



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

**Minutes**

**February 6, 2025**

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

Members Present

Trustee Michael Sasso, Chair  
Trustee Blair Bradley  
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard  
Trustee John Martinez

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

Members Absent

Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair  
Trustee Shawn Hindle  
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

**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,  
December 5, 2024  
Regular Meeting**

Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the meeting minutes of the December 5, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**President's Report**

Dr. Plinske recognized some generous partners who have provided million-dollar (or above) gifts to the Valencia College Foundation, as follows:

- Ms. Shannon Gravitte, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, and Ms. Cathy Stankiewicz, Chief Nursing Officer, from AdventHealth. AdventHealth has contributed more than \$1 million to the Valencia Foundation over the years, and most recently provided a gift of \$500,000 that will be matched by the state of Florida Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund, a state grant available to Florida education institutions to expand nursing education opportunities.
- Ms. Patty Genday, Assistant Vice President of Academic Partnerships, from Orlando Health. Orlando Health also has contributed more than \$1 million to the Valencia College Foundation, and most recently provided a gift of \$500,000 that will be matched by the state of Florida LINE Fund.

Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia is proud of the success of its nursing graduates. The College's most recent NCLEX passage rates, the licensure exam to become a RN, was 96%. 316 students graduated last year with an associate in science in Nursing, and 97% of graduates gain employment as a registered nurse immediately upon graduation.

Dr. Plinske thanked AdventHealth and Orlando Health for their investment in the education of future nurses. Their gifts will help the healthcare workforce deliver world class patient care and outcomes.

Dr. Plinske thanked the 3 Pointer Foundation, for its commitment of \$1 million to support three areas of the College, which include:

- The Steve Pointer Scholarship Fund, which supports students in the Accelerated Skills Training Construction and Maintenance program.
- The Julie Pointer Childcare Support Fund, which supports the childcare needs of student parents through the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program.
- The Julie Pointer Faculty Excellence Fund, which supports and enhances faculty compensation in high-demand, hard-to-recruit-and-retain disciplines in the School of Health Sciences and School of Engineering, Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing.

Dr. Plinske thanked the 3 Pointer Foundation for their commitment to create the right conditions for Valencia's students, and for helping the College advance its mission of access and affordability.

Dr. Plinske expressed her gratitude to Mr. Jeff Hayward, President and CEO, Heart of Florida United Way, for the investment of \$1 million in Valencia's Northwest Center for Accelerated Training, to create a scholarship for eligible

students pursuing a career in high-demand fields. Dr. Plinske thanked the Heart of Florida United Way for its support and impact it has made in our community.

Dr. Plinske reported that the Osceola County Commission has committed to fund another year of the highly successful Osceola Prosper program. The announcement was made to high school seniors across Osceola county, with a guarantee that every 2025 high school graduate who wishes to attend Valencia or Osceola Technical College can do so with tuition or fees covered by the County.

Dr. Plinske shared that there are more than 7,000 Osceola Prosper students from the high school graduating classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024, and more than 60% of them are first generation.

Dr. Plinske reported that she attended the Florida Chamber of Commerce Legislative Fly-In, held in Tallahassee on February 10-12, 2025. She was joined by Trustee Blair Bradley, and Ms. Stephanie Howell, Director, Community Affairs and Economic Development. During the meetings, they emphasized the impact of the Florida College System across the state and advocated for the Florida College System's request that \$200 million to be allocated to the System through the proposed funding formula.

Dr. Plinske stated that the State Board of Education met on January 15, 2025, and approved Valencia's list of proposed General Education course offerings, previously approved by the District Board of Trustees. Dr. Plinske stated that the College is working at developing the Fall schedule with the new course offerings.

Dr. Plinske thanked Valencia's faculty, deans, and provosts, for their flexibility in working toward a different schedule than what the College has offered in the past.

Dr. Plinske reported that Valencia has received approval from the United States Department of Education to change its accreditation agency to the Higher Learning Commission. She thanked Dr. Roberta Carew, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness, and her team, for their great work in presenting a very compelling and successful case.

Dr. Plinske provided an update on the progress of the College's discussions regarding the mission statement. Following the Board discussion held on December 5, 2024, Valencia held meetings with key stakeholders from within the College and among community leaders. The next step involves gathering feedback from all employees on the five major themes that emerged from these conversations, as follows:

- Accessibility and Affordability
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Community Engagement and Integration
- Holistic Student Support
- Lifelong Learning for Success

## **Faculty Association Report**

Mr. Chris Borglum, President, Faculty Association, and Mr. Justin Stone, Professor, Humanities, East Campus, reported on two student club activities:

- The Brain Bowl: This competition is to recognize outstanding academic achievement, to help focus community interest on academic excellence in Florida community colleges, and to help foster relations among faculty and students as they work together on this joint project.
- The Ethics Bowl: This competition just started in Fall 2024; it is simultaneously a collaborative and competitive event in which teams analyze a series of wide-ranging ethical issues.

Mr. Borglum shared that the Valencia Brain Bowl team will be hosting a Florida College System Activities Association State Tournament at the Winter Park Campus on March 27, 2025, 1-6pm, and March 28, 2025, 9-12pm.

The Board thanked Mr. Borglum, Mr. Stone, and the faculty, and students involved in these clubs, for their commitment and accomplishments.

## **Student Government Association Report**

Ms. Aliza Jessani, Collegewide SGA President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report summarized SGA current event highlights, and the upcoming Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA) Conference, to be held in Tallahassee, on February 10-13, 2025.

The Board thanked the SGA team for their passion and commitment.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

## **New Business**

1. **Transfer of Funds from Fund 1 to Fund 7 for Capital Related Projects:** Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado stated that the College seeks to transfer non-recurring funds from the Operating Fund (Fund 1) into the Capital Outlay Fund (Fund 7) to fund the following projects described within the Carryforward Fund Balance Spending Plans (as previously approved by the District Board of Trustees):
  - Information Technology Capital Plan items at a cost of \$10,220,000, to support Valencia's core infrastructure, including data center technology, network security, network optimization, server and

storage systems, and system redundancy. These investments will provide the required foundation to meet the evolving needs of the applications and services that support college operations within the next five years.

- Facilities Projects items at a cost of \$9,200,000 to support design services for a nursing simulation center on the West Campus, funds associated with the nursing simulation project to partially match state or philanthropic funding, and funds to support deferred maintenance identified in the College's Facilities Condition Plan.
- Campus Furniture items at a cost of \$2,500,000 to allow the College to finalize current and new furniture purchase commitments.

Following a discussion, Trustee Martinez moved to approve the Budget Amendment Request form and the funds transfer of \$21,920,000 from Operating Funds into the Capital Outlay Fund. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Martinez and seconded by Trustee Bradley to consider, accept, and approve items 2, 3, 4, 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:

- 2. Authorization to Renew Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Solution**
- 3. Network Firewall Updates**
- 4. Vehicle Lease Agreement with Enterprise**
- 5. Policy Adoption**
  - *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3F-01 – Employment Transitions, Separations and Exit Process*
- 6. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 7. Property Deletion**

### **Reports**

- A. Spring Enrollment Report:** Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Frederick stated that the College's Spring 2025 student enrollment represents the largest Spring semester enrollment ever at Valencia, surpassing last Spring's record enrollment. Full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment grew nearly 7% from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025, increasing to 14,345. The previous high was 13,423 FTE in Spring 2024. Valencia is also experiencing its highest unduplicated Spring headcount on record of 47,757 students, which represents a nearly 6.5% increase from Spring

2024. The report included an overview of enrollment by student type, modality, and race/ethnicity.

- C. Financial Report:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the College's current financials.

Chair Sasso stated that the following report items are detailed in the written materials, which have been distributed to the Board:

**B. Audit Update Report**  
**D. Valencia College Foundation Report**

**Strategic Discussion**

Dr. Plinske presented a progress report on the College's 2030 Strategic Impact Plan with respect to College Graduation. The written report was distributed to the Board. The presentation included a review of the 2030 Strategic Impact Plan Goal areas, college graduation goal, a baseline visualization, leading indicators, progress through 2023-2024, and comparison data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). A full discussion by the Board ensued.

**Board Comments**

The Board thanked the community partner donors for their contributions and commended Valencia's leadership, faculty, and staff, for their work.

**Adjourn**

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:57 a.m.

---

Secretary

---

Chair