



**THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Minutes**

**February 1, 2024**

Valencia College – West Campus  
Building 8, Room 111  
and  
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Ms. Beth Smith, Chair  
Mr. Michael Sasso, Vice Chair  
Mr. John Davis (via Zoom)  
Ms. Daisy Lopez-Cid  
Mr. John Martinez  
Ms. Tracey Stockwell

Members Absent

Mr. Angel de la Portilla

Dr. Kathleen Plinske, Secretary of the Board and President of the College

**Call to Order**

Chair Smith called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes  
December 7, 2023  
Regular Meeting**

Ms. Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of the December 7, 2023 Regular Meeting, as presented. Mr. Sasso seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## President's Report

Dr. Plinske welcomed Mr. Stephen Lewis, President and CEO of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Plinske stated that the West Orange Chamber has served as a collective voice for business leadership and community partnerships in the West Orange community.

Dr. Plinske shared that over the years, the College has had representation on the Chamber's Board of Directors by Mr. Jay Galbraith, Vice President for Public Affairs and Advancement, and currently by Dr. Danny Hoey, Provost, West Campus.

Dr. Plinske recognized Mr. Buddy Bruns, Maintenance Technician, Fire Safety Facility, for forty years of service at Valencia's Fire Rescue Institute. Mr. Bruns plays an integral part in shaping the success and excellence of the Valencia's fire training programs.

Dr. Plinske introduced Ms. Yolanda Brown, Valencia's new Provost, Workforce Education. Ms. Brown will be responsible for leading and managing the College's workforce degree programs.

Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia has been awarded the following grants, in an effort to support the College's semiconductor industry in Osceola County:

- \$4.1million from the Florida Governor's Job Growth Grant, to allow the College to expand its Accelerated Training Program in Robotics and Semiconductor Production.
- \$4.3million in a Workforce Capitalization Grant, which will help with the creation of an associate in science degree in semiconductor technology, and will include a dual enrollment pathway with NeoCity Academy.

Dr. Plinske announced that NeoCity was selected as one of the ten innovation engines across the county by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia is excited to be part of the Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine, along with the University of Central Florida and the University of Florida, as well as BRIDG, CareerSource of Central Florida, Florida High Tech Corridor, IMEC, the Orlando Economic Partnership, and Osceola County. Dr. Plinske thanked Mr. Joe Battista, Vice President, Workforce, Career and Professional Education, and his team, for their efforts in this area.

Dr. Plinske reported that she visited Tallahassee on Jan 22-23, 2024, joined by Trustees Davis and de la Portilla, Mr. Jay Galbraith, Vice President for Public Affairs and Advancement, and Dr. William Mallowney, Vice President for Policy and General Counsel. The visit included meeting with the Florida

Department of Education Commissioner Manny Díaz, Jr., and Dr. Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges, to discuss the continuing implementation of the provisions of last year's SB 266, and to express the College's support for HB 1285, which includes creating associate in arts specialized transfer degrees.

Dr. Plinske presented a video which reflects the positive impact that Valencia has on students.

**Faculty Association Report**

Dr. Jennifer Lawhon, President, Faculty Association, provided a review of Valencia faculty members' alternative assessment methods.

**Student Government Association Report**

Mr. Andres Perez, Collegewide SGA President, and Mr. Shemar Abdul-Hamid, Senator, Downtown Campus, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Perez and Mr. Abdul-Hamid presented an update on Collegewide SGA spring semester goals, programs, and key events.

The Board thanked the SGA leaders for their thoughtful contributions and leadership.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

**New Business**

**1. Approval of 2024-2025 Student Block Tuition and Fee Rate Schedule:**  
Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the 2024-2025 Student Block Tuition & Fee Rate Schedule to the Board for its consideration and approval. For the eleventh consecutive year, this proposed schedule includes no recommended increase in tuition, or the technology, student financial aid, student activity, and capital improvement fees. These recommended fees are specified in the proposed Fee Schedule, which was distributed to the Board. Following discussion, Mr. Sasso moved to approve the 2024-2025 Student Block Tuition and Fee Rate Schedule, as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Lopez-Cid and seconded by Ms. Stockwell to consider, accept, and approve items 2, 3, 4, and 5 under New Business in the manner of a consent agenda. The Board unanimously approved the following items under New Business in the consent agenda, as recommended:

- 2. Award of ITB 2024-12, Valencia's West Campus Bldg. 2 Roof Replacement**
- 3. Policy Adoptions:**
  - *Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 – Disciplinary Action*
  - *Policy 6Hx28: 3E-09 – Employee Dispute Resolution*

- *Policy 6Hx28: 3F-03 – Suspension, Dismissal, Return to Annual Contract or Non-Renewal of Contracts*

**4. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**

**5. Property Deletion**

**Reports**

**A. Spring Enrollment Report:** Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Frederick stated that the College’s Spring 2024 full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment represents the largest Spring semester ever at Valencia College, with an FTE enrollment growth by 8% from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024, increasing to 13,371 FTE. The previous high enrollment was 13,243 FTE in Spring 2020. The report included a summary of enrollment by student type, full-time and part-time status data, enrollment by student modality, and enrollment by race/ethnicity.

Dr. Plinske thanked Dr. Frederick, Dr. Isis Artze-Vega, Vice President, Academic Affairs, and their teams, for their work.

**B. Audit Update Report:** Ms. Cynthia Santiago-Guzmán, Director, Compliance and Audit, presented the report, which was presented to the Board. The report included a breakdown of the Audit Plan FY 2023-2024, which included compliance assessment, business office, payment systems, and financial audits. Ms. Santiago-Guzmán shared that Valencia’s Offices of Compliance and Audit, and Information Technology will be enhancing their risk management work with a connected risk platform, which will provide a centralized and collaborative system to document and track risk areas for a complete view across the College.

**C. Financial Report:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado indicated that the College’s financial positions are positive, with a year-end project to exceed annual budget by \$18.1M, primarily driven by the sale of the District Office, and a 7% increase in student-based revenues.

Chair Smith stated that the following report items are detailed in the written materials, which have been distributed to the Board:

**B. Valencia Foundation Report**

**C. Legislative Implementation Report**

**Strategic Discussion**

Dr. Plinske presented an update on the College’s 2030 Strategic Impact Plan with respect to Transfer Success. The written report was distributed to the Board. The presentation included a review of the 2030 Strategic Impact Plan Goal areas, transfer success goal, a baseline visualization, transfer success goal progress through 2021-2022, data related to the powerful impact of DirectConnect to UCF Pathway, cumulative number of Valencia

baccalaureate graduates, and leading indicators. Dr. Wendy Givoglu, Provost, Downtown and Winter Park Campuses, and Transfer Initiatives, shared an overview of the Central Florida Transfer Scholars program. The report included a \$1.3million grant awarded to Valencia by the Helios Education Foundation, goal areas and strategies, and data related to Students' Early Exploration (SEE) UCF survey participation and feedback.

**Board Comments**

Trustee Davis emphasized the importance of community partnerships. Ms. Stockwell congratulated Valencia for the receipt of the Semiconductor Award by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The Board thanked Valencia's leadership, faculty, and staff for their work.

**Adjourn**

Chair Smith adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:07 a.m.

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Secretary

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Chair