



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

**Minutes**

**February 24, 2022**

Valencia College – Poinciana Campus

Room 125

and

Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Ms. Beth Smith, Vice Chair

Mr. John Davis

Mr. Angel de la Portilla

Mr. Guillermo Hansen

Mr. John Martinez

Mr. Michael Sasso

Ms. Tracey Stockwell

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

Member Absent

Ms. Daisy Lopez-Cid, Chair

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Smith called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:38 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes  
January 27, 2022  
Regular Meeting**

Mr. Sasso moved to approve the meeting minutes of the January 27, 2022 Regular Meeting, as presented. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**President's Report**

Dr. Plinske introduced Dr. Debra Pace, Superintendent of the School

District of Osceola County. Dr. Plinske recognized Valencia's ongoing partnership programs with the School District of Osceola County and the Education Foundation of Osceola County, which includes the Future Teachers Academy program, the Student Ambassador program, and Got College.

Dr. Pace thanked Valencia for its leadership and commitment in enriching the lives of students and making Central Florida a better community in which to thrive and prosper.

Dr. Plinske recognized Dr. Landon Shephard, Dean of Learning Support, Osceola Campus, and Mr. Nelson Sepulveda Fernandez, Director of Student Development, Osceola Campus, for playing significant roles in launching the Future Teachers Academy and the Ambassadors programs.

Dr. Plinske thanked Ms. Lopez-Cid, Mr. de la Portilla, and Mr. Hansen for joining the College's SGA leaders during their trip to Tallahassee on February 16-17, 2022.

Dr. Plinske stated that the College's search for the position of Vice President, Equity, Strategy, and Partnerships is now in progress.

**Faculty Association Report**

Mr. Michael Robbins, President, Faculty Association, and Dr. Erin O'Brien Grogan, Professor, English, Poinciana Campus, shared their teaching experiences at the Poinciana Campus. Mr. Robbins and Dr. O'Brien Grogan praised the Poinciana Campus faculty and staff for their great engagement and for their remarkable support of students.

**Student Government Association Report**

Ms. Kadejah Lugg and Ms. Adelina Cardona, SGA Student Leaders on the Poinciana Campus, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The SGA team provided an update on the President's Student Advisory Board (PSAB), a review of the SGA leaders' trip to Tallahassee and the SGA partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, and updates on the Black History Month program and the Safe Spring Break event.

The Board thanked the Poinciana Campus SGA team for their great work.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

**New Business**

- 1. Disbursement of Student Financial Aid Grants under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III) Authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP); Spring 2022:** Mr. Loren Bender, Vice President, Business Operations and Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Bender stated that on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law

the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARP). Under ARP and through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III), the United States Department of Education (ED) made available \$39.6 billion to distribute to institutions of higher education to ensure learning continues for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Valencia College will receive a total of \$102,448,723 in ARP/HEERF III funds from ED. Of this amount, at least \$52,935,148 must be used for student aid.

Following a discussion, Mr. Martinez moved to authorize the College to disburse HEERF III student financial aid funds for the Spring 2022 semester, in accordance with the plan as presented, and to further authorize the College to adjust the disbursement plan in a compliant manner as necessary or appropriate, in the event new official guidance is issued with respect to HEERF III disbursements, and/or to maximize the efficient and effective disbursement of these funds to students, in compliance with the applicable requirements. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**2. Purchase of District Office Building from the Valencia College**

**Foundation:** Mr. Bender presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Bender reported that in accordance with legislative authorization as required by Florida law, at its September 23, 2021 meeting the Board approved the College’s recommendation to direct a portion of its fund balance to the acquisition of land and facilities used to house the College’s District Office, currently owned by and leased from the Valencia Foundation.

Specifically, the Valencia College Foundation and Valencia College entered into the lease agreement for the District Office property in 2013; in the agreement, the Foundation granted the College an exclusive option to purchase the property for a purchase price predetermined to be equal to the Foundation’s final cost basis in the Property. In accordance with calculations previously agreed upon by the parties, the Foundation’s cost basis, and thus the established purchase price, is equal to \$6,762,385.00. It is anticipated that upon final Board approval of the expenditure of these funds for this purpose in accordance with the Board’s approved Fund Balance Spending Plan, the closing on the transaction would occur on or before April 1, 2022.

This purchase will allow the College to consolidate this property with adjacent vacant land owned by the College, reduce College annual operating costs, and lower the long-term debt of the College, all while allowing the Valencia College Foundation to convert a real property asset to funds which may be managed within its investment portfolio.

Following a discussion, Ms. Stockwell moved to approve the purchase from the Valencia Foundation of the District Office property located at 1768 Park Center Drive, Orlando, Florida 32835, for \$6,762,385.00, plus the costs of closing. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Sasso, and seconded by Ms. Stockwell, to consider, accept, and approve items 3, 4, and 5 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. CA #2022-20, East Campus Buildings 1 & 2 Roof Replacements**
- 4. CA #2022-19, Air Handler Replacement Osceola & West Campuses**
- 5. Award of ITB #2022-14, Osceola Campus, CIT Building – I.T. Suite Build Out**

A motion was made by Mr. Martinez, and seconded by Mr. Hansen to consider, accept, and approve items 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:

- 6. Express Package and Delivery – United States Parcel Services, Inc. (UPS) Freight Charges**
- 7. Award of RFQ #2022-05, Structural Engineer Consultants, Continuing Services Contract**
- 8. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 9. Submission of Grant Proposals**

## **Reports**

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

- A. Poinciana Report**
- B. Financial Report**
- C. Construction Report**
- D. Valencia Foundation Report**
- E. Internal Controls Review and Audit Plan Update:** Ms. Cynthia Santiago-Guzmán, Director, Compliance and Audit, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Ms. Santiago-Guzmán provided a review of the College's internal controls and an Audit Plan update.

**Strategic Discussion**

**Affordability Report:** Dr. Plinske presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. A full discussion ensued.

**Board Comments**

Dr. Plinske thanked Mr. Davis for facilitating the tour of the Florida Lottery facilities for student leaders during their visit in Tallahassee.

Mr. Davis and Mr. de la Portilla thanked Mr. James Galbraith, Vice President, Public Affairs and Advancement, and his team for coordinating the logistics involved in the SGA trip to Tallahassee.

The Board thanked the Poinciana Campus Learning Support team for providing the student tutoring session experience, which included mock math and writing tutoring and information about the student support services provided in The Plaza at the Poinciana Campus. The Board thanked the Poinciana Campus faculty for embedding learning support services into their curriculum.

**Adjourn**

Vice Chair Smith adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:38 a.m.

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Secretary

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Chair