



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

Minutes

June 20, 2024

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

Members Present

Mr. Michael Sasso, Chair
Ms. Blair Bradley
Mr. John Davis
Mr. Shawn Hindle
Mr. John Martinez
Ms. Tracey Stockwell

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

Members Absent

Ms. Belinda Kirkegard

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:42 a.m. A quorum was present.

Chair Sasso introduced and welcomed Ms. Blair Bradley, Mr. Shawn Hindle, and Ms. Belinda Kirkegard, as newly appointed Trustees to the District Board of Trustees.

Chair Sasso thanked former Trustees Mr. Angel de la Portilla, Ms. Daisy Lopez-Cid, and Ms. Beth Smith, for their service and dedication while serving on the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College.

**Approval of Minutes
May 9, 2024 Regular
Meeting**

Mr. Martinez moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 9, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske welcomed Ms. Bradley, Mr. Hindle, and Ms. Kirkegard to the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College.

Dr. Plinske introduced Ms. Carlee Thomas, new Chief Philanthropy Officer and Executive Director of the Valencia College Foundation. Ms. Thomas comes to Valencia from the UCF College of Medicine, where she served as the Senior Director for Advancement. Prior to that role, Ms. Thomas managed fundraising for all eight departments of the UCF College of Health and Public Affairs and began her career at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, where she helped create and implement alumni engagement strategies and fundraising priorities for the initial stages of their campaign.

Dr. Plinske provided a summary of Valencia's significant highlights and accomplishments related to fiscal year 2023-2024:

- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) approved Valencia's reaffirmation of accreditation with no additional reports required. This not only reflects a successful site visit, in which the Board played an important role, but also 10 years of outstanding work by the College.
- Osceola County's college-going rate reached an all-time high of 64% this past Spring, ranking 4th in the state, up from 61st in 2010. This is largely due to Osceola Prosper, which helped increase the college-going rate at certain high schools with the greatest need by 50%.
- The College celebrated with more than 7,700 students who completed an associate degree, nearly 800 students who completed a bachelor's degree, and more than 7,500 students who completed a technical certificate.
- Dr. Plinske shared information related to Valencia's Commencement ceremonies, held in December and May of each year.
- The College added two new workforce baccalaureate programs, including a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration, which launched this summer, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, which was approved by the State Board of Education in March 2024. Valencia looks forward to partnering with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) and the School District of Osceola County (SDOC) to offer the Elementary Education

program in an apprenticeship model, in which after completing an associate in arts degree, students will be hired as paraprofessionals and receive credit for on-the-job training working under a teacher mentor. Within two years of serving as a paraprofessional and taking coursework online, students will then earn their bachelor's degree and teacher certification.

- Dr. Plinske reported on the budget results of the recently concluded legislative session. Dr. Plinske stated that, despite no new funds being allocated to the Florida College System as a whole, Valencia received a special recurring appropriation of \$3million, making the College one of only seven of the twenty-eight colleges in the state to have a recurring increase in state funding for the 2024-25 budget year. In addition, Governor DeSantis approved the legislature's recommendation of an allocation of \$3million toward the future construction of a second building at the Lake Nona Campus.
- Dr. Plinske reported that Valencia was also successful in securing grant funding to support the College's work, as follows:
 - A \$4.1 million Governor's Job Growth grant, to expand Valencia's accelerated skills training program in robotics and semiconductor manufacturing.
 - A \$4.3 million grant from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive program. The grant will allow the College to expand its semiconductor training facility space at the Osceola Campus, to support a new associate in arts degree in semiconductor engineering technology, technical certificates in clean room operations and optics, and dual enrollment pathways with NeoCity Academy, and other local high schools.
 - A \$1.5 million grant to support YouthBuild in Orange County, which serves out-of-school youth to support in earning their GED and completing a workforce certification.
 - Valencia supported Osceola County's successful grant application to the National Science Foundation, to be one of ten engines of innovation, eligible for \$160 million over ten years, to support the development of the semiconductor advanced packaging industry in Central Florida.
 - Valencia received a \$400,000 from the Florida Blue Foundation to launch VCentials, a market located at each of the College's campuses, to help address food insecurity that many

of Valencia’s students experience, and where the students can receive food and hygiene supplies at no out-of-pocket cost.

- Osceola County once again committed more than \$8 million to support Osceola Prosper to the Class of 2024, the third consecutive year that the program has been available to provide a guarantee of no out-of-pocket cost for any high school graduate in the county to attend Valencia or Osceola Technical College.

Dr. Plinske reported that the College continues to see very strong enrollment growth. Dr. Plinske shared that Spring 2024 enrollment was up by 8.5%, representing the highest Spring enrollment in Valencia College history.

Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, presented the Summer 2024 Enrollment Report, which was distributed to the Board.

Faculty Association Report

Dr. Jennifer Lawhon, President, Faculty Association, announced that her term as President of the Faculty Association has ended. Dr. Lawhon shared her reflections from this past year while serving in her role, and introduced Mr. Chris Borglum, who will replace her through June 2025.

Dr. Lawhon thanked the Board for their support and great service to the College.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Aliza Jessani, SGA President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included the introduction of Mr. Ahmed Sallam, SGA Vice President, and Ms. Jadah Guerra-Kokyrtsa, SGA Executive Secretary, and their 2024-2025 Academic Year Goals.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

- 1. Operating Budget 2024-2025:** Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Carla McKnight, Vice President, Organizational Development and Human Resources, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Following a full discussion, Ms. Stockwell moved to approve the 2024-2025 Operating Budget, as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Cristancho Mercado, Dr. McKnight, and their teams, for their work.

- 2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Fiscal Years 2024/2025 – 2027/2028:** Mr. Shawn Andrews, Chief Operations Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Andrews shared that the CIP is created to identify, document, and justify legislative requests

for state funding of College capital projects including remodeling, renovation, and new construction of facilities. A capital project must be recommended in the College's approved Educational Plant Survey in order to be eligible to be listed in the CIP.

Following a full discussion, Ms. Stockwell moved to approve the Capital Improvement Program for the Fiscal Years 2024/2025 – 2027/2028, as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Board thanked Mr. Cristancho Mercado, and his team, for their work.

3. 2023-2024 Annual Fire Safety, Casualty Safety and Sanitation

Inspection: Mr. Andrews presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Andrews reported that Mr. Andrews shared that the State Requirements for Educational Facilities requires that annual fire safety, casualty safety, and sanitation inspections be completed each year and that the schedule of corrections of each deficiency be adopted by the District Board of Trustees. The inspection of the College facilities took place during February 2024.

There were no deficiencies noted in the inspection throughout the College buildings except for Northwest CAT. There were some items that could not be immediately resolved during the inspection. The College took immediate action and appointed a dedicated team to promptly and effectively address the safety concerns. The team continues to work closely with the state inspection team to implement all necessary corrections. Ongoing monitoring and follow-up inspections will be conducted to ensure that the findings are fully resolved. Mr. Andrews indicated that a report reflecting that all necessary actions have been fully resolved will be shared with the Board upon completion.

Following a full discussion, Mr. Martinez moved to approve the 2023-2024 State Requirements for Educational Facilities Report, as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Continuing Education Division Student Registration System –

Modern Campus: Mr. Jamie Rost, Chief Information Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Rost shared that, for more than twenty years the Continuing Education division of Valencia College has used a technology product called Continuity Spectrum, as the student registration software for accelerated skills training, corporate training agreements, languages, and other programs. Continuity Spectrum has limited present day functionalities required in the areas of student registration and payment, communications, complex financial

transactions, integration with Banner and other college systems. Continuing Education now requires a more robust system.

Mr. Cristancho Mercado reported that, on January 28, 2022, the College issued Request for Information (RFI) 2022-17 to request information that would assist the College in understanding options for replacement of Continuity Spectrum which would include a cloud-based Student Information System in order to increase capacity of users, and address areas of opportunity in maintaining PCI compliance, on-premises limitations, and lack of data integration with the College's Banner and Salesforce systems. On February 28, 2022, three (3) vendors submitted information: Bocavox, LLC, Modern Campus, and Salesforce.

Following a discussion, Ms. Stockwell moved to authorize the College to enter into a five-year agreement with Modern Campus at a total combined cost of \$1,536,722 to procure and implement their Destiny One Product solution, as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Cristancho Mercado commended the College's Procurement team for their great work.

- 5. Authorization to Submit a Letter of Intent – Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degrees:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske stated that a bill passed during the 2024 legislative session added language to Sec. 1007.25, F.S. which authorizes Florida College System (FCS) institutions to offer specialized associate in arts transfer degrees that are designed for FCS students who need supplemental lower-level coursework in preparation for transfer to another institution. Prior to the passage of this bill, many FCS students pursuing a degree, particularly in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM), had no way of completing the lower-division courses that are required for admission into State University System (SUS) programs before exhausting their federal financial aid eligibility at their FCS institution. This inadvertently penalized FCS students, as this barrier did not exist for students who begin their studies at SUS institutions. Many FCS students complete the requirements for an associate in arts before completing the coursework required for transfer; however, once students complete the requirements for an associate in arts degree, they are no longer eligible to receive federal financial aid at their FCS institution given federal regulations that outline that financial aid cannot be awarded for classes that do not count toward a student's degree, certificate, or other recognized credential. Utilizing data from the Central Florida Education Ecosystem Database (CFEED), Valencia College and the University of Central Florida (UCF) examined the transfer pathways for students who intend to pursue a baccalaureate degree in a STEM field.

We estimate that specialized transfer degrees would provide the opportunity for an additional 1,100 STEM majors annually to complete 1000- and 2000-level common program prerequisites at Valencia prior to transfer to UCF. Given historical differences in completion rates between students who have and have not completed program prerequisites prior to transfer, we estimate that this would increase the STEM baccalaureate graduation rate by 12 to 14 percentage points for these students.

Based on an analysis of baccalaureate programs at UCF into which students often intend to transfer without having complete their 1000- and 2000-level program prerequisites, the following Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer Degrees are recommended:

- Business
- Biomedical Sciences/Biology
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Health Sciences

Following a discussion, Mr. Hindle moved to approve the College's intent to develop, in partnership with the University of Central Florida (UCF), proposals for Specialized Associate of Arts Transfer Degrees to be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval, and to offer the Specialized Associate of Arts Transfer Degrees, as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Martinez and seconded by Ms. Stockwell to consider, accept, and approve items 6 thru 12 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:

- 6. Delinquent Account Write-Off**
- 7. Authorization of Signature of Board Officers**
- 8. Annual Prequalification of General Contractors for the Period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025**
- 9. Award of RFQ 2024-19, Landscape Architect Continuing Services**
- 10. Policy Adoption**
 - *College Policy 6Hx28: 3D-09 – Court-Related Leave*
 - *College Policy 6Hx28: 4-07 – Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals*
- 11. Additions, Deletions or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 12. Property Deletion**
- 13. President's 2023-2024 Annual Performance Evaluation:** Chair Sasso thanked the Board for providing thoughtful feedback on Dr. Plinske's

performance as President this past year. Chair Sasso discussed the written summary of the Board's feedback on the President's accomplishments and performance over the past year, which was distributed to the Board. He stated that Dr. Plinske's evaluation scores and related Board comments are excellent, once again. Chair Sasso noted that the Board unanimously praised Dr. Plinske for her outstanding leadership qualities, the College's outstanding results, and her innovative and collaborative approach. He then invited the Board to offer additional comments on Dr. Plinske's performance as Valencia's President. The Board, in turn, individually praised Dr. Plinske for her leadership, skills and many professional accomplishments.

Following discussion, Ms. Stockwell moved to approve the President's 2023-2024 Annual Performance Evaluation, as presented. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

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

A. Financial Report

B. Valencia College Foundation Report

C. Audit Update Report: Ms. Cynthia Santiago-Guzman, Director, Compliance and Audit, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Ms. Santiago-Guzman stated that the audit plan for FY 2023-2024 has been completed. Ms. Santiago-Guzman shared that the Auditboard software will be utilized during the annual risk assessment process, which is scheduled for July-August 2024. The risk assessment will be the foundation for the 3-year audit plan to be presented to the Board for review and approval at the September 5, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

Ms. Santiago-Guzman shared a summary of current projects, as follows:

- Corrective action monitoring
- Auditboard software: input and configuration of data
- Audit manual
- Compliance matrix

Board Comments

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

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Secretary

Chair