



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

WORKSHOP

Minutes

August 7, 2025

Osceola Campus, Building 1, Room 123
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 to the Board and President of the College

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Workshop meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:43am.

**Approval of
Minutes, June 19,
2025 Regular
Meeting**

Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of the June 19, 2025, Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Dr. Plinske recognized Mr. Ed Moore, former Valencia College Trustee. Mr. Moore served on the College's Board from 1999 to 2010, and as Board Chair from 2002 to 2004.

Dr. Plinske reported that the newest rankings for college-going rates of high school graduates among Florida's 67 counties have been announced. Dr. Plinske proudly announced that Osceola County, which ranked 61st of 67 counties in 2010 in terms of the percentage of high school graduates who enrolled in college, now ranks 3rd in the state. Dr. Plinske stated that

Valencia saw its one thousandth Osceola Prosper student graduate from Valencia in the Summer 2025 graduating class.

Dr. Plinske introduced Ms. Kendra Zilke, an Osceola Prosper graduate. Ms. Zilke graduated from Valencia with an associate degree in Baking and Pastry Management. She is now enrolled in Advanced Cake Artistry at the College and is employed at Universal Epic Universe. Ms. Zilke expressed her gratitude for the Osceola Prosper program.

Discussion Topics

- **Board Self-Evaluation – 2024-25:** A summary of the results of the 2024-25 Board Self-Evaluation was distributed to the Board and presented by Dr. Plinske and Chair Sasso. The Board engaged in a full discussion with respect to results, including recognition of how committed the Board is to the College's mission, how well the Board understands its governance role related to policy and strategy, and how the Board fully embraces its fiduciary responsibilities.

Dr. Plinske stated that the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) Legislative Fly-In will be held November 4-5, 2025, in Tallahassee, FL.

Trustee Davis shared the importance of connecting college degrees with workforce needs, and thanked Valencia College for its work with student learning outcome strategies.

Dr. Plinske shared a report produced by Mr. Jeff Selingo, a noted higher education journalist. The report was distributed to the Board. The report signals that higher education is clearly experiencing significant change. The report included a summary of the national perspectives related to higher education, and a study regarding the state of higher education in America.

- **Board Development**
 - **“Who We Serve”:** Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The presentation included highlighted student demographics, data related to program type enrollment, credit full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, credit programs by type, age, gender, race/ethnicity, enrollment status, and a modality comparison between all higher education institutions in the U.S. versus Valencia College, and modality in Valencia's baccalaureate, dual enrolled, and online-only students.

A full discussion ensued with respect to the presentation regarding the characteristics of Valencia's students.

- **Learning Outcomes:** Dr. Roberta Carew, Vice President, Academic Affairs, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included an overview of the College's curriculum, credit program types, Valencia's associate in arts and science degree programs requirements, and the bachelor of science/applied science degree program requirements. Dr. Carew described ways in which the College uses frameworks to inform curriculum, moving from accreditor, national, and state standards, to program outcomes. Dr. Carew explained how Valencia's program outcomes connect to course outcomes, and how the College assesses student learning.

A full discussion ensued related to the Learning Outcomes presentation.

The Board expressed an interest in the advisory committees used by Valencia College to improve its Associate in Science programs. Dr. Plinske explained that these advisory committees are composed of local and industry leaders who provide feedback to ensure the College's career programs are aligned with community workforce needs.

The Board recessed at 11:50am.

The Board reconvened at 12:53pm.

In the interest of time, Dr. Plinske recommended the removal of the workshop topic - "Updates to Strategic Impact Plan Goals," from today's agenda. Dr. Plinske indicated that this workshop topic will be presented to the Board at the September 11, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

- **State Funding Models:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included data related to the FY 2024 national perspectives of public higher education full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment by state, percentage of public higher FTE enrollment attending two-year institutions by state, public higher education appropriations per FTE by state, education appropriations and net tuition revenue per FTE by state, percentage differences in two-year and four-year public higher education appropriations per FTE by state, current Florida College System (FCS) enrollment, FCS recurring state appropriations, and an overview of this year's \$60 million FCS appropriation as allocated through the FCS funding formula.

A full discussion ensued with respect to the funding topic.

- **Overview of Fund Accounting:** Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, and

Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included an overview of governmental fund accounting, as applicable to Valencia, movement between funds, allocation of tuition and fees, and a summary breakdown of Valencia's fund categories.

- **Overview of Procurement Processes:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included an overview of the procurement sourcing process, solicitation methods, spending thresholds, and formal solicitations, using the recent Nursing Simulation Request for Qualification (RFQ) as an example. He also briefed the Board on the code of conduct/conflict of interest rules established by Sec.112.313, F.S., standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys, and the applicability of Valencia College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-05.2, Ethical Conduct and Performance, public records, transparency and ethics, principles of governance by institution type, the allowability of using state and local preferences in procurement processes, noting state requirements and institutional options. Finally, he explained the requirements of the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) codified in Sec. 287.055, F.S., which regulates for the procurement of certain architectural and engineering services, and the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) rules for construction and facilities projects.

Mr. Cristancho Mercado thanked Ms. Yaremis Fullana, Assistant Vice President, Financial Planning & Analysis, for her work while leading the College's procurement processes.

Trustee Kirkegard expressed her strong interest in reaching out to and engaging the Central Florida community to encourage local suppliers to pursue opportunities to do business with Valencia College.

- **Policy Landscape: State and Federal:** Dr. Plinske provided an overview of the state Money-Back-Guarantee Program, which was established to help individuals achieve self-sufficiency by requiring each technical college and Florida College System institution to refund the cost of tuition to students who are not able to find a job in the field in which the student was trained within 6 months of successful completion of select workforce education programs that

prepare students for in-demand, middle-level to high-level wage occupations.

Dr. Plinske shared an overview of national developments among degree-related programs, with a focus on the emergence of three-year baccalaureate programs at Brigham Young University-Idaho and 90 credit bachelor's degree programs in Ohio, Texas, Indiana, and Utah.

Dr. Plinske indicated that the "Policy Landscape: State and Federal" topic will be presented for further discussion at the September 11, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

- **Progress Update and Accreditation:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske provided an overview of the College's accreditation process.
- **President's Goals – 2025-26:** Dr. Plinske presented her goals for 2025-26, which were distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske shared that while she expects to make significant progress toward each of her goals in 2025-26, work on many will continue into 2026-27 and beyond, serving as a framework for her leadership for the next three to five years.

A full discussion ensued with respect to this topic.

New Business

1. **Award of CA 2026-08, Disaster Recovery & Remediation Services and Disaster Debris Removal & Management Services:** The report was distributed to the Board. Following discussion, Trustee Martinez moved to authorize the College to enter into master service agreements with Belfor Property Restoration, BMS CAT, LLC, Disaster Program & Operations, Looks Great Services of MS, and TFR Enterprises for emergency disaster recovery and debris removal services as may be necessary and required, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Board Comments

The Board thanked Dr. Plinske, and the Senior team for their continued great work.

Adjournment

Chair Sasso adjourned the Board Workshop at 2:38pm.

Secretary

Chair