



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

Minutes

June 19, 2025

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

Members Present

Trustee Michael Sasso, Chair
Trustee Blair Bradley
Trustee Shawn Hindle
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard
Trustee John Martinez
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

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

Members Absent

Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:36 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,
May 22, 2025 Regular
Meeting**

Trustee Martinez moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 22, 2025 Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske shared that Valencia's Summer 2025 full-time enrollment (FTE) was up by 13.3%, and student headcount by 10.6% increase in headcount, representing the highest Summer enrollment in Valencia College history.

Dr. Plinske shared that the use of Valencia's Atlas platform has been discontinued, and the MyVC application officially launched in early May 2025. This mobile application hosts the new Valencia's online community that links students, faculty and staff to one another, and to resources such as online registration, grades, degree audits, financial aid, and academic records.

Dr. Plinske thanked Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, Mr. Jamie Rost, Chief Information Officer, Ms. Traci Bjella, Chief Marketing Officer, and their teams, for their contributions to this work.

Dr. Plinske reported on the budget results of the recently concluded legislative session. The report was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske stated that the Florida College System received an additional \$60 million in recurring funds appropriated through the funding formula (plus \$10 million in recurring funds specifically directed to Miami Dade College). From the system's appropriation, Valencia received a \$14 million recurring increase in state funding, which represents the largest percentage increase of recurring funds (11%) among all 28 FCS colleges. Dr. Plinske thanked the legislature for its support and also thanked the Board members who were engaged and very effective in the process.

Dr. Plinske provided an update on Federal policy discussions. She indicated that the proposed House Reconciliation Bill would change full-time definition from 12 to 15 credit hours and would eliminate Pell eligibility for students enrolled less than half-time, which represents 30% of students receiving Pell. The proposed Senate version of the Reconciliation Bill excludes these provisions and maintains a provision for short-term Pell for vocational programs. She explained the process ahead for the eventual passage of this federal law, which must be completed by September 30, 2025.

Dr. Plinske announced that Governor DeSantis has selected Valencia to receive another Job Growth Grant to support workforce development for the space industry, this time to receive \$1.5 million to support the College's electrical technician and welding programs. Governor DeSantis made a \$10 million investment overall across the state, with other grants being awarded to four other FCS institutions.

Dr. Plinske shared the College's voluminous response to the second request from Florida's version of the federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The report was distributed to the Board, and included detailed information from seventeen different areas of the College, for 2019-2025, as follows:

- Internal and External Audit
- Budget Process
- Travel

- Memberships
- External Government Relations
- IT Projects/Expenditures
- Facilities Utilization
- Action Items Approved by the District Board of Valencia College (DBOT), such as Valencia's Financial Health/Strategic Plan
- Conflict of Interest Policy and Monitoring, including:
 - Three Policies
 - Evaluation Committee Conflict of Interest
 - Grants Conflict of Interest
 - DBOT Conflict of Interest

Dr. Plinske thanked the Valencia team responsible for preparing this comprehensive response in such a complete and timely manner.

Dr. Plinske indicated that the College has just received the DOGE request #3, and DOGE request #4 is anticipated to be received by the College within the next two weeks.

Dr. Plinske stated that the 2024-25 Board Self-Evaluation survey soon will be distributed to all members of the Board for completion, with discussion of the results scheduled to occur during the August 7, 2025, Board Workshop.

Dr. Roberta Carew, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, presented proposed options regarding updates to the Valencia College Mission, Vision, and Values statements. The report was distributed to the Board, followed by a full discussion.

Following the full discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the following as the new Valencia College Mission statement: "Valencia College advances regional prosperity through personal and professional growth by providing access to high-quality, affordable learning experiences that foster intellectual curiosity, promote civic literacy and engagement, while supporting the workforce needs of the community." Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Following further discussion, Trustee Hindle moved to approve the following as the new Valencia College Vision statement: "Valencia College cultivates lifelong learners who lead meaningful lives, contribute to thriving communities, and advance Florida's economic growth and development." Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Following further discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the Valencia College Values statement: "Valencia College helps students with varied backgrounds, life experiences, and aspirations to achieve their

education and career goals. We achieve this through commitment to our shared values:

- **Learning** – by ensuring excellence in education that promotes lifelong learning.
- **Student Success** – by providing support to help students achieve their academic and career aspirations.
- **Access and Opportunity** – by expanding access to resources, experiences, and affordable educational pathways for transfer and career success.
- **Career Readiness** – by preparing individuals with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed for professional success.
- **Adaptability** – by evolving and responding to changing needs, ensuring continued relevance and impact.
- **Integrity** – by upholding accountability, fairness, and ethical principles in decision-making and actions.”

Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Faculty Association Report

Dr. Plinske recognized Mr. Chris Borglum, Professor of English, for his thoughtful leadership as Valencia’s Faculty Association President during the 2024-25 academic year. Mr. Borglum announced that Ms. Nissa Hopkins, Professor, English for Academic Purposes, East Campus, will serve as the incoming Faculty Association President for the 2025-26 academic year. Mr. Borglum provided his reflections on his role as 2024-25 Faculty Association President.

Mr. Borglum thanked the Board members for their support of the College.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Roselie Dormestoire, Collegewide SGA President, and Mr. Justin Escobar, Collegewide SGA Executive Secretary, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included an SGA Summer research project focused on campus demographics and local resources with an objective to analyze community needs related to student life, conduct student surveys, present findings to the SGA team, refine initiative plans based on feedback, and develop SMART goals to track progress.

The Board thanked the SGA team for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

1. **Operating Budget 2025-2026:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. A full discussion ensued. Following discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the 2025-2026 Valencia College Operating Budget, as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Martinez and seconded by Trustee Kirkegard to consider, accept, and approve items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 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. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2025-2026**
- 3. Institutional General Education Course Offerings**
- 4. Annual Prequalification of General Contractors for the Period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**
- 5. RFQ 2025-11, Architectural Services, Nursing Simulation Lab Design**
- 6. Policy Amendments and Repeal**
 - *Amend College Policy 6Hx28: 3C-02 – Flexible Work Arrangements for Employees*
 - *Amend College Policy 6Hx28: 3C-11 – Retirement Programs*
 - *Amend College Policy 6Hx28: 3C-14 401(a) – Qualified Retirement Plan*
 - *Amend College Policy 6Hx28: 3D-13 – Domestic Violence Leave*
 - *Amend College Policy 6Hx28: 3F-02 – Terminal Pay for Full-Time Employees*
 - *Amend College Policy 6Hx28: 5-01.1 – Academic Calendar and Schedule of Classes*
 - *Repeal College Policy 6Hx28: 5-01.2 – Schedule of Classes*
- 7. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 8. Property Deletion**
- 9. President's 2024-2025 Annual Performance Evaluation:** Dr. Mullowney reminded the Board of the requirements regarding the President's performance evaluation, and discussed the importance of 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 noted that Dr. Plinske's evaluation scores and related Board comments are excellent, once again. Chair Sasso stated 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 recognized Dr. Plinske for her leadership, skills and many professional accomplishments.

Following the discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the President's 2024-2025 Annual Performance Evaluation, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved

unanimously.

10. Approval of President's Contract of Employment, 2025-2029: Dr. Mullowney presented the proposed 2025-2029 Contract of Employment for the President of the College. He explained the process that was followed in developing the draft agreement, the differences from her current contract, and the Board's long-term practice of reviewing and updating it on at least an annual basis.

Following a full discussion, Trustee Martinez moved to approve the President's Contract of Employment, 2025-2029, as proposed and presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion. Discussion on the matter continued, and following this further discussion, Trustee Martinez moved to amend his original motion to approve a revised President's Contract of Employment, 2025-2029, as discussed. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

Dr. Plinske stated that the following report items are detailed in the written materials, which have been distributed to the Board:

- A. Summer Enrollment Report**
- B. Audit Update Report**
- C. Financial Report**
- D. Valencia College Foundation Report**

Board Comments

Trustee Hindle praised the College's Facilities, Grounds, and Maintenance teams for their work.

The Board commended Valencia's leadership, faculty, and staff, for their work on behalf of the College.

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Secretary

Chair