

**Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Trustees
San Mateo County Community College District
April 14, 2021 – San Mateo, CA**

This was conducted remotely via Zoom. A video recording of the meeting can be accessed at:
<https://smccd.edu/boardoftrustees/meetings.php>.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Board Members Present: President Thomas A. Nuris, Vice President Richard Holober, Trustee Maurice Goodman, Trustee Lisa Petrides, Trustee John Pimentel

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

President Nuris said that during closed session, the Board will take up items as listed on the printed agenda, including: (1) Hold a Conference with Labor Negotiators for Employee Organizations: AFT; (2) Hold a Conference with Labor Negotiators for Employee Organizations: Unrepresented Employees: Provost – International Education, Vice Chancellor – Chief of Staff, Vice Chancellor – Education Services & Planning, Vice Chancellor – Facilities, Vice Chancellor – Auxiliary Services & Enterprise Operations; (3) Conduct Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Review of Goals – Chancellor; (4) Consider Public Employee Appointment: College of San Mateo President; (5) Consider Employee Discipline, Dismissal, Release ; and (6) Hold a Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2): Two cases.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY

None.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to closed session at 5:03 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:17 p.m.

Board Members Present: President Thomas A. Nuris, Vice President Richard Holober, Trustee Maurice Goodman, Trustee Lisa Petrides, Trustee John Pimentel, Student Trustee Jade Shonette

Others Present: Chancellor Michael Claire, Chief Financial Officer Bernata Slater; Skyline College President Melissa Moreno, College of San Mateo Interim President Kim Lopez, Cañada College President Jamillah Moore, District Academic Senate President Jeramy Wallace

ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

[*\(Time Stamp: 01:18:21\)*](#)

None

DISCUSSION OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

[*\(Time Stamp: 01:18:33\)*](#)

Staff asked that Study Session Item 21-04-02C - Discussion of Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement in the District be considered prior to Study Session Item 21-04-01C - Discussion of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Open Educational Resource (OER) Adoption in the District. The Board agreed to the reordering.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

(Time Stamp: 01:19:28)

- Marianne Kaletsky, Executive Secretary, AFT 1493 expressed appreciation and thanks to District negotiators and the Board of Trustees for the tentative agreement reached for the AFT contract.
- Frank Elliott expressed concerns about the EXOS contract and operation of the San Mateo Athletic Club.
- Annette Perot, CSEA Chapter President, spoke about a concern in mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for employees.
- Sam Chuang urged the Board of Trustees to affect change and look to the future.
- Vera Quijano spoke the C.O.L.T.S. (Cañada Offers Learn to Swim) Aquatic Empowerment Program for Social Justice and asked the Board to consider this at the Cañada College pool.
- Nancy Littlefield expressed concern about the future operation of the San Mateo Athletic Club and the Cañada Athletic Facility.
- Lane Poms expressed concern about the future operation of the San Mateo Athletic Club and the Cañada Athletic Facility.

STUDY SESSION

Discussion of Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement in the District (21-04-02C)

(Time Stamp: 01:33:46)

Summary of Discussion: District Academic Senate President Jeramy Wallace introduced the presentation about Ethnic Studies at Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College. He said the District Academic Senate adopted a goal in August 2020 for an Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement consistent across all three campuses. He said the State Assembly also passed AB 1460 which mandated Ethnic Studies for all CSU Graduates starting with the 2024/2025 academic year, then the requirement passed to Community Colleges as a transfer requirement.

Mr. Roderick Magbual, Social Science/Creative Arts Instructor, presented information about the history of Ethnic Studies starting with the Black Student Union (BSU) / Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) at San Francisco State University. Mr. Magbual explained the ARC of Ethnic Studies which stands for Access, Relevance and Community.

Ms. Malathi Iyengar, Social Science/Creative Arts Assistant Professor, presented the definition of Ethnic Studies as defined by the Department of Ethnic Studies at the College of San Mateo. She explained the local history of the Ethnic Studies program at CSM and how it was connected to the TWLF. Ms. Iyengar also explained the history of the College Readiness Program (CRP) which began by student activists in the 1960s.

Student Lisiate Vuna shared his empowering and profound experience with Ethnic Studies classes. He said Ethnic Studies classes provided a critical lens to examine justice, contest outdated beliefs, and share lived experiences. He shared that Ethnic Studies classes have taught

him geographical and racial history of Pacific Islanders and Polynesian cultures and ancestors. Mr. Vuna acknowledged the great work of the thriving MANA Program at CSM and many other classes and programs at neighboring Community Colleges.

Ms. Marianne Beck, Program Services Coordinator – Articulation, explained the AB 1460 Ethnic Studies requirement. Ms. Beck said AB 1460 makes Ethnic Studies a general education requirement throughout the CSU system. The requirement will be effective for Students entering SMCCCD colleges in Fall 2021 and courses will be offered at all three colleges.

Liza Erpelo, English Faculty, and Rika Yonemura-Fabian, Sociology Faculty, gave a presentation about creating an Ethnic Studies Department at Skyline College. Currently Skyline College has a robust offering of courses focused on communities of color, but no courses with the ETHN designator. Ms. Erpelo presented the four new ETHN sections: ETHN 103, ETHN 108 and ETHN 142. Ms. Yonemura-Fabian said the classes will be housed in the Social Sciences/Creative Arts Division and a full time ETHN Faculty will be prioritized for the 2021/2022 academic year.

Lezlee Ware, Professor, and David Eck, Professor, gave a presentation about creating an Ethnic Studies Department at Cañada College. Ms. Ware acknowledged the support of the Academic Senate and the Cañada College Curriculum Committee for moving quickly and committing to hiring a Full Time Ethnic Studies Faculty at Cañada College for Fall 2021. Ms. Ware said this puts the anti-racist framework in action and demonstrates that Cañada College and the District stand against hate.

College of San Mateo Curriculum Chair, Theresa Morris, presented information regarding curriculum changes for Ethnic Studies at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. Ms. Morris said the Board of Trustees has the power to make progress and asked them to stand in solidarity with Students and Faculty. Dr. Frederick Gaines, Ethnic Studies Professor, implored the Board of Trustees to commit to supporting this work and not to let history repeat itself.

Trustee Holober asked about the CSU transfer requirement. Ms. Marianne Beck said the articulation officers have submitted courses for Cañada College and Skyline College and will get decisions by early May. Ms. Theresa Morris said College of San Mateo courses, because there were already in existence, transfer to CSUs.

President Nuris said the presentation has been inspiring and expressed his support to move forward. Trustee Petrides expressed her gratitude for the presentation and gave her full support. She encouraged this presentation to be given to other Faculty throughout the District. Trustee Goodman acknowledged the call for accountability and said that Faculty, Staff, Administrators and Elected Officials have an obligation to do the right thing.

Discussion of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Open Educational Resource (OER) Adoption in the District (21-04-01C)

[*\(Time Stamp: 02:59:56\)*](#)

Summary of Discussion: Vice Chancellor, Educational Services & Planning, Dr. Aaron McVean, introduced the discussion of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Open Educational Resources (OER). Dr. Bianca Rowden-Quince introduced the members of the District Taskforce for Textbook Affordability Solutions including Dr. Chris Smith, Ame Maloney, Dr. Sarah Harmon and herself.

She said the purpose of the work group is to increase awareness of textbook affordability, increase sharing and collaboration, and support Faculty through implementation.

Dr. Chris Smith presented the definition of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC), per SB 1359, as courses that are identified as exclusively using digital course materials that are free of charge to students and also includes course materials that may include open educational resources. Dr. Smith also defined Open Education Resources (OER) as research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under intellectual property license that permits free use and repurposing by others. He said that Creative Common Licenses provide a standard way for content creators to grant someone else permission to copy, store, use and share their work.

Dr. Bianca Rowden-Quince shared results from a student survey regarding high cost student materials. Student responses indicated that high cost materials serve as barriers for enrollment and retention. Dr. Rowden-Quince also said ZTC/OER is positive for Faculty in that it encourages contextualized learning, materials can be customized, digital items are course ready, and it improves equity and access to education.

Dr. Rowden-Quince explained the timeline of ZTC/OER starting with AB 798 back in 2015. She talked about the ZTC/OER progression over several years in SMCCCD including the hiring of a Faculty Services Librarian in 2019, Ame Maloney, and the launch of the SMCCCD ZTC website in 2021. Ame Maloney presented an update on the adoption of ZTC/OER at SMCCCD including the Faculty Workflow transition. She also talked about accomplishments, challenges to implementation, and lessons learned.

Dr. Sarah Harmon talked about next steps and planning for the future of ZTC/OER. She emphasized the importance of collaborating across all three colleges. Ms. Harmon also said ZTC/OER connects to all of the points of the District Strategic Goals.

Trustee Pimentel thanked the presenters for their great work. He encouraged the Faculty to make ZTC/OER easier to understand from a Student perspective. Trustee Petrides said she is pleased to see the data collection and progress of the ZTC/OER program. She said this opens a broader topic of the impact on student success including affordability, co-creation of resources, and culturally responsive teaching.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Letter of Support for Governor's Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program (21-04-101B)

[*\(Time Stamp: 04:15:24\)*](#)

Motion to Approve by: Trustee Goodman

Second by: Trustee Petrides

Action: Approved with all Trustees voting Aye

Summary of Discussion: Chancellor Claire said there is an allocation in the Governor's Budget to support the expansion of ZTC and, given this is a goal of SMCCCD, staff is requesting support for this initiative.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Resolution No. 21-05 Recognizing April as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awareness Month (21-04-102B)

(Time Stamp: 04:16:32)

Motion to Approve by: Trustee Holober

Second by: Trustee Pimentel

Action: Approved with roll-call vote, with all Trustees voting Aye and Student Trustee casting an affirmative advisory vote.

Summary of Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Approval of Personnel Items: Changes in Assignment, Compensation, Placement, Leaves, Staff Allocations and Classification of Academic and Classified Personnel (21-04-01A)

(Time Stamp: 04:17:41)

Motion to Approve by: Trustee Holober

Second by: Trustee Pimentel

Action: Approved with all Trustees voting Aye

Summary of Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Update on District Recovery of Operations Relating to COVID-19 (21-04-03C)

(Time Stamp: 04:18:30)

Summary of Discussion: Chancellor Claire started the update by giving a summary of the District's responses, decision making, and complex planning relating to COVID-19 throughout the last year. He said a Comprehensive COVID-19 Recovery Plan will be presented to the Board at a future meeting, but the presentation tonight is an update on the District's progress. Chancellor Claire acknowledged Governor Newsom's most recent announcement to full reopen California on June 15, 2021. Chancellor Claire reiterated that the District's priority remains the health and safety of Faculty, Staff, Students and Community.

Dr. Aaron McVean gave a presentation on SMCCCD COVID-19 Recovery Planning Considerations. Dr. McVean shared the results of surveys that were distributed to Instructional Faculty, Non-Instructional Faculty, Staff and Classified Professionals, and Students (launching this week) regarding returning to campus for in-person operations in Fall 2021. In general, most respondents felt "uncomfortable" returning to campus for in-person operations in Fall 2021 with vaccinations being a top concern.

Dr. McVean discussed current enrollment and noted that Student headcount is up from Spring 2020, but enrollment (# of units each Student is taking) has decreased. He also presented data on the \$45M in High Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Funding the District has received, and \$25.8M (58%) that has been allocated for direct student aid.

Dr. McVean noted that SMCCCD has been offering in-person instruction to essential infrastructure areas of Emergency Services and Health Care. The District will be expanding in-person instruction for athletics, performing arts, ceramics, STEM, and some English 105 and Math courses. He said returning to campus is logistically complex and there will be policy decisions that need to be made, primary among them will be whether or not the District will require vaccinations and for whom.

Chancellor Claire noted that he is interested in seeing the results of the Student Survey. He said he would like the District to accommodate those that want to return to campus and provide safe opportunities for students to gather socially and interact. Chancellor Claire also noted, in addition to COVID-19 uncertainty, we are in a record drought year and will most likely see more fires and unhealthy air conditions.

Trustee Holober acknowledged the great work by the District in delivering education during extreme changes. Trustee Holober expressed concern about enrollment decline year after year and said the District needs think about bringing students back with outreach.

Trustee Goodman asked what consideration is given to needs of students who don't have access to vaccines. He asked why some groups are able to return to campus and others are not. Chancellor Claire responded that he is very concerned about the effect of mandating vaccines on students and at this point no decision has been made. He said every program that has returned to campus has to pass a health and safety checklist to ensure it can be done safely.

Public Comment:

- Sam Chuang commented on equity and opportunity for children to participate in activities during the pandemic. He also commented on survey questions and vaccine hesitancy.

COMMUNICATIONS

[*\(Time Stamp: 05:18:25\)*](#)

Chancellor Claire noted that the Board had received several emails relating to the District's operations for Fall 2021 semester and that administrator will prepare for the Board to those emails.

STATEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

[*\(Time Stamp: 05:19:03\)*](#)

President Nuris: He echoed Trustee Goodman's comments about Gene Mullin. He said it was a privilege to work with Gene Mullin as he served the community with leadership and integrity.

Vice President Holober: None

Trustee Goodman: He honored Gene Mullin as a highly regarded educator. He said Gene Mullin changed the trajectory of his brother's life. He also encouraged everyone to check in our black and brown colleagues because they are going through a lot.

Trustee Petrides: She thanked everyone for their honest, candid, and thoughtful conversations.

Trustee Pimentel: He reported a successful meeting with staff regarding public information and increased transparency. He also mentioned declining enrollment and the need for an outreach and marketing plan. He also mentioned SB 659 passed the Senate Education Committee today, which will allow the District greater financial support for students.

Student Trustee Shonette: None

President Nuris announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees would be a study session on April 24, 2021, conducted via Zoom.

RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

(Time Stamp: 05:29:05)

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 10:28 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

(Time Stamp: 07:06:30)

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:55 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by consent at 11:55 p.m. in honor of Gene Mullin.

Submitted by

Michael Claire, Secretary