer and fall quarter compared to last year at the same time we had disbursed \$4,656,059.50 to student accounts, representing a 13% increase in overall fund disbursement year to year! An additional \$27,437 were refunded to students after tuition and fees were paid, compared to this time last year.

The Financial Aid team is preparing for the unveiling of the new FAFSA simplification rollout from the Department of Education, expected to launch in December. This is the first comprehensive change to the FAFSA in 40 years and we are expecting a significant learning curve for both students and staff across the nation. The State Board will also be tracking and implementing integration with the state's ctcLink system prior to our office being able to implement.

Anne Clark, VP College Advancement

Bill and Kathy Massey continue their robust support for SVC students that are Whidbey Island residents or attend Whidbey Island Campus with a \$115,000 donation. They are passionate about Head Start and are long-time supporters of the SVCF Student Emergency and Childcare Fund.

SVC Foundation received a 2023 Candid/GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency - to reach the Platinum level, SVC Foundation provides extensive information to its Nonprofit Profile on GuideStar, which includes contact and organizational information; in-depth financial information; qualitative information about goals, strategies, and capabilities; and quantitative information about results and progress. Less than 1% of US charities/non-profits have reached this designation.

SVC wins 25 Medallion Awards - The Marketing and Communications team took home 25 Medallions including 12 Gold at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 7 Conference in Hood River on Oct. 19, 2023. The awards were given for a wide variety of work such as social media, digital ads, website, videos, etc. Official announcement to be released soon.

Darren Greeno – Academic Affairs

The Skagit Valley Herald published an article about research conducted by SVC students that may help to better track harbor porpoises. The research project utilized a testing method that analyses environmental DNA, also referred to as eDNA, and is the result of the incredible work of SVC faculty to incorporate undergraduate research in SVC courses. Faculty members replaced biology lab curriculum with a yearlong research project on eDNA funded by the National Science Foundation.

The college received a \$1M grant award from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies to support the Dental Therapy program. The grant will fund administrative costs associated with the program and the development of a faculty training series that will contribute to culturally competent instructional practices and curriculum. The grant project is funded for 2.5 years.

The college is implementing an accelerated tenure model that will allow qualified faculty to complete the tenure process in 1.5 years instead of 2.5 years. To qualify for the accelerated process, a faculty member will have received tenure at another college or university and provide evidence of meeting all SVC faculty competencies. Although it will be used rarely, the accelerated model will serve as a recruitment and retention tool in a competitive environment.

Ed Jaramillo, VP of Administrative Services

The City of Oak Harbor has an interest of transferring their portion of ownership in Hayes Hall to the Sno-Isle Library System. Currently the Sno-Isle system pays the City for the use of the building, and the City pays the College for maintenance and custodial services. The interest is for the Sno-Isle Library System to deal directly with the College and the City to step off the

current agreement. We had initial meetings, all very positive and we will get into serious negotiations starting January 2024.

The week of the 27th of November, SBCTC will conduct its biennial Facilities Condition Survey (FCS). The FCS is used by SBCTC to make the biennial capital request for capital projects involving repairs, roofs, infrastructure, and major site systems. Our Director of Facilities (Tim Wheeler) in collaboration with our campus architects (RMC Architects) is preparing cost estimates for over thirty requests that will be evaluated for possible funding during the visit. This preparation is key for future funding and thanks to Tim's leadership, the College has received increased funding on each of the last two biennia.

The Library Commons – Keegan Commons is at 92% Design completion. The Next step will be to get a new cost estimate on the final design to ensure it aligns with the current budget and then proceed to start creating the documents that will be used in the bid and construction phase.

The remodeling of the cafeteria area in Cardinal Center is in full swing. Phase One is the creation of a fundamentals teaching kitchen within the area where the serving line, salad bar, and cashier's stations previously resided. The area will be walled off and will have a large viewing window so the kitchen will feel like a demonstration kitchen to the public. Architect has been hired, design is completed, and bid documents are being prepared. Estimated time of completion mid-Winter quarter.

Carolyn Tucker – VP Human Resources

The 2nd Annual Pumpkin Decorating contest and potluck was held on October 30, 2023 on the Mount Vernon, Whidbey and San Juan Center campuses. There were 25 entries this year. Administration provided pizza, sweet treats and hot apple cider for the potlucks. Our next community wide event will be held the first week of December and will be a Winter holiday potluck.

As of October 16th, we have 12 permanent new hires and have 40 open positions that we are actively recruiting for.

Annual open enrollment for employee health plan changes has begun and ends Thursday, November 30, 2023. Open enrollment is a time when employees can make changes to their health plans and enrollment. Changes made during the annual open enrollment period will become effective January 1, 2024.

Human Resources will be sending out informational messages during the month of November to inform employees of their open enrollment options. This year some of the plans have significant premium increases so employees may want to consider changing their medical plan this year during the open enrollment.

6. CORE THEME REPORT | Access was presented by Claire Peinado.

7. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Ozell Jackson and President Villa will be attending the Fall ACT Conference in Seattle on May 16 – 17, 2023.

VII. ACTION ITEM

1. Recommendation of President's Evaluation annually in June.

It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Ozell Jackson to approve the President's Evaluation annually in June as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

December 12, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus, Administrative Annex. Boardroom.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair announced that the Board would convene into Executive Session to discuss matters that could lead to possible litigation per RCS 42.30/110(I)(iii). She stated that she anticipated the Executive Session would take 30 minutes and that the Board does intend to take action when they returned to open session. Convened into Executive Session at 6:01 pm.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the meeting into open session at 6:31 pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Mariko Doerner, Chair

Dr. Christopher Villa, President
Executive Secretary to the Board