

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Mariko Doerner – Chair

Mr. Ozell Jackson III – Vice Chair

Dr. Carl Bruner

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 4:45 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No guests at this time.

V. RECOGNITION OF TENURE FACUTLY

President Villa introduced the following instructors who were awarded tenure at the March Board of Trustees meeting:

Patricia Binion, EMT/Fire Sciences - MVC

Khai Le, Adult Basic Education, Math – WIC

Melvin Pusateri, Nursing – MVC

Madeleine Dupuy, Environmental Conservation – MVC

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2024
2. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report
3. Exceptional Faculty Awards 2024-2025

It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Megan Scott O'Bryan to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. COLLEGE REPORTS

1. ASSVC – Keelie Hancock

The S&A Committee has started the decision-making process for the 2024-2025 budget requests.

The ASSVC approved two new clubs: The Drama Club and the Students for Opportunity and Leadership (SOL) Club.

The Drama Club received funding from the ASSVC to put on a small production.

The SOL Club helped decorate the Cinco de Mayo parade car. Students from the CAMP program are the primary organizers of this club.

Two other clubs submitted their constitutions and are awaiting approval: The International Students Club and Politics Club.

In collaboration with Phi Theta Kappa, the ASSVC is hosting a dodgeball tournament May 24th, the Board was encouraged to put together a team and join the tournament.

Applications for 2024-25 Student Government positions will be open on Wednesday, May 15th and will close on Friday, May 31st. Positions will be finalized on Monday, June 10th.

Cardinal Day will be Wednesday, June 5th at the Whidbey Island Campus and Thursday, June 6th at Mount Vernon Campus. Planning is underway with the goal of involving as many clubs to help with the event.

2. SVCFT – Kip Zwolenski

Kip expanded on the tenure faculty process at SVC. He also talked about WA HB2158 and how it related to two of the new tenured positions. The SVC Federation of Teachers will be having their annual elections soon, Kip will let the Board know the results of the election. Expressed positive feedback for the Cardinal Community Day.

3. WPEA – Lance Levenson

The first day of contract bargaining will be May 23rd, WPEA is looking forward to strengthen language in the contract. In conjunction with the bargaining, WPEA has kicked off an all-member drive/outreach campaign. Back in January 2024, the number of members in good standing was at 2700 statewide. During the past three weeks, Jill Kennedy, from the parent Union UFC, visited SVC employees and helped with organizing and reaching out to members. So far statewide, WPEA has collected/updated over 1500 member's contact information. As of May 8th, WPEA has over 2800 members in good standing and they are over the 50% threshold and gaining more each and every week.

Concerns over messaging to new hires (hired in the past three years) by HR, concerns will be addressed at the next LMCC meeting with Management.

The shop stewards had their second meeting with President Villa, topics included feedback from the Cardinal Community Day, and the bargaining season. The leadership team and members are excited to work with the college to lobby the State Legislature for our college and higher salaries.

4. PRESIDENT – Christopher Villa

Skagit Valley College hosted the first annual Cardinal Community Day on Monday, May 6th. The day served as a dedicated opportunity for full-time employees to engage in a day of professional development focused on workshops covering equity, diversity and inclusion topics. With a turnout of over 300 employees, the day included not only the workshops, but also a shared lunch and fun activities. Thanks to Yadira Rosales and the planning committee for all their dedication and leadership in making Cardinal Community Day a reality.

The Presidents' Spotlight Series launched on April 24th with the esteemed Cinematic Director, Luis Valdez, renowned leader of the Chicano movement, creator of El Teatro Campesino and the visionary behind the iconic film "La Bamba." Valdez brought his insights and inspiration to the event, captivating the audience with his wisdom and experiences. His participation served as an example of the series commitment to bring influential and important leaders, artists, innovators, and icons to engage with our campus and communities. Special thanks to Ramon Rivera and the MVHS Mariachi band and Folkloric dancers.

On May 8th we were honored to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Robert M. Gates, a distinguished leader within our community. Dr. Gates is a former U.S. Secretary of Defense from 2006-2011 serving under two administrations: President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. He served 26 years in the Central Intelligence Agency and at the National Security Council and was the director of central intelligence under President George H.W. Bush from 1991-1993. After leaving the CIA, Dr. Gates became president of Texas A&M University. The evening began with the Oak Harbor High School NROTC and the national anthem. Specials thanks to the Skagit Valley College Foundation and Community Action of Skagit County for co-hosting the sold-out event. All proceeds for the event will support local Veterans groups.

Skagit Valley College took part in Mount Vernon's first-ever Cinco de Mayo parade on Sunday, May 5th. SVC featured a beautifully decorated float in the parade, with students and staff marching through downtown sharing information about the college and passing out candy.

5. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Claire Peinado, VP of Student Services

The Workforce Grants team has been busy managing emergency fund disbursement processes while applying for additional grant funding and streamlining intake processes for students. In April, the Workforce Grants team submitted a full proposal for the SSEH (Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness) Grant Application for FY25 after being on the planning grant this year. We expect to receive funds for fiscal year 2024, which will support students experiencing housing insecurity.

The emergency grant fund continues to receive high demand, with more funds being disbursed through Fall and Winter quarters compared to last year. All student emergency assistance grant dollars for FY24 have been distributed, and we are currently utilizing Foundation dollars and student government (ASSVC allocated) funds to support emergency student requests for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Community Basic Needs Navigator, Melissa Kristoffersen, has been focused on alleviating two major barriers - food insecurity and housing insecurity. To address food insecurity, we have expanded the food pantry hours, hired two work study students, and developed partnerships with community organizations to increase our food supply. This has resulted in an almost 300% increase in number of students served. In addition, we have started identifying and applying for grants to support this increase.

Veterans Education certified 190 students in spring quarter. This represents an increase of 51 students, up 36.69% since spring 2023. We also presented to 90 service members on base in Whidbey Island in April to provide transitioning service members and their spouses with information about education opportunities available to them after service completion.

The NAS Whidbey Island Career Fair will be held on May 9 at NAS Whidbey Island CPO event ballroom from 11–4 pm. More information about the event will be available one week prior to setup time. An Education Capstone event for end-of-service transitioning service members will be held on May 17, from 7-9 pm.

Anne Clark, VP College Advancement

The SBCTC meetings were held at McIntyre Hall with a special dinner co-hosted by the SVC Foundation. Advancement staff (James Walters) created a special two-minute video to support Dr. Villa's 10-minute presentation prior to a hosted tour of SVC - MV campus. Highlights included Skagit Valley Herald recent front page, quick facts on enrollment and demographics, featured BAS degrees, events and highlights for each campus, and highlights of our partnership with Skagit first nations communities, the SVC El Grito celebration, and partnership with the City of Mount Vernon Downtown Association's 2023 Holiday celebration.

In March, SVC's Marketing and Communications Team, led by Marisa Pierce, were awarded two national Paragon Awards by the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) at the annual national NCMPR conference held in Seattle, Washington. The college's marketing/communications team was awarded in the following categories: Communications Success Story, for the team's work on a story about SVC's manufacturing club presenting a 3D printed prosthetic hand to a 6-year-old boy. Quick-Turn Video for the team's work on a video capturing the excitement and spirit of the annual Mount Vernon Downtown Association's holiday parade. The 2024 Paragon Awards drew 1,531 entries from 210 colleges across the country and was judged by 65 professionals from the marketing and public relations industry. The SVC Marketing team also received a record twenty-five 2023 Medallion Awards.

The SVC Foundation has raised \$3,017,483 this fiscal year. This figure includes \$1.68 million from the Estate of Stella Rolph.

Nordic Tug and the Basler Foundation, along with a group of Nordic Tug owners, gave \$50,000 to established the Jerry Husted Nordic Tug Memorial Scholarship fund endowment in memory of Jerry Husted, founder of Nordic Tugs. The endowment will support a full-time SVC student pursuing a Marine Maintenance Technology Marine Technician AAS degree, a 2.75 GPA is required. Jerry Husted founded Nordic Tugs which, under his leadership, built more than 900 boats from 26 to 54 feet. Husted remained with the company until three days before his 80th birthday, in 2012. Jerry was known as a hands-on executive, having sea-trialed all but a handful of Nordic Tugs built during his tenure with the organization.

Due to FAFSA delays, SVC Foundation extended the annual scholarship application deadline by one month to April 5, 2024. One hundred additional applications were received during that period. The Foundation also hopes to provide up to \$15k in funds to students this summer to help bridge the financial uncertainty caused by the recent Federal FAFSA delays.

Darren Greeno – Academic Affairs

Ethnic Studies instructor, Dr. Laura Cailloux, was awarded a competitive faculty development seminar opportunity through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC)/Americas Research Network (ARENET). The seminar on 'Mexico's Indigenous Languages and Cultures' is based in Mexico City and will provide concrete exposure to the geographic and cultural diversity of Mexico and its historical ties to the U.S. Participants will gain first-hand experience of Mexico's Indigenous communities and will meet local scholars, artists, and activists. The seminar will also explore the rich collections held in Mexico's museums, libraries, and archaeological sites. Participants will experience the wide diversity of Mexico's Indigenous history, society, and culture and its relevance for the future of the United States.

A team of three SVC students and a Washington State University student recently participated in the Northwest Innovation Resource Center's "Hack-a-thon for Good" at Camp Korey. The team developed an algorithm to assess the effectiveness of public transportation which won the event.

The Workforce Education area received two grants from Career Connect Washington totaling \$305,000. The first grant was awarded to the Advanced Manufacturing program and will

provide \$170,072.21 to purchase a CNC router, a 3-axis CNC mill, and a 5-axis CNC machine. The second grant was awarded to the Diesel Technology program and will support the purchase of a new diesel tractor to serve as a training aid.

Ed Jaramillo, VP of Administrative Services

After the initial momentum of reviewing possible new agreements and transfer of ownership of the Library at the Whidbey Island Campus, things have slowed down. The original timeline is no longer valid. Will continue to update the Board on the progress.

The State Auditor's Office (SAO) Accountability Audit formally kicked off on April 19th after preliminary meetings with Board Chair, President, VP of Admin Services, and the Director of the Business Office (Scott Petersen). The following areas are being reviewed: Procurement card (credit card) management, Accounts payable, ctLink Conversion (this is not a full cybersecurity review), Open Public Meeting Act, and the College's financial condition – not a financial statement audit. Last status meeting was conducted 30 April with no major findings to date. We expect the audit to be completed by 24 May with an exit conference the week after.

The SBCTC Fiscal Year 2022-23 Financial Review audit kicked off on April 4th with a letter from SBCTC. Financial transactions from May 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023 are being audited in the following areas: BEdA grants, BEdA Special Projects, BFET, Early Achievers Grant, Perkins Plan, Running Start, and WorkFirst. We are currently gathering all the required information to send to the auditor.

6. CORE THEME REPORT – EQUITY IN ACHIEVEMENT – BeDA

Dr. Darren Greeno gave a presentation on Equity in Achievement.

7. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Flora Perez-Lucatero attended the SVC Foundation's Board of Governors retreat on April 17, 2024 held at Skagit Valley Farm. They received a tour of the facilities, Flora expressed how amazing the facilities were.

Mariko Doerner, Ozell Jackson and Carl Bruner attend the ACT Conference on May 2 – 3 at the Yakima Community College. It was a great conference for all and they were grateful for the opportunity to tour other college campuses. Ozell gave an update on the changes to the Transforming Lives Award.

VIII. ACTION ITEM

1. Recommendation of Head Start Baseline Grant Application for 2024-2025. It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Flora Perez-Lucatero to approve the Head Start Baseline Grant Application for 2024-2025 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Recommendation of Resolution No. 24-2 - Local Government Investment Pool. It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the Resolution No. 24-2 - Local Government Investment Pool as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Recommendation of submission of a request for a one-time supplemental funding to support the emergency roof replacement at 320 Pacific Place, Mount Vernon, WA. It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Megan Scott O'Bryan to approve the submission of a request for a one-time supplemental funding to support the emergency roof replacement at 320 Pacific Place, Mount Vernon, WA.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IX. STUDY ITEM

1. Recommendation of Board of Trustee's Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025.
2. Election of Vice Chair for 2024-2025.

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

June 11, 2024, 4:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus, Boardroom.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:29 p.m., Chair Doerner announced that the Board would convene for 20 minutes in Executive Session [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)](#) for the following purpose: (g) To review the performance of a public employee. Chair Doerner announced that no final action would be taken during the executive session.

At 6:49 p.m., Chair Doerner extended the executive session by 25 minutes.

The executive session ended at 7:16 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Doerner adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Mariko Doerner, Chair

Dr. Christopher Villa, President
Executive Secretary to the Board