



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

Minutes

May 7, 2026

Valencia College – East Campus
Building 5, Room 112
and
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Trustee Michael Sasso, Chair
Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair
Trustee Blair Bradley
Trustee Shawn Hindle
Trustee Sean Milligan (via Zoom)
Trustee Rick Pullum
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

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

Members Absent

Trustee Belinda Kirkegard

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,
March 12, 2026,
Regular Meeting**

Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 12, 2026, Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Hindle seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske introduced Florida State Representative Erika Booth. Representative Booth, has taken the lead on several legislative issues

important to the College. Dr. Plinske thanked Representative Booth for her leadership, and for her willingness to take the lead and advocate for Valencia and the local community.

Dr. Plinske reported that Valencia celebrated three Commencement Ceremonies on Sunday, May 3, 2026, 9:30am, 2pm, and 6:30pm. A record high of 2,367 graduates attended the ceremonies.

Dr. Plinske stated that the College held a special event on April 15, 2026, at the West Campus Special Events Center, where students were invited to select professional attire items donated by Volunteer Florida.

Dr. Plinske provided a summary of the College’s process to change institutional accreditors from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Dr. Plinske stated that on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, Valencia submitted its application for membership to the HLC. On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, the College received confirmation that its request to seek membership through HLC’s accelerated process for accreditation was approved.

Dr. Plinske reported that Valencia’s Procurement Department hosted a “How to Do Business with Valencia College” event at the West Campus Special Events Center, Friday, April 17, 2026. A total of 475 individuals registered to attend, with more than two hundred different companies represented, primarily from Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties, but also Hillsborough, Brevard, Lake, and Polk counties. A variety of industries were represented, including facilities, finance, food, health services, information technology, and marketing. Dr. Plinske thanked Vice Chair Davis and Trustee Kirkegard for their recommendation to hold this productive event.

Faculty Association Report

Ms. Nissa Hopkins, President, Faculty Association, Hopkins reported that Valencia held its annual Purrty Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at the West Campus Special Events Center. The Purrty Awards recognize students for their leadership, academic excellence, and contributions to campus life. Ms. Hopkins shared the pride, joy, and sense of accomplishment exhibited by the 2026 award winning students.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Annese Williams, SGA President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Ms. Williams described the SGA’s 2025-2026 highlights, accomplishments, and future initiative planning.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

- 1. Institutional General Education Course Offerings:** The report was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske stated that in its March 26, 2026,

meeting, the Florida Board of Governors removed lower division courses in sociology as an option for institutional general education course offerings for the State University System. Thereafter, at its April 17, 2026, meeting, the State Board of Education rejected the previously approved lists of general education courses that had been submitted by twenty-three of the Florida College System institutions, including Valencia College, which had included courses in sociology when still accepted as a general education course option. Following a discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the revised institutional general education course list excluding sociology courses, as recommended and presented, for submission to the State Board of Education. Vice Chair Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 2. Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) and School District of Osceola County (SDOC) Memoranda of Understanding:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia College has established collaborative partnerships with both of the school districts its service area, to increase college readiness and enhance college transition programs for high school graduates in Orange and Osceola counties.

Following a discussion, Trustee Pullum moved to authorize the College to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with each of the school districts in the College's two county service district, Orange County Public Schools and the School District of Osceola County, 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 \$824,728 in support of the College Transition personnel and programs at the high schools, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- 3. 2025-2026 Annual Safety, Casualty Safety, and Sanitation Inspection:** Dr. Plinske presented the results of the annual inspection, as required by the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. The inspection of our College facilities took place during February this year.

Dr. Plinske stated that no deficiencies were identified during the inspection of all College buildings, which total over 2.4 million square feet. As a result, no schedule of corrections is required.

Following a discussion, Trustee Hindle moved approve the 2025-2026 State Requirements for Educational Facilities Report, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Dr. Plinske and the Board commended Mr. Shaun Andrews, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Paul Rooney, Assistant Vice President, Campus

Safety and Services, and their teams, for their fine work in achieving this excellent result.

4. **Policy Amendments and Repeal:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board.

A full discussion ensued.

Following full discussion, Vice Chair Davis moved to adopt amended Policies 6Hx28: 3A-05 Substitute Instructors and Short-Term Instructors of Record for Academic Credit Courses; 6Hx28: 3C-04 Total Rewards: Recognition of Full-Time Employees for Educational Advancement; 6Hx28: 3C-10 Time of Service for Work Credit; 6Hx28: 3E-02 Award of Continuing Contracts and Evaluation of Professors, Associate Professors, Counselors, and Librarians; 6Hx28: 3E-05.3 Conflict of Commitment Relating to Outside Employment and Outside Activities; 6Hx28: 3F-04 Reductions in Force or Consolidation or Reductions in Programs; 6Hx28: 8-10 Student Final Course Grade and Academic Dispute Resolution; and repeal Policy 6Hx28: 3E-03 Issuance of Annual Contracts to Instructional Personnel Otherwise Entitled to a Continuing Contract, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Hindle and seconded by Trustee Pullum to consider, accept, and approve items 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:

5. **Award of RFP 2026-30, HVAC Preventative Maintenance, Service and Repairs**
6. **Additions, Deletions or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
7. **Property Deletion**

Reports

Dr. Plinske 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

(Trustee Hindle presented impassioned and demonstrative comments to the members of the Board, encouraging them to become active contributors to the Foundation, complete with Valencia hats and contribution starter kits.)

Strategic Discussion

Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The

report included a summary update of the College’s 2030 Strategic Impact Plan goal regarding Graduation.

Following her presentation, the Board engaged in a full discussion.

Board Comments

The Board commended Valencia’s leadership, faculty, and staff for their excellent work.

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Secretary

Chair