

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Thursday, January 15, 2026
4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Mariko Doerner – Chair
Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero – Vice Chair
Dr. Carl Bruner
Mr. Ozell Jackson III
Ms. Vhari Rust-Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kip Zwolenski, SVCAFT, provided public comment on communication.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Doerner announced that the board would convene into executive session to discuss matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, and (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 may take action when they return to open session as a result of discussions in the executive session. Convened into executive session at 4:07 p.m.

At 4:37 p.m. the board extended the executive session for 45 minutes.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the meeting into open session at 5:22 p.m.

V. ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Ozell Jackson and seconded by Carl Bruner to terminate, for convenience, the contract of Dr. Villa effective immediately.

The Chair requested a roll call vote: Ozell Jackson – aye, Carl Bruner – aye, Flora Perez-Lucatero – aye, Vhari Rust-Clark – aye and Mariko Doerner – aye.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

It was moved by Carl Bruner and seconded by Flora Perez-Lucatero to authorize Board Chair Doerner to identify a lead administrator and to identify a proposal for the interim president, which may include identifying potential candidates for the board's consideration. The Chair requested a roll call vote: Ozell Jackson – aye, Carl Bruner – aye, Flora Perez-Lucatero – aye, Vhari Rust-Clark – aye and Mariko Doerner – aye.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Doerner made the following statement:

The board in its Thursday public meeting voted to terminate for convenience the contract of Dr. Villa effective immediately.

As I am sure you will understand, we are unable to comment on any action involving an employee.

The board is committed to acting decisively and thoughtfully to identify an interim president to lead the college.

We expect this process to take some period of time - we are in the process of scheduling a meeting now.

In the meantime, we will name a lead administrator hopefully by the meeting to be scheduled.

Further, we are committed to conducting a national search for the next president of SVC.

The search will be conducted consistent with the college's guiding principles of:

1. Respect
2. Integrity
3. Open and Honest Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Compassion

Members of the college community and the local communities we serve will be invited to provide input during the search for our next president.

Typically, a presidential search takes between 6-9 months.

The board has not discussed any specific details or timelines on this process and don't expect to do so until an interim president is in place.

As always, the board will provide timely updates on these processes.

Most importantly the board is committed to ensure that the focus remains on the success of our students and insuring the college will continue to serve our local communities.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Doerner adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Mariko Doerner, Chair

Dr. Christopher Villa, President
Executive Secretary to the Board