



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

Minutes

May 22, 2025

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 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 9:33 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,
March 13, 2025
Regular Meeting**

Trustee Martinez moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 13, 2025 Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske thanked the Board members who participated in the Spring Commencement ceremonies, held Sunday, May 9, 2025, 12 p.m., and 4 p.m., at the UCF Additional Financial Area. Dr. Plinske stated that a record-high of 2,054 graduates attended the ceremonies. Dr. Plinske stated that among those who completed a degree from Valencia this Spring, 2,762 earned associate in arts degrees, and about 500 of these degrees were earned by dual enrollment.

students. Additionally, 595 students earned associate in science degrees, which included 121 associate degrees in nursing, 70 associate degrees in business, 42 in cybersecurity, and 35 in hospitality management; 271 students earned baccalaureate degrees, and 3,197 earned technical certificates. Dr. Plinske stated that the Fall 2025 Commencement ceremonies will be held Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 12 p.m., and 4 p.m., at the UCF Additional Financial Arena. Dr. Plinske also thanked Valencia College Foundation Vice Chair Jeff Mock for his participation.

Dr. Plinske congratulated Trustee Stockwell on today's Grand Opening of Epic Universe at Universal Orlando Resort. Dr. Plinske shared that Epic Universe has five worlds with fifty attractions and experiences. In its first year of operation, Epic Universe is anticipated to generate \$2 billion in economic impact for the state of Florida. Dr. Plinske reported that Epic Universe has already created thousands of jobs, and Valencia is proud of its partnership with Universal Orlando to ensure local talent is prepared for these exciting new careers.

Dr. Plinske congratulated Trustees Bradley, Davis, Hindle, and Kirkegard, for securing their confirmations by the Florida Senate. Dr. Plinske thanked the Board for their individual advocacy efforts in Tallahassee regarding their vision for Valencia College and its challenges with state funding, with legislators and before the Senate Committee on Higher Education Appropriations.

Dr. Plinske thanked Vice Chair Davis for his detailed testimony advocating for the proposed funding floor for the State's least-funded colleges. Vice Chair Davis's comments led to a follow-up meeting for President Plinske with Senator Harrell, Chair of the Committee.

Dr. Plinske discussed the potential impact on state appropriations for Valencia, given the differences in the Florida House's recommended budget versus the Florida Senate's recommended budget.

Vice Chair Davis commended Valencia's staff for their great work, and in turn, Dr. Plinske thanked the Board members for their support.

Dr. Plinske stated that the proposed changes to federal financial aid programs included in the House Reconciliation Bill (H.Cons.Res.14), particularly the redefinition of full-time enrollment and the elimination of Pell Grant eligibility for students enrolled less than half-time, could have a very negative impact on Valencia's students. A copy of a letter reflecting these concerns sent by the President to Florida's US Senators and several members of Congress was distributed to the Board.

Dr. Plinske stated that the College was able to secure private contributions to

support scholarships for every graduating senior from Evans and Jones High Schools, with special thanks to the College's partnership with Lift Orlando. The scholarship was announced at the high schools on April 9, 2025. Dr. Plinske thanked Chair Sasso for attending the events.

Faculty Association Report

Mr. Chris Borglum, President, Faculty Association, shared some of the challenges that Higher Education is currently facing, such as emerging issues related to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) large language models, like ChatGPT.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Roselie Dormestoire, Ms. Dana-Lee Reid, and Mr. Justin Escobar, Collegewide SGA President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a 2024-25 recap of Bridge events, and initiatives. The team shared that the SGA served and connected with a total of 2,733 students in the 2024-25 academic year.

The Board thanked the SGA team for their work.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

1. **2025-2026 Operating Budget Framework:** Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado noted that once again, the recommended budget framework did not provide for any increase in student tuition or fees. Following discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved the approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget Framework as a preliminary step toward the formal adoption of the final 2025-2026 operating budget, which will be presented for consideration and approval at the June 19, 2025, Regular Meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
2. **2025-2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Framework:** Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. McKelvey indicated that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is developed to identify, document, and justify legislative funding requests for the major categories of capital projects, remodeling, renovation, deferred maintenance, and new construction. Following discussion, Trustee Kirkegard moved to approve the Capital Improvement Plan Framework for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, as presented. The formal approval of the Capital Improvement Plan will be recommended at the June 19, 2025, District Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. McKelvey thanked Mr. Shaun Andrews, Chief Operations Officer, and

Mr. Cristancho Mercado, for their work.

3. **RFQ 2025-11, Architectural Services, Nursing Simulation Lab:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado shared that, on February 10, 2025, the College issued Request for Qualifications, RFQ 2025-11, Architectural Services, Nursing Simulation Lab. The solicitation sought a qualified Architectural firm to provide design services for a new high-fidelity nursing simulation lab in the Health Sciences Building (HSB) at the West Campus. The renovated 16,000 SF (approx.) facility will include a ten-bed simulation classroom, a lecture classroom, ICU simulation rooms, control rooms, immersive learning rooms, and administrative spaces (offices, conference/briefing rooms). Following discussion, Trustee Hindle moved to approve the evaluation committee's ranking results and simultaneously authorize commencement of negotiations with the top ranked firm, HuntonBrady Architects. Should the College not be able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with HuntonBrady Architects, then negotiations will commence with the next highest ranked firm until a fair, competitive and reasonable agreement is reached. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of Continuing Contracts:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske stated that, in accordance with Florida Law, Rule 6A-14.0411(10), F.A.C, and Valencia Policy 6Hx28:3E-02, and upon the her recommendation as President, the District Board of Trustees has the authority to approve continuing contracts for eligible faculty who have demonstrated professional competence and success in fulfilling their responsibilities. Accordingly, it was recommended that the following three faculty members listed on the distributed report be awarded continuing contracts: Ms. Coleen Cox, Ms. Maribeth Gagliardi, and Ms. Valerie Vance. Following discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the award of continuing contracts to the eligible faculty members, as recommended and presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Stockwell and seconded by Trustee Bradley to consider, accept, and approve items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 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. **2024-2025 Annual Safety, Casualty Safety, and Sanitation Inspection**
6. **2025-2026 College Catalog**

- 7. Approval of the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar**
- 8. Award of CA 2025-22, West Campus Building 1 & Central Energy Plant Roof Replacement**
- 9. Purchase Authorization, STEP CG, LLC.**
- 10. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 11. 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

Board Comments

Vice Chair Davis commended the College for the work with the Federal Student Aid application process.

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

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Secretary

Chair