

**Minutes of the Annual Retreat of the  
San Mateo County Community College District  
Board of Trustees  
Cañada College - 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Room 6-101/102, Redwood City, CA 94061  
February 12, 2022**

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

The retreat was called to order at 9:14 a.m.

**Board Members**

**Present:** President Richard Holober, Vice President Lisa Petrides, Trustee Maurice Goodman, Trustee Thomas A. Nuris, Trustee John Pimentel, Student Trustee Ashley Garcia

**Others Present:** Chancellor Michael Claire, Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Storti, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Planning Aaron McVean, Skyline College President Melissa Moreno, College of San Mateo President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, Cañada College Interim President Kim Lopez, District Academic Senate President Kate Williams Browne, Chief Financial Officer Bernata Slater

**PLEDGE OF ALLENGIANCE**

*[\(Time Stamp: 1:43\)](#)*

**STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

*[\(Time Stamp: 2:06\)](#)*

There were no statements from the public.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Adoption of Resolution No. 22-03 to Make Findings Allowing Continued Remote Meetings Under Brown Act (22-02-01A)**

*[\(Time Stamp: 3:00\)](#)*

*Motion to Approve by:* Trustee Goodman

*Second by:* Trustee Nuris

*Action:* Approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote of 5-0.

*Summary of Discussion:* None.

*Public Comment:* None.

**Consideration of Proposed Resolution No. 22-04 in Response to Demand to Cure and Correct and to Rescind Board Action Taken on December 15, 2021, to Comply with the Brown Act (22-02-02A)**

*[\(Time Stamp: 4:09\)](#)*

*Motion to Approve by:* Trustee Nuris

**Second by:** Trustee Goodman

**Action:** Approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote of 5-0.

**Summary of Discussion:** Attorney Joshua Morrison was present via Zoom, and stated the Board received a request to cure and correct the vote for Vice President-Clerk which occurred on December 15, 2021. He explained that the Brown Act includes a process that allows Board Members to respond to a request by a doing a “cure and correct” or redo a particular vote by undoing the vote and going through the regular discussion and voting process. Attorney Morrison advised a Brown Act Violation was not found related to the December 15<sup>th</sup> election; however, because there was a request made, this instance may be addressed openly at no cost by “Cure and Correct” which reduces the prospect of SMCCCD facing a Brown Act litigation in the future.

**Public Comment:** None.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**(Time Stamp: 7:22)**

Election of Vice President-Clerk

**Motion to Approve by:** Trustee Goodman

**Second by:** Trustee Nuris

**Action:** Elect Trustee Lisa Petrides as Vice President -Clerk of the Board of Trustees. Approved, with a Roll Call Vote of 5in favor and none against.

**Summary of Discussion:** Trustee Petrides was nominated by Trustee Goodman.

**Public Comment:** None.

## **RETREAT – INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

President Holober requested that Chancellor Claire move the retreat forward by introducing the topics and context for the day.

Chancellor Claire briefly presented *Moving from Crisis Management to Intentionality*. He mentioned the Board has changed since Fall 2019 with new Board Members, along with a new Chancellor, changes in College Presidents, new Executive Vice Chancellor, and vacancies in other key positions. Additionally, he mentioned some of the challenges faced since Fall 2019 with a DA investigation, COVID-19, new Senior Administrative Team, implementing a new Athletic Club model, 2 contracts (with AFT and CSEA) under negotiation, and the external environment. Lastly, the District will move forward in transitioning from pandemic to endemic, respond to external pressures, and focus on two major directions (San Mateo County Promise Program and re-imagining SMCCCD for a post-pandemic world).

### **Discussion of Establishing a San Mateo County Promise Program in Collaboration with San Mateo County Stakeholders (22-02-01C)**

**(Time Stamp: 19:07)**

**Summary of Discussion:** Chancellor Claire explained that the key pieces that exist to establish the San Mateo County Promise Program are: (1) First Five Program – Quality Care, Healthy Children, and Resilient Families; (2) The Big Lift Program – a San Mateo County PK – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade initiative, administers four evidence-based strategies with the aim of increasing the percentage of students reading proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; (3) K-12 Programs; (4) Connecting Programs – MCHS,

Dual Enrollment/Guided Pathways and Outreach; (5) SMCCCD Programs – Promise Scholars, EOPS, Learning Communities, etc.; and (6) Transfer and Workforce – Dual Enrollment, MOUs, Articulation, ADTs, and TIP. Chancellor Claire would like to bring as many partners as possible to the table, as this should be an opportunity for the community to bring all of these programs together in a cohesive and intentional way to establish this county wide program.

Trustee Petrides added that the District gets to define what the Promise or outcome will be, and one way of doing that is by being proactive in meeting the educational needs of the community. She also mentioned funding and looking at the resources that can be reallocated to source this program and other programs.

Trustee Nuris mentioned accountability being important with the community and partnerships. Accountability helps to measure how things are going, what needs to be changed or adjusted, and the direction to which things are going. He also mentioned getting the leadership of the Business Community involved and to inform them of their part in the program, because they too will benefit from it.

Trustee Goodman brought up communication and partnerships that provide opportunities for growth and learning. He also mentioned the program should have focus not only on students that do not necessarily need the help, but be intentional in focusing on vulnerable students that do need the help. He asked the question of how can SMCCCD expand Project Change.

Trustee Pimentel agrees with Trustee Goodman in the program targeting the first generation community college students working to break the cycle of economic disadvantage. He stated there is a need to avoid the siloing that occurs in educational institutions, and one way to avoid it is by listening to the community and understand why they are not coming to SMCCCD campuses. He noted that the District should do everything it can to put SMCCCD presence in communities that it is trying to serve with not only academic programs, but with outreach programs as well. Simplify accessibility to education.

Student Trustee Garcia stated a program needs to be created that is broader and does not have so many economical limits. There are many students that need the money, but don't qualify for the programs in order to get the assistance.

District Academic Senate President Browne stated SMCCCD needs to figure out how there can be free and public quality education that is taught by quality teachers, made available to all students. She quoted her mentor Dr. Regina Stanback-Stroud (formed President of Skyline College) in saying the District needs to get "the students in, through and out on time - having met their goals."

College of San Mateo President Taylor-Mendoza said that with the program collaboration, the District needs to also focus on building healthy and vibrant communities, by having deep dialogue on what that really means. How can we meet the families and students where they are right now?

Skyline President Moreno mentioned how the District needs to carefully look at the economic or financial data of students, so they can qualify for programs.

President Holober mentioned the declining enrollment, which is an obstacle that must be addressed and the District needs to find new ways to increase the number of students and retain them. The District should meet with educational, social service and business stakeholders and figure out what can be done in establishing this program, and everyone knowing their role. He said the District needs to find ways to provide greater support throughout the years of a young person's educational development.

Chancellor Claire stated the District is starting conversations with community leaders, and this is a check-in with the Board before the District moves further in the conversations. There are high school superintendents who are on board with the idea of the program, as well as interest from the San Mateo County Office of Education. A playbook has been created to be a resource for city and county elected officials to build College Promise programs for their communities. A few key points about the College Promise Campaign are: (1) Broad Community Support Needed (School Boards, Educational Leaders, Elected Officials, students, etc.); (2) No two Promise Programs are alike; and (3) Establish a Champion(s). Next steps include building a Leadership Team (funding commitment), program design/establish Performance Metrics, build infrastructure with sustainability in mind, launch, and assess results.

Interim Cañada President Lopez briefly presented the draft components of a MOU between SMCCCD and Sequoia Union High School District to increase the number of students entering into secondary education by way of initiatives and Promise Programs.

The Board was in agreement with moving forward with the establishing the program.

### **Break**

[\*\(Time Stamp: 1:25:11\)\*](#)

The retreat recessed for break at 10:40 a.m.

### **Reconvened from Break**

[\*\(Time Stamp: 1:41:36\)\*](#)

The retreat reconvened from Break at 10:55 a.m.

### **Discussion of Rethinking of the Institution in a Post-COVID-19 Environment (22-02-02C)**

[\*\(Time Stamp: 1:43:10\)\*](#)

***Summary of Discussion:*** Chancellor Claire mentioned that the pandemic has changed life in many ways and created a whole new set of things. SMCCCD needs to figure out what works for students and educators, as they work towards an endemic stage. He would like to create an ad-hoc committee comprised of students, two Trustees, faculty, staff, and community members to convene in six months to have a conversation about ways to move forward – while giving the College Presidents space in serving their students and respective college communities.

Vice President Petrides mentioned the idea of re-imagining was something being thought about way before COVID, but COVID has created enabling conditions. She would like to be on the ad-hoc committee, and would like to see something done with a Design Thinking Facilitator. She mentioned SMCCCD should focus on what it means to be Public Education and Community Education.

Trustee Nuris stated he believes individuals have been re-imagining for a while, but not at this rapid pace. The re-imagining has been accelerated due to COVID, so individuals and SMCCCD have been forced to deal with it right now. He stated education is not just teaching, but serving the students and their families and communities. Right now, the District and the community have to figure out where we are, where we are going, and how we are going to get there. Lastly, he stated that offering online courses is a good option, because it provides students the opportunity to still be able to attend class.

Trustee Goodman added that District should do a full assessment of what has been learned in the past to better serve faculty, staff, and students. How does SMCCCD make sure we meet the

students where they are? The District needs to be more creative with solving some of the challenges that were created by COVID.

District Academic Senate President Browne stated the District needs to rethink the environments (socio-cultural, temporal, and physical) to which teachers teach in, and what it will take for them to be able to teach well.

Interim President Lopez mentioned that the technical support for faculty and students is needed, as they navigate in the Hyflex modality.

Chancellor Claire mentioned the classified staff and how the District can figure out how to improve the environment around them.

President Holober stated the District needs to remember the importance of Professional Development for faculty to be able to teach in excellence and with innovation, in addition to the needs of the students. He mentioned the District might want to explore innovative opportunities for classified staff to become certificated, if that is something they want to do. He suggested for the District to look at the traditional 17-week method of teaching in a semester especially for career and vocational training, as it might not work well for those students; however, it would be good to look into intensive compressed instruction so SMCCCD can possibly be competitive with other districts and students can get jobs.

Vice President Petrides pointed out how she would like to see a shift in language by not saying we are helping “those” students, but we are doing it in service to them and being intentionally inclusive to all students in the community.

President Moreno pointed out that there are different amenities and programs that are on each campus. How can each of these be offered on all three campuses, so students do not leave to go elsewhere?

Trustee Goodman stated the District should also focus on the mental health and well-being of each campus community, and let them know that they are valued. Faculty, staff, and students should not have to demand things in order for the Board to know it is a need and act. The District administration should have the support of the Board to be able to reasonably move forward with something on behalf of faculty, staff, and students.

Trustee Pimentel mentioned that SMCCCD should look at how the District is training students/workers to be able to get jobs to be able to live in San Mateo County. He said the District needs to be producing workers that employers can hire locally and not hire outside of the county.

Student Trustee Garcia suggested the District get feedback from graduates of SMCCCD colleges to find out if the courses they took were relevant to what they’re doing now, having graduated college. Do they feel the courses helped them grow or be better or prepared for what they’re doing now? She also mentioned getting feedback from students about the specific resources they need on their campus would be good, because all of the campuses are great – just do not have the same resources or amenities across the board.

## **Recess**

**[\(Time Stamp: 2:42:36\)](#)**

The retreat recessed from 11:56 p.m. - 12:37 p.m.

**Discussion of Budget Implications on and Resources for Strategic Initiatives (22-02-03C)**  
*(Time Stamp: 3:23:21)*

**Summary of Discussion:** Executive Vice Chancellor Storti presented on Budget Development Guidelines, FY 2022-2023 Funding Outlook (Governor’s FY 2022-2023 Proposed Budget and County Property Tax Projections), Preliminary 2022-2023 Budget Assumptions, FY 2022-2023 Expense Projection, and Cautions and Concerns. He mentioned the current economic performance of California is very strong and robust. When looking at General Fund Receipts, the state is 25% higher than the original budget, which allows the state to have significant resources available.

Some of the 2022-2023 Strategic Initiatives (pending Board consideration) include: (1) Promise Scholars Program (potential to serve 2,500 students) - \$3 million; (2) \$1 million for Food Insecurity Initiative; (3) COVID-19 Mitigation/Emergency Response - \$3 million one-time carryover to address COVID-19 emergencies; and (4) \$2 million ongoing set aside for Strategic Initiatives/Priorities.

Executive Vice Chancellor Storti mentioned though the state economy is robust, it is also volatile. One of the biggest concerns is the escalation of PERS and STRS, as it might take away from being able to move in the direction financially for some of the District strategic initiatives. Another area of concern is the sustainability of the college bookstores.

Trustee Goodman asked how will SMCCCD chip away at the challenges it faces with the 50% Law. Chief Financial Officer Bernata Slater stated the District will be hiring more faculty, as the District received additional state funding to be able to do so. The District needs to look at all aspects on both sides of the 50% Law to see where adjustments can be made, so the District can be compliant.

Vice President Petrides stated need to re-imagine the bookstores as well, and the District needs to optimize the bookstores more, noting that perhaps doing printing in-District, along with providing more basic need items in the bookstores other than textbooks. She also mentioned no longer calling it a bookstore, but something else. Executive Vice Chancellor Storti addressed the textbook printing and stated the District needs to look at how the bookstores are run, and see how they can become OER as there are opportunities to do so. Trustee Goodman agreed with Vice President Petrides in selling more items in the bookstores, and making it more of a student market. He also mentioned setting it up to where the students can get real life experience while working at the bookstore.

President Hober stated the bookstores were revamped a few years ago, and the Board made a policy decision to not contract out the bookstores in order to help encourage people and give them the opportunity to earn a livable wage in San Mateo County. He would like that to be considered when looking at how the bookstores can run and sustained. To one of his points on the expense projection, President Hober stated he would like to see a policy that mentions funding programs that actually have a plan to spend the money, but if the District is funding programs for the purpose of having a balanced budget and the money is not spent over a time period – then funds should be reviewed and reallocated elsewhere.

**CLOSING STATEMENTS**

Chancellor Claire thanked the Board for their participation in today’s discussions, as District administration needed clear policy level direction on two items in particular. The District will find the money to make all of the things happen through the allocation and re-allocation model.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
*(Time Stamp: 4:27:25)*

The meeting adjourned by consent at 1:41 pm

Submitted by

Michael Claire, Secretary