



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

**Minutes**

**December 5, 2024**

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 (via Zoom)  
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard  
Trustee John Martinez  
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,  
October 17, 2024  
Regular Meeting, and  
November 18, 2024  
Special Meeting**

Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the meeting minutes of the October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting, and the November 18, 2024 Special Meeting, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**President's Report**

Dr. Plinske recognized Valencia student Mr. Omari Jones as a true role model our community, who displayed determination and resilience in winning a bronze medal in boxing at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. Mr. Jones has

demonstrated unwavering commitment to his studies, maintaining good standing as a student pursuing an associate in arts degree, while training tirelessly to compete at the highest level of sport. Balancing the rigorous demands of academics with the physical and mental challenges of Olympic-level training is no small feat, yet he has shown us that with focus and determination, anything is possible. Valencia College is inspired by his story and honored to count him as a member of the College's family, showing everyone that greatness can be achieved both inside and outside the classroom.

Dr. Plinske announced that the Phoenix magazine, Valencia College's art and literary publication, won a prestigious Pacemaker award at the fall conference for the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), and the College Media Association (CMA). The Pacemaker award is often called the Pulitzer Prize of college journalism. Dr. Plinske thanked Ms. Jackie Zuromski, Professor, English, West Campus, and Ms. Meg Curtiss, Professor, Graphics and Interactive Design, West Campus, for their leadership in advising our students in their creative work.

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

Dr. Plinske reported that Valencia is nearing the end of its facilities planning process. The College's strategic facilities plan will be presented to the Board for final review and approval at a future meeting. The goal of this process is to create a thoughtful and feasible vision for the College's campuses, provide a clear description of potential projects for either local or state funding, and ensure that the College's facilities are suited to meet the needs of Valencia's Strategic Impact Plan. Dr. Plinske stated that during this planning process, the College conducted campus tours with its planning consultants from DLR Group. A range of planning activities to include focus groups, workshops, town halls, and surveys took place as well, resulting in feedback from thousands of students, faculty, and staff members throughout this process.

Dr. Plinske stated that the College is in the process of preparing to change accrediting agencies, with the intention to move from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges to the Higher Learning Commission. As Valencia prepares for this transition, it represents an important opportunity to develop an updated mission statement for the College.

Dr. Roberta Carew, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, and Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, presented the Strategic Discussion – Review of Mission Statement. The report was distributed to the Board.

A full discussion ensued. During the discussion, the Board shared and discussed the following insights:

- The importance of Central Florida demographics growth data.
- The importance of relationships with Central Florida employers.
- The importance of marketing and advertising the College's mission.
- The importance of Central Florida memberships, to provide opportunities for students in preparation for their future beyond their education.
- The benefits of online and in-person class flexibility.

Valencia College has many opportunities to address regional needs by emphasizing economic mobility, accessible education, and strong industry partnerships. Key areas for improvement include increasing awareness of affordability, expanding paid internships, and refining the mission to explicitly connect student success with economic outcomes.

**Faculty Association  
Report**

Mr. Chris Borglum, President, Faculty Association, provided a recap of the College's faculty workload redesign evaluation. Mr. Borglum thanked Mr. Ryan Kane, Assistant Vice President, Employee Relations and Services, and his team, for their work.

**Student Government  
Association Report**

Ms. Huda Qadri, SGA East Campus Senator, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the SGA fall semester event highlights.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

**New Business**

- 1. Valencia College Foundation Annual Audit Review/Affirmation of Certification of Valencia College Foundation:**
- 2. Memorandum of Understanding Between Valencia College and the Valencia College Foundation:**

Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Carlee Thomas, Chief Philanthropy Officer and Executive Director, Valencia College Foundation, presented the reports, which were distributed to the Board.

Following a discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to accept the Valencia College Foundation's Internal Revenue Service Application for Recognition of Exemption (Form 1023), Internal Revenue Service Return of Organization Exempt (Form 990), and the Audit report as presented and reviewed, to affirm the Board's certification that the Foundation continues to operate in a manner consistent with the goals of Valencia College and in the best interest of the state, and to authorize the College to execute the amended Memorandum of Understanding with the Valencia College

Foundation as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 3. Approval of 2025-2026 Student Block Tuition and Fee Rate Schedule:**  
Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Following discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the 2025-2026 Student Block Tuition, Fee Rate Schedule, and laboratory fees, 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 Stockwell to consider, accept, and approve items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 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:

- 4. Approval of the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar**  
**5. Policy Adoptions and Repeal:**
- *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3C-01 – Total Rewards: Compensation and Hours of Work for Employees of the College*
  - *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3C-06.1 – Contracts for Instructional, Executive, Senior Administrator, and Administrator Employees*
  - *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 4-01 - Accreditation*
  - *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 11-08 – Use of College Properties, Facilities, and Equipment*
  - *Repeal Policy 6Hx28: 11-08.2 – College Facilities, Non-College Use of*
- 6. Award of ITN 2024-07, Food Serviced Collegewide**  
**7. Award of RFQ 2025-04, Geotechnical and Testing Services, Continuing Services**  
**8. Award of RFP 2025-05, Elevator Maintenance and Repair Services, Continuing Services**  
**9. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**  
**10. Property Deletion**

### **Reports**

Chair Sasso 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**

### **Board Comments**

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

**Adjourn**

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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Secretary

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Chair