



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

Minutes

June 11, 2026

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 Sean Milligan
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

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

Members Absent

Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair
Trustee Rick Pullum

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:40 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,
May 7, 2026, Regular
Meeting**

Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 7, 2026, Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske recognized the leadership and substantial contributions of two former Valencia College trustees - past Chair Daisy Lopez-Cid and past

Foundation Board Representative John Martinez. Ms. Lopez-Cid, who served on the College's Board from 2013 to 2024, and Mr. Martinez, who served from 2021 to 2025, were presented with tokens of appreciation and offered comments expressing their support of the College and its mission.

Dr. Plinske stated that the Legislature appropriated \$30 million of recurring funds across the 28 Florida colleges. Valencia will receive \$5.6 million of this allocation. She added that that SB 1246, Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund, has been signed into law by Governor DeSantis.

Dr. Plinske reported that she and Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, traveled to Miami Dade College for the statewide Commissioner's Summit, a convening of all college and university presidents, and school district superintendents across the state. HB 757 – School Safety, as signed into law by Governor DeSantis, was discussed at length.

Dr. Plinske shared that Valencia College will host the statewide Council of Presidents (COP) meeting at the Downtown Campus on June 18, 2026.

Dr. Plinske recognized Ms. Nissa Hopkins, Professor, English for Academic Purposes, for her thoughtful leadership as Valencia's Faculty Association President during the 2025-26 academic year. Ms. Hopkins announced that Dr. Joey Templeton, Professor, English, Osceola Campus, will serve as Faculty Association President for the 2026-27 academic year. Ms. Hopkins provided her reflections on her year of service as 2025-26 Faculty Association President.

**Faculty Association
Report**

Ms. Hopkins thanked the Board members for their support of the College.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

- 1. Operating Budget 2026-2027:** Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. A full discussion ensued. Following discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the 2026-2027 Valencia College Operating Budget, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 2. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2026-2027:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Following discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027, as presented. Trustee Milligan seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Institutional General Education Course Offerings:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Following discussion, Trustee Hindle moved to approve the institutional general education courses as recommended and presented, for submission to the State Articulation Coordinating Committee, leading to final consideration and approval of the State Board of Education. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
4. **Recommendation to Terminate Continuing Contract Due to Reduction in Force:** Dr. Plinske explained that at its March 26, 2026, meeting, the Florida Board of Governors removed lower-division sociology courses as an approved option within institutional general education offerings for the State University System. Subsequently, the State Board of Education (SBOE), at its April 17, 2026, meeting, adopted a similar position and rejected previously approved general education course lists submitted by 23 Florida College System institutions, including Valencia College, due to the inclusion of sociology courses, which were no longer regarded as approved general education courses. With the District Board's approval, Valencia submitted a revised list of general education courses, excluding sociology courses, to the SBOE for final approval.

The removal of sociology courses from the College's general education curriculum necessitates a reduction in force affecting four full-time continuing contract sociology faculty members, due to the anticipated decline in student enrollment resulting from this mandated change. Each affected faculty member was offered the opportunity to teach in a different discipline.

Three faculty members accepted this opportunity. One continuing contract sociology faculty member, Professor Mark Guillette, has declined this opportunity to teach in a different discipline and has not indicated his intent to retire or resign from his continuing contract of employment at the College.

Following a full discussion of the matter, and in consideration of State Board of Education Rule 6A-14.0411, College Policy/Procedure 6Hx28:3F-04, and the terms and conditions of Professor Guillette's continuing contract of employment with the College, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the necessary reduction in force and the consequent termination of Professor Mark Guillette's continuing contract of employment with the College, effective August 3, 2026, as presented. Trustee Hindle seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 5. Approval to Enter into an Agreement with AdventHealth, Inc., and Orlando Health, Inc. to provide Bachelor's Degree Level Nurses or Higher for Classroom and Clinical Support:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske shared that in 2025, the College entered into agreements with AdventHealth and Orlando Health to provide bachelor's degree level nurses or higher for classroom and clinical support within Valencia College's Nursing Program. These partnerships were established to strengthen clinical instruction capacity, enhance student support within classroom and clinical environments, and assist in addressing the growing workforce demands within the healthcare industry. Through these agreements, the hospital partners coordinated with Valencia to provide experienced nursing professionals to support Valencia's nursing education instruction and clinical learning activities throughout the academic year.

Following discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve one-year agreements, with options to renew, with AdventHealth and Orlando Health to facilitate the provision of professional bachelor's degree level nurses (or higher) to support classroom and clinical education activities within the College's Nursing Program at a total annual cost not to exceed \$550,000, as presented. Trustee Milligan seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Stockwell and seconded by Trustee Kirkegard to consider, accept, and approve items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 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. Annual Prequalification of General Contractors for the Period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027**
- 7. Recommendation to Award CA 2026-37, Online Proctored Testing Services**
- 8. Recommendation to Renew Midtown Consulting Group Professional Services Contract**
- 9. Award of RFP 2026-26, Classroom & Conference Room Technology Services, College-Wide**
- 10. Award of ITB 2026-23, Valencia College Irrigation System Mainline Upgrades**
- 11. Delinquent Account Write Off**
- 12. Property Deletion**

13. President's 2025-2026 Annual Performance Evaluation: Dr. William Mullooney, Vice President for Policy and General Counsel, reminded the Board of its legal obligations with respect to conducting the President's annual 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. Chair Sasso noted that Dr. Plinske's evaluation scores and related Board comments are excellent once again, and 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 members, in turn, individually recognized Dr. Plinske for her leadership, skills and numerous professional accomplishments.

Following the discussion, Trustee Milligan moved to approve the President's 2025-2026 Annual Performance Evaluation, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

14. Approval of President's Contract of Employment - 2026-2030: Dr. Mullooney presented the proposed 2026-2030 Contract of Employment for the President of the College. He explained the process that was followed in developing the draft agreement, the proposed revisions to her current contract of employment, and the Board's customary practice of reviewing and updating the President's contract of employment on an annual basis.

Following full discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the President's Contract of Employment, 2026-2030, as proposed and presented. Trustee Hindle seconded the motion. Discussion on the matter continued, and following this further discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the President's Contract of Employment 2026-2030, as presented, and fully discussed. Trustee Hindle seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

A. Summer Enrollment Report: Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President for Student Affairs, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Frederick stated that as of the beginning of the summer term, the total number of students enrolled at Valencia increased 4.3% in Summer 2026 as compared to Summer 2025, and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment (a measure of credit hours) increased 1.2% over last summer.

Dr. Frederick thanked the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Marketing Department teams for their substantial contributions to these results.

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

B. Audit Update Report

C. Financial Report

D. Valencia College Foundation Report: Trustee Hindle stated that the Valencia College Foundation is grateful for the continued support of the District Board of Trustees. Trustee Hindle proudly shared that all members of the District Board now are donors to the Valencia College Foundation.

Dr. McKnight stated that, inspired by the positive impact of the recent Lift Scholars Program at Jones High School, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida has partnered with Valencia College and the Valencia College Foundation to launch the Goodwill Pathways Scholarship. This new scholarship program will allow the 2026 graduating class of Project Compass (an Orange County Public Schools Alternative Education Program) to participate in one of Valencia College's programs with no out-of-pocket cost for tuition and fees.

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 Career Credentials. A full discussion followed.

Board Comments

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 11:16 a.m.

Secretary

Chair