

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Mariko Doerner

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Ozell Jackson, recognized that a quorum of Board members was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Diane Johnson, Music Department Chair, informed the board that the SVC choir will be traveling to NYC to perform at Carnegie Hall on May 26, 2025. New employees were also introduced.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2024
2. Board Special Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2024
3. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. COLLEGE REPORTS

1. ASSVC – Brendan Perry

SVC students participated in Legislative Advocacy Day in Olympia (January 29th), where they had the opportunity to meet with several key legislators and representatives, including Rep. Sam Low, Rep. Dave Paul, Sen. Keith Wagoner, Rep. Alex Ramel, a Senior Aide to Ron Muzzall, and Rep. Clyde Shavers. During these meetings, students advocated for policies addressing housing affordability, rent stabilization, the rising cost of textbooks, and a proposal to offer the first 45 credits at community and technical colleges (CTCs) for free. Their goal was to highlight the importance of policies that support student success and accessibility in higher education.

The Services and Activities (S&A) Fee budget process is now underway. Request forms will soon be distributed to the campus community, with a submission deadline of February 28th. Student committee members will be selected this month, and the review process for budget requests will begin in early to mid-March. Final budget decisions are expected in early Spring quarter, with the approved budget set to be submitted to the President and Board of Trustees in early May.

ASSVC approved supplemental funding requests to support student engagement and leadership development. This includes sending student leaders to the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) Conference and providing funding for Phi Theta Kappa members to attend the International Catalyst Convention in early April in Kansas City, Missouri.

2. SVCFT – Kip Zwolenski

No report at this time.

3. WPEA – Lance Levesen

No report at this time.

4. PRESIDENT – Dr. Christopher Villa

Immigration/ICE – SVC has been responsive to our faculty, staff, and students with respect to recent Executive Orders pertaining to immigration/ICE that are emanating from President Trump's office. On Thursday, January 23rd, the President's office sent a communication to college faculty, staff, and students that reinforced our commitment to provide all students, regardless of immigration status, a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment. We emphasized more than ever before, we remain committed to demonstrating our Guiding Principles, and particularly compassion as we serve our students.

The President's Office also sent another communication to our faculty and staff on Friday, January 24th, that included protocols that in the event Immigration/ICE officials will be on our campuses. Vice President Yadira Rosales has been designated our College Designee who will be the point of contact when interacting with Immigration/ICE officials.

President Trump Executive Orders - On Monday, January 27th, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the direction of President Trump, issued an order to temporary pause grant, loan, and other financial assistance programs in order to be “consistent with the President’s policies and requirements”. On Wednesday, January 29th, the order was rescinded. Consequently, the President’s office sent out a communication to SVC faculty and staff on that day. Dr. Villa assured the board members that we will do our best to provide timely and accurate information to college constituents as well as the board regarding President Trump Executive Orders that may impact the college.

Congressman Larsen Visit - On Friday, January 31st, Congressman Rick Larsen representing the State of Washington 2nd District, visited Skagit Valley College. SVC showcased our programs that serve low income and/or first-generation college students including TRIO Student Support Services, College Assistance Migrant Program, and the SVC Cardinal Achievement Program. Congressman Larsen had the opportunity to learn about these programs as students spoke about how these have helped them in their quest to be successful students. In addition, Mr. Larsen received an update on the Dental Therapy Program.

WACTC Hill Climb – Dr. Villa thanked the Board of Trustees for their participation at the annual WACTC legislative advocacy “Hill Climb” in Olympia on Wednesday, January 29th and Thursday, January 30th. Trustees Bruner and Doerner were most helpful in articulating our WACTC funding priorities to eight legislators in our service area, including the need to preserve fiscal year 2025 funding that was approved in the 2023-25 operating budget (28.6 million) that was subject to a budget error that could result in a reduction in the allocation to Skagit Valley College in the estimated amount of \$789,000 that SVC had not accounted for in our 2024-25 adopted budget. In addition, we advocated to have the Library/Culinary Arts Building capital project funded that is included in the 2025-27 Capital Budget Request.

5. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Darren Greeno

Dr. Darren Greeno, VP of Academic Affairs, provided a comprehensive snapshot of Academic Affairs, including an overview of academic programs, the distribution of students and course modalities, key student outcomes, and academic interventions. He also shared updates on bachelor's degree programs, highlighting developments and initiatives aimed at enhancing student success and academic performance.

6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Trustee Jackson shared a personal story about his father and the care he received at Regency. During his visit, he met several nurses and nurse assistants, some of whom attended SVC. He emphasized how SVC plays a significant role in impacting and serving the local community.

Trustee Perez-Lucatero expressed enthusiasm about the new Early Childhood Education (ECE) bachelor’s degree, highlighting how it allows students to stay local to complete their education and emphasized the barriers students face when needing to travel to other colleges to finish their degrees, including the financial burden. She also remarked on the

success of the Athletic Auction (February 1, 2025) noting that it was great to see Brian Murphy honored.

Trustee Bruner reflected on Hill Climb Day and the advocacy efforts in Olympia. He came away feeling encouraged by the engagement and support from representatives in the 10th, 39th, and 40th districts. He noted that the relationships built with legislators were evident and that there was strong support for community colleges. He also shared that he along with Trustee Doerner and President Villa, would be attending the ACCT National Summit Conference next week in Washington, D.C.

VII. ACTION ITEM

1. Recommendation to approve Head Start Change in Scope application and budget, reducing funded enrollment by 12 preschool Head Start slots. (This approval is pending Policy Council approval on February 20, 2025.)

It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the Head Start Change in Scope application and budget, reducing funded enrollment by 12 preschool Head Start slots. (This approval is pending Policy Council approval on February 20, 2025.)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2025, 4:30 p.m., Whidbey Island Campus, Oak Hall, A306.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Jackson announced at 5:21 p.m. that the Board would convene into Executive Session to discuss matters as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (g), to review the performance of a public employee. He stated that he anticipated the Executive Session would take 30 minutes and that the Board does not intend to take action when they returned to open session.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the meeting into open session at 5:51 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Jackson adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Ozell Jackson, Chair

Dr. Christopher Villa, President
Executive Secretary to the Board