



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

Minutes

October 17, 2024

Valencia College – Osceola Campus
Building 1, Room 123
and
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Trustee Michael Sasso, Chair
Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair
Trustee Blair Bradley
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

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

Members Absent

Trustee Shawn Hindle
Trustee John Martinez

Call to Order

Chair Sasso 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,
September 12, 2024
Regular Meeting**

Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of the September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Bradley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske reported that the College did not sustain any major damages from Hurricane Milton. Dr. Plinske expressed her gratitude to Valencia's Security and Facilities staff who remained on campus during the storm, to immediately respond to any issues. This allows the College to minimize issues like water

intrusion and expedite any work necessary to ensure the campuses are ready to return to normal operations.

Dr. Plinske shared that Valencia was awarded a \$3 million Title V grant from the United States Department of Education to fund Project Validando e Impulsando el Talento de Adultos Latinos (VITAL): Advancing Upward Mobility for Adult Learners, which focuses on increasing the enrollment, retention, and success of adult learners, particularly those from low-income communities. This five-year grant will provide infrastructure and capacity-building to implement key strategies to support adults aged 25 and older who may have some college credit but no degree, and who are unaware of the opportunities, requirements, and process for re-enrolling in college. Dr. Plinske indicated that the project officially began on October 1, 2024, and aims to create flexible academic pathways, expand opportunities for credit for prior learning, and offer holistic support services, such as career coaching.

Dr. Plinske thanked Dr. Isis Artze-Vega, Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Lance Gooden, Provost, Osceola Campus, Dr. Danny Hoey, Provost, West Campus, and their teams, for their work.

Dr. Plinske reported that the United States Department of Education has identified Valencia as one of the top 100 community colleges in the United States, based on data and evidence obtained from the National Center for Education Statistics. The metrics considered included the extent to which colleges enroll low-income and underserved students, the extent to which colleges help these students graduate or transfer successfully, and how well the colleges prepare students to enter the career of their choice and how successful they are in advancing economic mobility, measured by how many of the college's graduates earn a salary premium above high school graduates. Dr. Plinske indicated that Valencia was one of the eight Florida community colleges to receive this recognition.

Dr. Plinske explained that this recognition makes Valencia eligible to submit an application for the Postsecondary Success Recognition Program. To submit an application, the College must submit a letter of support from the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College. Following a discussion, the Board provided their consent to support the College with the submission of a letter of support.

Dr. Plinske stated that the Valencia Foundation Gala, held at the EPCOT World ShowPlace Pavillion at Walt Disney World, on September 14, 2024, was a successful event where Valencia's students and the College's impact in the community were celebrated. In addition to being a great friend-raising event, and an opportunity for new friends to learn more about Valencia's mission, it was also a productive fundraising event, netting more than \$135,000. Dr. Plinske thanked Ms. Carlee Thomas, Chief Philanthropy

Officer and Executive Director, Valencia College Foundation, and her team, for their great work.

Dr. Plinske provided an update on the continued progress and success of the Osceola Prosper Program.

Dr. Plinske reminded the Board of the upcoming Commencement ceremonies, to be held Tuesday, December 10, 2024, beginning at 12pm and 4pm, at the UCF Addition Financial Area.

Dr. Plinske shared that the 75th Annual Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at Hilton Orlando, November 4-8, 2024. Dr. Plinske invited the Board to attend the Council of Presidents and Trustees Joint Meeting portion of the conference, November 7, 2024, 1:30-5pm.

Faculty Association Report

Mr. Chris Borglum, President, Faculty Association, presented a summary on the progress of the College’s faculty workload redesign project for 2024-2025. Mr. Borglum thanked the United States Department of Education for identifying Valencia as one of the top 100 community colleges in the United States.

Student Government Association Report

Mr. Leo Lelis-Kermentz, SGA Osceola Campus Senator, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the SGA current event highlights.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

- 1. Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)/School District of Osceola County (SDOC) Memoranda of Understanding:** Dr. Plinske indicated that the “Strategic Discussion – Access” portion of today’s agenda is being incorporated to the “Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)/School District of Osceola County (SDOC) Memoranda of Understanding” action item, as both topics are closely connected to the College’s work with the school districts.

Dr. Plinske, Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, and Dr. Isis Artze-Vega, Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, presented the reports, which were distributed to the Board.

Following a full discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to authorize the College to enter into Memoranda of Understanding with both of the school districts in the College’s two county service areas, OCPS and SDOC, in support of College access goals and to improve high school graduation, college readiness, and successful college enrollment for students, and further authorizes the expenditure of up to \$768,720 in support of the

College Transition personnel and programs at the high schools, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of Audit Work Plan – FY 2024-2025:** Ms. Cynthia Santiago-Guzman presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Ms. Santiago-Guzman indicated that this report represents the Office of Compliance and Audit’s 2024-2025 audit work plan. The intent is to communicate the audit risk assessment and audit plan to the Board, obtain its approval of the plan and demonstrate compliance with applicable standards.

Ms. Santiago-Guzman shared that the Office of Compliance and Audit is a centralized source of information and guidance on compliance obligations and supports and assists the College in the accomplishment of college goals and objectives by providing independent, objective assurance and advisory services.

Following a full discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the Audit Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stockwell to consider, accept, and approve items 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 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:

3. **Approval of IT Technical Support Contracts**
4. **Award of ITB-F 2025-03 ADA Restroom Renovations, West Campus**
5. **Institutional General Education Course Offerings**
6. **Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
7. **Property Deletion**

Reports

- A. **Financial Report:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the College’s current financials.

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

- B. **Valencia College Foundation Report**

Board Comments

Trustee Kirkegard commended Valencia’s leadership, faculty, and staff, for their work.

Chair Sasso commended the progress of the Osceola Prosper program.

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Secretary

Chair