

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Mariko Doerner – Chair

Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero – Vice-Chair

Dr. Carl Bruner

Mr. Ozell Jackson III

Dr. Christopher Villa, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:51 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Villa introduced Andi Date, Administrative Specialist for the President's Office and HR.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2025
2. Board Special Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2025
3. Skagit/Island Head Start Report

It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

COLLEGE REPORTS

1. Associated Students of Skagit Valley College (ASSVC) REPORT Ashley Zamora, President, Mount Vernon Campus

ASSVC reported that it is working closely with the campus food pantry to improve food resources and expand food services for students. During the quarter, the pantry was awarded a \$100,000 grant. The pantry has identified a need for additional storage and a larger space, and ASSVC plans to assist by gathering student input and collecting data throughout the year to support future planning.

ASSVC also shared plans for a legacy project focused on establishing a campus clothing closet for students. The proposed space would include washers and dryers and a structured donation system to ensure ongoing access to clothing and laundry services.

ASSVC noted that a district-wide ASSVC meeting is scheduled for January.

It was reported that two new student clubs have been approved on campus, the Geology Club and the Tennis Club.

The Student Technology Committee has completed its voting process and will next review and work through its bylaws.

ASSVC announced that Legacy Advocate Day is scheduled for February 4.

ASSVC also presented the Dulces proposal, a student-led documentary project designed to recognize and support immigrant farmworkers in the Skagit Valley.

2. Skagit Valley College Federation of Teachers (SVC-FT) Kip Zwolenski, Union President

Seven tenure-track faculty positions (Bachelor of Applied Science-Management, Biology, Emergency Medical Technician, Library, Mathematics, Music and Nursing) have been posted and will be interviewed during winter quarter with anticipated offers being made in March. SVC-FT is encouraged to see capacity in these areas being maintained, as is the case where retirements are occurring at the end of the year, or capacity being expanded in areas where there have been vacancies for multiple years or new faculty positions have been added.

Kip reported on the following three American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Washington, legislative priorities. He will provide further information as we move toward the legislative session and bills are filed.

1. Fully Fund COLA - Initiative 732 requires faculty receive cost of living adjustments indexed to inflation. However, these adjustments are often funded by the state less than the full amount needed, requiring local funds be used to make up the difference. This results in a slow defunding of the Community and Technical

College (CTC) system, referred to as the "leaky pipe". This priority is aligned with the college presidents' and SBCTC legislative request.

2. Workforce Education Investment Account Proviso Repeal (WEIA) - A proviso was added during the 2025 legislative session that allows the WEIA funds to be used to supplant general fund investments in higher education. As a part of this proviso, the legislature noted the intention to continue this practice through the 27-29 biennium. There is a concern that this continued supplanting will result in a sustained divestment in our CTC system.
3. Board of Trustees Reform - Many CTC institutions are facing dire financial situations resulting in furloughs, hiring freezes, and reduction in force actions. There is a statewide conversation regarding reform to our local board structures to ensure accountability and sustainability for our colleges.

Lobby Days include MLK Day, January 19th and President's Day, February 16th.

From December through March, AFT National will hold seven meetings nationwide to bring affiliate leaders and staff together with the national officers and staff to talk about ways to mobilize, organize and empower members to fight for a better future. SVC-FT will be sending two local officers to the meeting.

The new Shared Governance Councils will begin meeting in winter quarter. Kip will report more on this implementation at future meetings.

3. WPEA – Lance Levesen

No report at this time.

4. PRESIDENT – Dr. Christopher Villa

Dr. Villa reported that the 25th anniversary Champions Celebration was held on Thursday, November 20th, and it was a truly inspiring evening. Anita Ordoñez was recognized for her vision in creating this impactful program and for the legacy it continues to build for students in our community. The evening highlighted the 2025–2026 Champions whose achievements and stories reflect the strength and promise of our college district. Our sincere thanks to Kati Ortiz, the SVC Foundation, and all who contributed to making the evening so meaningful. It was a memorable gathering that honored both the program's history and the bright future of its students.

The SVC Foundation Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 3 was a truly memorable and heartfelt evening, bringing together donors, friends, and partners to celebrate the generosity that makes such a profound difference for our students. It was a warm and festive gathering that honored the impact of our donor community and highlighted how their support opens doors and strengthens programs across the college. The exceptional SVC Foundation team created a welcoming and beautifully organized event, and their genuine hospitality helped make the night especially meaningful. We are deeply grateful

for their continued partnership and for the donors whose kindness and commitment enrich the lives of our students and the broader SVC community.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, Western Washington University (WWU) President Sabah Randhawa and members of his leadership team met with President Villa and members of our Executive Cabinet to discuss next steps in the implementation of the Guaranteed Transfer Admissions Agreement between SVC and WWU. Plans are in place to begin a marketing campaign next month to advertise this agreement on both college websites and in the SVC community.

5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Trustees Perez-Lucatero, Jackson and Scott O'Bryan attended the recent ACT Conference on November 13-14, 2025, in Seattle. Their report included state and federal updates and key legislative priorities for the upcoming session. They emphasized the importance of increased trustee engagement this year, including hosting opportunities on campus before the session and making at least one visit to Olympia. Budget discussions at the conference covered a wide range of perspectives, highlighting both challenges and opportunities at the state level.

Trustees also reflected on sessions focused on equity work across the system, including the statewide push toward a universalism approach and the importance of staff training to support improved student outcomes. They noted uplifting stories shared by students and educators, underscoring the role of mentorship and supporting every student on their path. Trustees closed by reaffirming the critical importance of student support services, such as the food pantry, and commended the college's ongoing efforts to meet student needs.

STUDY ITEM

WAC 132D-150, Code of Student Conduct

On January 9, 2025, a U.S. District Court vacated the final Rule made on April 24, 2024. To be in compliance with 2020 Title IX rules, Skagit Valley College is adopting the 2020 Title IX rules and updating definitions in the Student Rights and Responsibilities to be in compliance with the 2020 Title IX rules. This will be an action item at the March 10, 2026, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Recommendation to approve a new date for the February 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting.

It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Ozell Jackson to approve February 3, 2026, as the new date for the February 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Recommendation to approve the Board Policy Committee.

It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the Board Policy Committee (Ozell Jackson, Dr. Chris Villa and Dr. Darren Greeno) as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

February 3, 2026, 4:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus, Administrative Annex Boardroom.
Study Session at 3:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Doerner announced that the board would convene into executive session to discuss matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i)(iii) to discuss legal risks of a proposed action or current practice where public discussion of those risks is likely to result in adverse legal or financial consequences to the college. She stated that she anticipated the executive session would take 30 minutes and that the board does not intend to take action when they return to open session. Convened into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m.

At 6:01 p.m., Chair Doerner extended the executive session by 5 minutes.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the meeting into open session at 6:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Doerner adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Mariko Doerner, Chair

Dr. Christopher Villa, President
Executive Secretary to the Board