



PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Meeting Begins: 4:00 p.m.

Physical Meeting Location: One College Drive, Blythe, CA 92225 - CL 101

Livestream Meeting Location: PVC Needles Educational Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA 92363

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Board President Gloria Copple.

1.2 ROLL CALL

Governing Board Members:

- **Present:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams,
- **Not Present:** Angel Ramirez, Student Trustee Grace Wehrli

Note: Trustees Williams and McNeil attended the meeting via teleconference from the Needles Educational Center.

Also Present at the Board Table:

- Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Superintendent/President
- Naomi Alaniz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees

1.3 FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1.4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve the agenda for this meeting.

Moved by: Brad Arneson

Seconded by: Scott Dean

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams

1.5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECUSAL FROM AGENDA ITEMS

No recusals were declared.

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE FOR LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES

Executive Assistant Alaniz noted that Trustee Dean had identified an incorrect date on page 5 of the agreement, which stated June 30, 3031. She explained that the District contacted Liebert Cassidy Whitmore and received a corrected agreement that was otherwise unchanged and reflected the correct date of June 30, 2031. Trustee Styers amended her original motion to approve the agreement as amended to correct the date on page 5 to June 30, 2031. Trustee Arneson seconded the amended motion.

Motion: Approve the agreement for legal counsel services with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, as amended to correct the date on page 5 from June 30, 3031 to June 30, 2031.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams

2.2 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH LOZANO SMITH FOR LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES

Motion: Approve the agreement with Lozano Smith for legal counsel services, as presented.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams

2.3 SELECTION OF DATE FOR THE 2026 REGULAR/ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Motion: Approve Tuesday, December 15, 2026, as the date of the Board of Trustees' December 2026 Regular/Annual Organizational Meeting.

Moved by: Stella Camargo-Styers

Seconded by: Brad Arneson

Action: Motion Carries

Vote:

- **Yes:** Gloria Copple, Jon McNeil, Scott Dean, Brad Arneson, Stella Camargo-Styers, Glenda Williams

3. HEARING OF CITIZENS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

3.1 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Richard Castillo, PVCCA/CTA President, thanked Dr. Castillo-Garrison on behalf of the PVCCA bargaining team for the progress made during negotiations on Monday. He stated that, although he was not present due to illness, his bargaining team reported that negotiations had taken a positive turn following proposals from the District. Mr. Castillo reported that tentative agreements had been reached on Article 2 and Article 4 and expressed the faculty's excitement regarding the progress.

Mr. Castillo stated that two articles remained in negotiations: Article 3 and Article 7. He stated that, in his personal opinion, the remaining articles could be resolved with an email indicating "status quo" on both, which would allow the union to move forward with ratification of the new contract and potentially bring it to the Board for ratification in November. Mr. Castillo expressed his hope that negotiations could be completed and again thanked Dr. Castillo-Garrison for her leadership and efforts in working with the bargaining teams toward resolution.

4. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Before the Board recessed to Closed Session, Board President Copple read the following statement:

Under Item 4.1, Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, the District's designated representatives are Randall Erickson, Angelique Cramer, Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Elena Rodriguez, Dr. Sandra Robinson, and James Thomas. The employee organizations are PVCCA/CTA and CSEA Chapter 180.

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:11 p.m.

4.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6)

4.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957)

4.3 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION; SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9)

5. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Open Session at 5:43 p.m.

5.1 REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Board President Copple reported that no action was taken in Closed Session tonight.

6. CLOSING OF MEETING

6.1 NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | Closed Session: 4:00 p.m. | Open Session: 5:00 p.m. | Physical Meeting Location: Main Campus, One College Drive, Blythe, CA 92225 - CL 101 | Livestream Meeting Location: Needles Educational Center, 725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA 92363

6.2 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison

Dr. Estella Castillo-Garrison, Superintendent/President

Minutes approved at the October 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Minutes prepared by Naomi Alaniz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees. These minutes are a summary of reports, discussions, and actions taken at this meeting. Audio/video recordings of Board of Trustees meetings are available on the District's website for public review and may be consulted for a more complete record of meeting discussions.