

**Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Trustees
San Mateo County Community College District
January 10, 2018, San Mateo, CA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: President Richard Holober, Vice President Maurice Goodman, Trustee Dave Mandelkern, Trustee Thomas Mohr, Trustee Karen Schwarz

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

President Holober said that during closed session, the Board will hold a conference with legal counsel regarding four cases of existing litigation and one case of potential litigation as listed on the printed agenda.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY

None

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to closed session at 5:02 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members Present: President Richard Holober, Vice President Maurice Goodman, Trustee Dave Mandelkern, Trustee Thomas Mohr, Trustee Karen Schwarz, Student Trustee Alfredo Olguin Jr.

Others Present: Chancellor Ron Galatolo, Executive Vice Chancellor Kathy Blackwood, Skyline College Interim Vice President of Instruction Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, College of San Mateo President Michael Claire, Cañada College President Jamillah Moore, District Academic Senate President Leigh Anne Shaw

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DISCUSSION OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

None

MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Mohr and seconded by Trustee Schwarz to approve the revised minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2017. The motion carried, all members voting Aye.

It was moved by Trustee Mohr and seconded by Trustee Schwarz to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2017. The motion carried, all members voting Aye.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

José Nuñez, Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning, Maintenance and Operations, announced that Energy and Sustainability Manager Joe Fullerton has been selected to receive a Sustainability Champion award from Sustainable San Mateo County.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ITEMS: CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT, COMPENSATION, PLACEMENT, LEAVES, STAFF ALLOCATIONS AND CLASSIFICATION OF ACADEMIC AND CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL (18-1-1A)

President Holober said staff has requested two changes to the report:

1. Under “Changes in Staff Allocation” on page 3, remove the recommended creation of a new classification titled “Director of the Wellness Center”
2. Under “Establishment to Equivalency to Minimum Qualifications” on page 4, the last two words should read “Coaching discipline” rather than “Photography discipline”

It was moved by Trustee Mandelkern and seconded by Trustee Mohr to approve the corrected report. The motion carried, all members voting Aye.

STUDY SESSION

EXPLORING RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES (18-1-1C)

Trustee Mohr said it is important to know the number of homeless students and employees in the District in order to understand the severity of the problem. He said the 2017 San Mateo County One Day Homeless Count and Survey reported that there were 1,253 homeless people in San Mateo County on the night of January 25, 2017, comprised of 637 unsheltered homeless people (living on streets, in cars, RVs, tents/encampments) and 616 sheltered homeless people (in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs). He said he would like to discuss how to go about discovering how many of these 1,253 homeless people are young people who want to go to college and how many are faculty and staff members who cannot afford housing in the area. Trustee Mohr said the County report showed that the density of homelessness varies greatly from one community to another, with higher rates in Pacifica, Redwood City and East Palo Alto. He said this would indicate that Cañada College and Skyline College would be affected more directly than College of San Mateo.

Trustee Mandelkern agreed with the need for some type of survey to discover the magnitude of the problem. He noted that there may be reticence on the part of some people to acknowledge that they are homeless and there are also different definitions of homelessness. He suggested that staff talk to people in San Francisco and San Jose who may have more experience and expertise on how to measure the depth of the problem. He also suggested soliciting observational information from others, i.e. asking students, faculty and staff if they know of any of their peers who are homeless. Trustee Mandelkern said that if it is determined that homelessness is a significant problem for District students, faculty and staff, he would like to see what short-term, tactical solutions could be put in place to address the situation fairly quickly.

Trustee Mandelkern said that in the past, he has mentioned people who are working full-time but still cannot afford to live in San Mateo County. He said he was made aware of further evidence of this close to home; there is an RV park by the SamTrans bus facility near the San Carlos airport used by SamTrans workers who cannot afford to live in the County. Some of these workers have homes to go to on the weekends and some do not.

Vice President Goodman said homelessness takes on many faces; people may be “couch surfing,” living with friends, living in vehicles or living in shelters. He said it is important to ask the right questions in the right way, ensuring that people maintain their dignity. Vice President Goodman said the correlation between homelessness and student success rates should also be examined. He said that if the District cannot provide resources that are needed, it is incumbent upon the District to connect students, faculty and staff with resources in the community.

Vice President Goodman said that during the winter break when campus buildings were closed, homeless students inquired about what options they had for use of shower facilities. He said he hopes to see short-term solutions that have a great impact, such as keeping shower facilities open during breaks. He said the District should make sure that there is a SparkPoint Center or SparkPoint-like program on each campus. Trustee Mandelkern said it could be helpful to gather data on how many students use the shower facilities and the SparkPoint Centers.

Vice President Goodman said that students informed representatives from the General Accounting Office, who conducted a student focus group while visiting Skyline College to review SparkPoint services, that they want to use SparkPoint services but do not want to be seen walking out with bags of groceries. Homeless students also reported that they do not have a place to store food. Vice President Goodman said it would be helpful to look at where the SparkPoint Centers are housed and whether there might be opportunities to provide spaces for food preparation. He said listening to students regarding their needs is essential. Trustee Mohr agreed that it is important to include students as a resource to understand the nature of homelessness and to look at it through their frame of reference. He said it is not difficult to understand how students can easily become homeless given the high cost of living in the County.

District Academic Senate President Shaw commended the Board for bringing this issue forward. She said that during the last five years, she has had one student per year who she knew was homeless. She discussed two homeless students who were in one of her classes last semester. She said they were aware of resources and were utilizing them but the services were not sufficient to solve their problems. President Shaw said she believes it would be easy for faculty and counselors

to collect data because they know who the homeless students are. Trustee Mandelkern said anecdotal evidence has value. He said the Board can request that there be focus groups on each campus to allow students to air their concerns.

Chancellor Galatolo said CCCApply contains a box to check if a student is homeless, but very few students check the box. He said staff reached out to the colleges to see if they could provide information. Cañada College and Skyline College report that they have approximately 40 homeless students and College of San Mateo estimates a homeless student population of approximately 30. Of these, half are “couch surfing,” staying with friends, etc. and half are fully unsheltered. He said he believes it might be appropriate for the Associated Students at each college to lead the charge for focus groups. He also suggested that the SparkPoint Centers could link students with County services. Chancellor Galatolo said he does not believe that there are homeless employees at the District Office and the colleges report that they are not aware of any homeless faculty or staff members.

Trustee Schwarz said President Shaw’s statement about people utilizing available resources but still being homeless is of great concern. She said the County at one time had an Adopt A Family program in which she participated and she found the same thing to be true. She asked if the County is responding in any way to the 2017 survey results as reported by Trustee Mohr. Trustee Mohr said the County does have a strategic plan. He said the number of people identified as homeless decreased by 18% since the last survey was conducted in 2015.

Trustee Mandelkern said he believes homelessness should not be seen only as a student problem. He said he would not be surprised to learn that there are District faculty and/or staff members who are homeless, much like the SamTrans workers mentioned earlier. He said homeless faculty and staff members might be reticent to report homelessness or might have varying definitions of homelessness. Trustee Mandelkern said he believes that 110 homeless students, as reported by the colleges, is a significant enough number to warrant addressing the issue. He said he believes a broad spectrum of solutions should be considered, including short-term, targeted solutions.

Maxine Turner, a member of the public, noted that many of the District’s students are not adults. She said that if these students are homeless, it could imply that their families are homeless as well and this issue might also be addressed.

President Holober said this discussion has provided a good opening for further discussion. He said there needs to be a broader definition of homelessness and a better understanding of the scope of the problem. He said the Board will look to staff to collect data and anecdotal evidence from faculty, counselors, SparkPoint Centers, etc.

President Holober asked if CCCApply is a state form; Chancellor Galatolo said it is. President Holober said it might be worthwhile for the District to ask questions in a more nuanced way, e.g. is the student’s family facing a stressful situation regarding the availability of affordable housing. President Holober said it is also important to look at who the District’s partners are. He said the District has been inclined to tackle problems that are not the sole responsibility of the District, but should be shared by cities and the County as well. He said that during positive financial periods in the past, the District has taken on responsibilities such as alcohol and drug abuse and mental health issues that should be shared with other agencies and non-profit organizations.

President Shaw said it is not only a lack of services that cause people to fall into homelessness, but the fact that there simply is not enough housing available. Regarding CCCApply, President Shaw said that students might not have been homeless when they completed the form but their status might have changed. She said a question on the WebSMART application might be needed to try to respectfully ascertain students’ living situations.

Trustee Schwarz said she agrees that the District should work with cities and the County, noting that students are part of the larger community. Trustee Mohr said the County believes that the decrease in homelessness is due to the way agencies have formed a network and are sharing the burden in various ways. Trustee Schwarz suggested that the District become part of that network.

Trustee Mandelkern said he is in favor of partnerships, but does not believe the District should ignore opportunities to be of help. For example, he said the District developed faculty/staff housing for employees without waiting for other agencies to solve the problem. Vice President Goodman said the District knows when faculty or staff members will have to vacate their units in the housing complexes and he believes they should be made aware of other low-income housing opportunities that could help employees through the transition. He said he believes that sharing of information about opportunities in the County for transitional housing, home sharing, subsidized housing, etc. should be formalized.

Trustee Mandelkern noted that Vice President Taylor-Mendoza is on the board of HIP Housing and asked if she could share comments and knowledge on this topic. Vice President Taylor-Mendoza said many District students have graduated from the Self Sufficiency Program, allowing them to complete their education or job training program. She said there is a long wait list for the Home Sharing Program but a shorter list for transitional housing. Vice President Taylor-Mendoza said she is interested not only in the resources that are available to students, but also in what a potential partnership could involve.

Student Trustee Olguin said he would be glad to assist in making sure that student voices are heard. Regarding a survey, he said that if it is determined that a person is spending a certain percentage of his/her income on housing, it should raise a red flag. He said it is very difficult for people to keep up with rising rents. Student Trustee Olguin said he believes the issue of housing has become a public health issue because people are experiencing stress over where they are going to live. He said people must be treated with respect and dignity as they are brought into the discussion so they feel they are part of what the District is doing to meet their needs.

President Holober suggested that staff investigate what similar districts around the country are doing to address the issue of homelessness to see if there are models the District can use to seek potential solutions.

EXPLORING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS (18-1-2C)

Chancellor Galatolo said the Board has discussed student housing at two previous meetings and at the second meeting agreed that staff should explore options. He said staff has met with three developers and has identified three potential sites, one at each campus with a total of 600 to 800 individual units measuring 480-500 square feet each. Approximately 85% of the units would house international students. The remaining 15% would be for foster youth, veterans and other needy students and would be fully underwritten by fees from the international housing. Chancellor Galatolo said there are approximately 600 foster youth in the County and providing 90 beds would be a significant step in addressing their needs. He said he envisions offering not only free housing to foster youth, but free tuition and textbooks as well as services through SparkPoint.

Chancellor Galatolo said 11 of the 114 community colleges in the state offer student housing. All are in rural areas except Sierra Community College, whose area was rural when the college opened in 1960. Some of the housing at these colleges is privately run and some is run by the institution. Chancellor Galatolo said he would recommend that District student housing be privately run, with the District offering wraparound services.

Trustee Mandelkern said he is aware that Santa Rosa Junior College had student housing at one time and he would be interested in knowing why it was shut down. Kimberlee Messina, Interim Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Planning, said the housing at Santa Rosa was shut down approximately seven years ago. She said it was run by the college and required a significant use of resources. Trustee Mandelkern said he would be interested in learning about the experiences of the colleges that have student housing, as well as those that discontinued housing, in terms of structure, size and split between international and domestic students. He said he is concerned about the proposed 85% to 15% ratio when the District has domestic students with great needs.

Trustee Mohr said housing is catastrophic for many people in the County. He said he believes there is a need to learn what the need for student housing is, how it could be done and how it would be paid for. He said the District brings in a large number of international students who generate \$10 million per year for the District. He said the District promises these students a high quality education and being able to find high quality housing should be part of the picture. He said domestic students also have difficulty with housing and conditions in the County are driving this question.

Vice President Goodman said Santa Barbara City College partners with a program similar to HIP which provides dormitory style housing while the college offers a meal plan. He suggested that in addition to the proposed housing at the campus sites, the District could expand on its partnerships in the community to create opportunities for similar models within the community.

Trustee Schwarz said she recognizes that it is challenging for international students to find housing and it is also difficult for local foster youth, veterans and homeless students. She said she understands that international students' housing fees would provide the funding for domestic students; however, she is concerned about the 85% to 15% ratio. She said there might be a possibility that local students have a source of funding whereby they could pay a small amount for housing. Chancellor Galatolo said the proposal is structured so that revenues from international student housing would underwrite the housing for the most needy local students. He said that if the ratio is changed to raise the number of units allotted to

domestic students, the Board might consider whether to contribute funds each year toward this end. Trustee Mandelkern said he shares concern about local students. He said more time should be spent exploring different ratios of international and domestic students and the associated costs. Chancellor Galatolo said the District can look at demand elasticity to help determine appropriate costs.

President Holober said the discussion on housing is about the Board's set of principles. He said he believes the developers' interest includes some sort of tax dodge and he believes the Board should fully vet what is in it for the developers before making a decision about whether it is something in which the Board wants to be involved. He said the District has an obligation to provide quality education to the residents of San Mateo County and this is what he is most focused on when considering housing opportunities. President Holober said that while he understands that foster youth and veterans are particularly impacted, there are other groups of students and potential students who are just as desperately in need of housing solutions. He said he believes the concept of international and domestic student housing is worth exploring, but the Board should be concerned about what is driving it.

Trustee Mohr said he would like to see a white paper which would include what conditions the District is trying to address, at what level they would be addressed in this model, how and where it would be done, estimated costs, and who the developers would be. He said that knowing what the model would look like would make it easier for the Board to have a serious discussion regarding the priorities they want to address.

Trustee Mandelkern said he believes the creation of a white paper makes sense. He said there is also information that could be gleaned from other districts' approaches and experiences, including discussion of the pros and cons of having student housing run by the district/college versus a private entity. Trustee Mandelkern said student housing would be a big step for the District and should be thought through very carefully.

Vice President Goodman said he believes it is necessary to think outside the box to address the issue of student housing. He said that if having a ratio of 80-85% international students to 15-20% domestic students is a way to solve the housing problem, it should not be dismissed. He said partnerships with non-profit developers could also be pursued. He added that potential solutions do not need to be either/or propositions.

President Holober said the Mayor of Foster City sent him an interesting article regarding a program in the Netherlands in which nursing homes offer free rent to college students in exchange for 30 hours per month of their time "acting as neighbors" with their aged residents, teaching them new skills and sharing their lives. He distributed copies of the article to Board members. He said he wonders if there might be interest on the part of someone in the community in talking to the District about this type of program. Trustee Mandelkern said he believes this is worth pursuing.

STATEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Student Trustee Olguin said he has been interested in the issue of housing since he was in high school and is pleased that the Board is discussing possible ways to help students with this issue. He said he looks forward to further in-depth discussions.

Trustee Mandelkern said he is pleased that the Board has held two study sessions on the issue of housing. He said the two topics discussed at this meeting are interconnected and there is a continuum of solutions to the problem. He said there is a housing crisis in the County and the Board should address it. He said he believes the Board has given clarity and direction to staff and he looks forward to continuing the conversation. Trustee Mandelkern wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Trustee Schwarz said she met an individual at a social gathering who is involved in housing in San Francisco and who expressed interest in the District's faculty/staff housing projects. She said this individual and she will meet with a trustee from San Francisco on February 5 to discuss the District's housing. Trustee Schwarz said she receives newsletters from the Kainos Home and Training Center, whose mission is to maximize the potential of adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The most recent newsletter contains an article titled "Kainos Goes to College" which describes Kainos clients' positive experiences participating in adaptive PE classes at College of San Mateo.

Vice President Goodman commended his colleagues for the evolution of the conversations on housing and for being responsive to the community. He asked the Board to provide guidance to him and Trustee Schwarz on what the role of the Educational Housing Board might be. Vice President Goodman said the Board has held joint meetings with other boards in the South County and on the coast. He requested that a joint study session be held with the Jefferson Union

High School District in the North County to discuss not only partnerships, collaborations and sharing of data, but to further the conversation on race, class and equity, a topic on which a Jefferson Board member has expressed interest. Chancellor Galatolo said the new superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District reached out to him and asked for a joint meeting. The superintendent learned about the Early College program at the Cabrillo Unified School District and wants to discuss the Early College concept, among other items. Trustee Schwarz asked for an update on the Early College program with the Cabrillo District. President Claire said the number of courses being offered at Half Moon Bay High School is expanding and the intent is to offer a transfer level math class and a class in one of the sciences next fall. Chancellor Galatolo said the District is continuing to work with the Sequoia Union High School District on the TIDE Academy as well.

Trustee Mohr said many ideas have been brought forward and he believes they should be captured and put in writing for the Board to consider when advancing their thinking and making decisions. He said that when something is put into a structure that can be easily understood, it is easier to come to a consensus on how to proceed. Trustee Mohr said transportation continues to be another major issue that needs to be addressed.

President Holober said there was a positive federal court ruling in the DACA case. He said it appears that promises from the White House regarding compassion and love are empty promises. He said the 700,000 or more young people who have known the United States as their only home are in limbo and the fight will go on. President Holober said the U.S. Department of Education has proposed new rules that will make it more difficult for former students who are burdened by student loan debt to get forgiveness on their loans. He said the rules, which were basically written by for-profit colleges, would require proving that students were intentionally lied to, which is an almost impossible standard.

President Holober said that a few weeks ago, the Federal Communications Commission repealed the net neutrality regulations that were developed after several years of painstaking information gathering by the FCC under President Obama. He said the New York Attorney General has opened an investigation after at least two million fraudulent comments were identified, including a comment that was supposedly made by President Holober's son. President Holober said two bills have been introduced in Sacramento, one by Senator Scott Wiener and one by Senator Kevin De León. The bills would, within the limits of what California can do, use regulatory and purchasing power to create standards for doing business with broadband internet companies that honor the net neutrality rules that have been repealed. Trustee Mandelkern said the District should also be concerned about this as a provider of online learning because it could impact students' ability to access important materials that they need. President Holober said he will provide more information about the bills if the Board has interest in supporting either bill.

President Holober said the annual Board retreat will be held on February 3. He said the Board has expressed a desire to play an important role in developing the agenda for the retreat and he asked Board members to think about items they would like to have on the agenda. A discussion of the retreat agenda will be held at the meeting of January 24.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Ron Galatolo
Secretary

Approved and entered into the proceedings of the January 24, 2018 meeting.

Maurice Goodman
Vice President-Clerk