THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes
October 29, 2026
Valencia College – 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 (via Zoom)
Trustee Belinda Kirkegard
Trustee Sean Milligan
Trustee Rick Pullum
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 9:37 a.m. A quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes, September 17, 2026, Regular Meeting	Trustee Stockwell moved to approve the meeting minutes of the September 17, 2026, Regular Meeting, as presented. Trustee Kirkegard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
President's Report	Dr. Plinske recognized the five-year anniversary of Osceola Prosper; a scholarship program launched in 2022 with the support of Osceola County to provide high school seniors an opportunity to attend college or technical school at no cost. The most recent graduates of Osceola County high schools represent the fifth class eligible to participate in the program. Dr. Plinske

recognized Osceola County Commissioner Viviana Janer for her longstanding support of Valencia students and the Osceola Prosper program.

Dr. Plinske recognized Representatives Erika Booth, Rita Harris, and RaShon Young for supporting the passage of House Bill 1325, which amended the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund statute to permit funding for renovation projects, including Valencia's planned development of a state-of-the-art nursing clinical simulation space.

Dr. Plinske announced that Orlando Health pledged a $2.5 million corporate gift to the Valencia College Foundation toward the retrofit of the Nursing Simulation Center at the West Campus Health Sciences Building as an investment in Florida's future healthcare workforce. She recognized Rosy Encolada, Senior Director for Academic Partnerships at Orlando Health.

Dr. Plinske announced that AdventHealth made a $4 million corporate gift to the Valencia College Foundation toward the retrofit of the Nursing Simulation Center and student scholarships. She recognized Latonya McCoy, Chief Nursing Officer for AdventHealth in Apopka.

Dr. Plinske further announced that the Valencia College Foundation committed $2.5 million in unrestricted, unendowed funds toward the retrofit of the Nursing Simulation Center. Considering these commitments, the Valencia College Foundation and the College's grants team applied for $9 million in matching funds from the State of Florida through the LINE Fund. If approved, the combined contributions and state matching funds would provide $18 million to support the retrofit of the Nursing Simulation Center and student scholarships.

Dr. Plinske thanked the Valencia College Foundation, Government Affairs, Facilities, Finance, and academic leadership teams for their contributions to these efforts.

Dr. Plinske reported that, on September 29, 2026, Dr. Marva Johnson, President of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), visited Valencia's West Campus to sign an agreement establishing the FAMU Ignite Partnership. The partnership guarantees admission to FAMU for Valencia students who complete an Associate in Arts degree and includes dedicated scholarships, campus visits to Tallahassee, and access to FAMU resources. FAMU administrators, deans, and Student Affairs professionals participated in the event, with Student Affairs representatives providing guidance to nearly 200 students from Colonial, Evans, Jones, Oak Ridge, and Wekiva high schools. FAMU is also committed to providing staff on Valencia campuses to advise students and assist them in preparing for their transition to FAMU.

Dr. Plinske reported on her participation in the annual *Sweet Treats with the*

Prez events held across Valencia campuses. The events provide an informal opportunity to engage with students, faculty, and staff. She thanked the Organizational Development and Human Resources (ODHR) and Student Development teams for their support of the events.

Dr. Plinske reported that, on October 27, 2026, she participated in a Florida Chamber of Commerce panel with Dr. Alexander Cartwright, President of the University of Central Florida. The panel, moderated by Tajiana Ancora-Brown, Director of External Affairs at Walt Disney World, focused on Valencia's and UCF's workforce programs and their efforts to prepare students for academic and employment success in the community.

Faculty Association Report

Dr. Joey Templeton, President, Faculty Association, discussed the new state-mandated ARMOR Act (campus safety and security) training that Valencia faculty are currently completing. Dr. Templeton thanked the ODHR team for their work.

Student Government Association Report

Ms. Annese Williams, SGA President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a recap of the SGA's Fall 2026 E-Board Town Halls, Town Hall Preliminary Feedback, a summary of the FCSSGA Regional and Statewide Leadership, and the Orlando City Hall tour held on Monday, October 26, 2026.

Public Comments

Ms. Cynthia Smith, a Valencia College student, addressed the Board.

New Business

1. **Resolution in Response to the National Call to Action:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. On August 3, 2026, Linda E. McMahon, Secretary of the United States Department of Education, issued *A National Call to Action to University Presidents and Governing Boards*, calling on every postsecondary institution to describe to the American public its commitments to rigorous teaching, pathbreaking research, and national service. This *Call to Action* asks institutional leaders to address specific questions concerning admissions criteria, the free exchange of ideas on campus, intellectual pluralism, faculty hiring and evaluation practices, affordability, and the maintenance of academic standards in the age of artificial intelligence.

   Valencia College desires to respond to the *Call to Action* through a formal resolution to be considered and approved by the District Board of Trustees. The resolution affirms the College's programs, practices, and institutional commitments to its students and the public, consistent with its mission. The resolution, once adopted, will be posted on the College's website, in the spirit of transparency and as suggested by the *Call to Action*.

Trustee Stockwell moved to adopt and approve the Resolution in Response to the National Call to Action, as presented. Trustee Pullum seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Valencia College Foundation Annual Audit Review/Affirmation of Certification of Valencia Foundation:** Dr. Carla McKnight, Vice President, Institutional Advancement, Partnerships and Chief of Staff, and Executive Director of the Valencia College Foundation, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. McKnight reminded the Board that the Valencia College Foundation's mission is to advance and serve the Valencia College community through partnerships and philanthropy. The report included a summary of the Valencia College Foundation Governance, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, fundraising categories, 2025-26 and current fundraising priorities, recent major gifts, the October 3, 2026, Red, Black, and Boundless Gala net proceeds, fundraising performance for First Generation Matching Scholarships, FY2025-26 financial highlights, and expectations of the Valencia College Foundation Direct Support Organization.

   Following a full discussion, Trustee Stockwell 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 to affirm the District Board's certification that the Foundation is operating in a manner consistent with the goals of Valencia College and in the best interest of the state. Vice Chair Davis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

   Dr. McKnight thanked the Valencia College Foundation, and the Marketing and Strategic Communications teams, for their work.

3. **Request for Qualification (RFQ) 2025-11, Architectural Services, Nursing Simulation Lab – Increase in Authorization:** Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. McKelvey stated that on May 22, 2025, the District Board of Trustees approved the evaluation committee's ranking under Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2025-11, Architectural Services, Nursing Simulation Lab, and authorized the commencement of negotiations with the top-ranked firm, HuntonBrady Architects (HuntonBrady), for design services for a new high-fidelity nursing simulation lab in the Health Sciences Building (HSB) at the West Campus. The project was originally envisioned as the renovation of approximately 16,000 square feet to include a ten-bed simulation classroom, a lecture classroom, ICU simulation rooms, control rooms, immersive learning rooms, and administrative spaces. On June 19, 2025, the District Board of Trustees authorized the College to enter into a

mutually agreeable contract with HuntonBrady for architectural services, with design fees not to exceed $940,061.

Given the present availability of additional funding from philanthropic partners and state match, the scope of the project has been enhanced to better support student learning and future program expansion. This expansion has resulted in additional architectural and engineering design requirements and costs beyond those originally contemplated and approved, including the increased square footage of the retrofit and other additional Services. Accordingly, the College requests approval to amend its contract with HuntonBrady to perform the Services, provided that the negotiated fees do not exceed $1,891,589, representing an increase of $951,528 to the previously approved authorization.

Following a discussion, Trustee Pullum moved to authorize an increase of $951,528 to the previously approved agreement with HuntonBrady Architects for architectural services associated with the Nursing Simulation Lab project at the West Campus, for a revised total design fee not to exceed $1,891,589. Trustee Milligan seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Stockwell and seconded by Trustee Kirkegard to consider, accept, and approve items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 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. **Award of RFP 2027-02 Exterior Signage and Wayfinding**
5. **West Campus Health Sciences Building Nursing Simulation Center Amendment to the Educational Plant Survey**
6. **West Campus Building 4 Science Labs Amendment to the Educational Plant Survey**
7. **Lake Nona Campus Building 2 Construction and Building 1 Remodel Amendment to the Educational Plant Survey**
8. **Policy Amendments, and Repeal**
    - ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 2-02 – Workplace Accommodations for Applicants and Employees***
    - ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 2-08 – Accommodation of Religious Observances by Students***
    - ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3C-04.2 – Credit for Prior Experience and Service on the Instructional Salary Schedule***
    - ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3C-08 – Total Rewards: Employee Benefits***
    - ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3C-14 – 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan***

and 403(b) & 457(b) Special Pay Plans

- ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 3F-05.2 – Abandonment of Position or Inability to Return to Work***
- ***Amend Policy 6Hx28: 10-09 – Child Abuse Reporting***
- ***Repeal Policy 6Hx28: 3C-15 – 403(b) Qualified Retirement Plan***

9. 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

Strategic Discussion

Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Her report included a discussion of the College's Career Credentials Goal and Workforce Program Review process, including a focus on wage and placement thresholds of program graduates, key viability metrics included in the Florida Department of Education Career and Technical Education Audit. The Board affirmed $42,000 as the threshold for the average annualized wages of graduates for associate in science degree programs, for which it previously expressed its support during its August 2026 meeting. Dr. Plinske also provided a summary of the numerous conversations held by College officials with local employers and community partners which were convened to understand in more detail the workforce needs of Central Florida.

Following her presentation, the Board engaged in a full discussion.

Board Comments

No Board comments were offered.

Adjourn

Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Secretary

Chair