



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

Minutes

September 11, 2025

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

Members Present

Trustee Michael Sasso, Chair
Trustee Blair Bradley
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard (via Zoom)
Trustee John Martinez
Trustee Tracey Stockwell

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

Members Absent

Trustee John Davis, Vice Chair
Trustee Shawn Hindle

Call to Order

Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes,
August 7, 2025
Organizational
Meeting, and August
7, 2025, Workshop**

Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 7, 2025 Organizational Meeting, and the August 7, 2025 Workshop, as presented. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske thanked Chaplain Orlando Gutierrez from the Orlando Police

Department, and Chair Sasso, for their remarks to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001.

Dr. Plinske reported that Valencia's Fall semester is off to a very good start. She thanked the teams of faculty and staff across the College for making it possible for students to continue their pathways toward earning a degree.

Dr. Plinske referred to the Auditor General's Three-Year Operational Audit of the College, a copy of which was provided to each Board member, which was conducted over the course of several months. Dr. Plinske indicated that the audit resulted in just one finding and recommendation. Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia concurs with the finding and recommendation, and that the College has updated its procedures accordingly.

Dr. Plinske described her recent travels representing Valencia, as follows:

- Miami: With Dr. Georgia, Lorenz, President, Seminole State College, and Dr. Fred Hawkins, President, South Florida State College, met with Representative Daniel Perez, member of the Florida House of Representatives, to discuss Florida College System (FCS) budget matters, and to make a strong case that there is no greater Return on Investment (ROI) than an investment in the FCS.
- Charlotte, NC: Traveled with the Orlando Economic Partnership (OEP), along with Trustee Stockwell, Incoming Chair of the OEP Board, and other executives from the Central Florida region to learn from Charlotte's successes in economic and workforce development. Dr. Plinske spoke as part of a panel with Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President, UCF, President Lorenz, and corporate leaders Shannon Gravitte, from AdventHealth, and Melissa Seixas, from Duke Energy.
- St. Petersburg: With the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) Council of Presidents (COP), met with Florida Trend staff, and shared information about FCS.

In addition, Dr. Plinske stated that she will be traveling to Northwest Florida State College to attend the State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting, at which the SBOE will be considering Valencia's applications to offer the Specialized Associate in Arts Transfer (SAAT) degrees in Biology, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Health Sciences, and Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Plinske reminded the Board that it approved the College's intent to develop these proposals at the June 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting. After partnering with UCF on developing these degree applications, the College submitted them at the end of December 2024, and has been working with the State through its approval steps.

Dr. Plinske stated that she will be attending the State University System of Florida (SUS) 2025 Safety Summit, to be held October 8, 2025, at the UCF Fairwinds Alumni Center, where best practices will be shared for the development of actionable strategies to enhance campus safety.

Dr. Plinske announced that Mr. Joe Battista, Vice President, Global, Professional and Continuing Education, will be retiring from Valencia at the end of September 2025. He has accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer at OEP. Dr. Plinske and the Board recognized Mr. Battista for his accomplishments, and for his dedicated service to the College.

Faculty Association Report

Ms. Nissa Hopkins, President, Faculty Association, introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Hopkins praised the *DirectConnect to UCF* partnership, and shared her personal experience while transferring from a community college to a university.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Dana-Lee Reid, SGA Vice President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the SGA's upcoming initiatives, and the Weeks of Welcome goals. Ms. Reid thanked Ms. Roselie Dormestoire, former SGA President, for her contributions and leadership, and welcomed Ms. Annese Williams as SGA President for the 2025-26 academic year.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

1. Reaffirmation of *DirectConnect to UCF* Partnership Commitment and Adoption of Revised Joint Resolution of the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium: Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Plinske stated that the *DirectConnect to UCF* partnership was established in November 2005 as a region-wide, collaborative higher education strategy to expand student access, promote academic success, and address the significant workforce needs and economic growth of Central Florida. Initially formed between UCF and five FCS institutions, including Valencia College, the partnership has since expanded to include seven FCS institutions.

Following a discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve and adopt the revised Joint Resolution of the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium and reaffirm the *DirectConnect to UCF* partnership commitment on behalf of Valencia College, as presented. Trustee Bradley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Following further discussion, Trustee Martinez moved to approve and adopt the Resolution Recognizing the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees, as presented. Trustee Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Davis commended Valencia's team for their good work in this regard.

- 2. Carryforward Spending Plan for 2024-25 Fund Balance:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado reported that, in accordance with Section 1013.841, F.S., colleges with a student FTE enrollment of 15,000 or more must submit a spending plan for the operating fund balance that exceeds seven percent. Valencia College currently has \$48,719,823 in carry-forward funds and proposes the following spending plan to reduce its balance by \$24,705,573, to meet the legal requirement of holding no more than seven percent, or \$24,014,250.

Following a full discussion, Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the carryforward spending plan for the 2024-25 Fund Balance, as presented. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Bradley and seconded by Trustee Kirkegard to consider, accept, and approve items 3, 4, 5, and 6 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:

- 3. Approval of Audit Work Plan – FY 2025-2026**
- 4. Policy Adoptions, Amendments, and Repeal**
- *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3D-12 – Sabbatical Leave for Full time Tenured Faculty*
 - *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 7A-03 – Computer Hardware and Software Standards*
 - *Amend Policy 6Hx28: 7A-04 – Online Privacy Access and Security*
 - *Adopt Policy 6Hx28: 7B-05 – Payment Card Processing Standards*
 - *Adopt Policy 6Hx28: 7B-06 – Identity Theft Prevention Program*
 - *Repeal Policy 6Hx28: 3D-11 – Total Rewards: Education and Professional Development for Staff and Administrators*
 - *Repeal Policy 6Hx28: 7A-05 – User Authentication Requirements*
- 5. Additions, Deletions or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 6. Property Deletion**

Reports

- A. Fall Enrollment Report:** Dr. Frederick presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Frederick stated that 20 days after the semester start, the unduplicated headcount for Fall 2025 is 51,353, representing Valencia's highest-ever Fall enrollment. This marks the first time that Fall headcount enrollment exceeded 50,000 students. The total number of students enrolled at Valencia increased 3.6% from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025, and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment increased 3.9%. Her report included an overview of 10-year enrollment and FTE trend, enrollment by student type, and modality. Dr. Frederick reported that Fall 2025 is the first semester following the establishment of the Jones and Evans High Schools College Access Program. There is a 62% increase in First-Time-In-College (FTIC) students from Evans High School for Fall 2025, and there is a 111% increase in FTIC students from Jones High School.
- B. Financial Report:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the College's current financial positions, and the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- C. Valencia College Foundation Report:** Trustee Martinez, Board Representative to the Valencia College Foundation, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a summary of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 fundraising attainment, philanthropic highlights, scholarship awards, and upcoming events.

Strategic Discussion

Dr. Plinske shared an overview of the College's Strategic Plan Update, which was distributed to the Board. Following her presentation, the Board engaged in a full discussion.

Board Comments

Trustee Martinez thanked the Valencia team for providing Board members with a tour of the College's Dental Hygiene Program.

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Secretary

Chair