



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

Minutes

November 2, 2023

Valencia College – Osceola Campus
Building 1, Room 123
and
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Mr. Michael Sasso, Acting Chair
Mr. John Davis (via Zoom)
Mr. Angel de la Portilla
Ms. Daisy Lopez-Cid
Mr. John Martinez
Ms. Tracey Stockwell

Members Absent

Ms. Beth Smith, Chair

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

Call to Order

Acting Chair Sasso called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes
September 14, 2023
Regular Meeting**

Mr. de la Portilla moved to approve the meeting minutes of the September 14, 2023 Regular Meeting, as presented. Ms. Lopez-Cid seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske and the Board paid tribute to former Trustee Guillermo Hansen, who recently passed away, and his family. Dr. Plinske shared that in honor and recognition of Mr. Hansen's outstanding service to the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College, and his commitment to student affordability and access to higher education, Valencia College award him with an Honorary Degree during the College's Commencement Ceremony on December 9, 2023.

Dr. Plinske provided an overview of the College's Reaffirmation of Accreditation efforts and the required Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), in preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation committee team visit to Valencia, Nov 13-16, 2023. Dr. Plinske recognized Mr. Darren Smith, Director, Institutional Effectiveness, and Accreditation Liaison, and his team, for their great work.

Dr. Plinske stated that from appropriations approved during the 2023 legislative session, the College received a significant increase in state funding, thanks to the work of the legislature and the Governor's historic investment in the Florida College System. Also playing a large role was the implementation of a new Florida College System funding formula based on enrollment, completion, and disparities in state funding that have developed over the past two decades. With this fiscal support, Valencia has been able to invest in its academic programs to address enrollment growth to meet the associated increases in student demand, improve technology to promote student success, and expand critical workforce programs.

Faculty Association Report

Dr. Jennifer Lawhon, President, Faculty Association, stated that the College has hired thirty full-time faculty this year. Dr. Lawhon showcased the following Valencia College alumni who have come back to work for the College as faculty and administrators: Dr. Doreen Watson, Professor, Sociology, West Campus; Mr. Rudy Darden, Professor, English, Downtown Campus, and Ms. Jennifer Tomlinson, Dean, Learning Support Services, West Campus.

Dr. Lawhon thanked the Board for its commitment to increasing the College's faculty resources.

Student Government Association Report

Mr. Andres Perez, SGA President, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Perez presented an update on Collegewide SGA activities, which included Spirit Week/Puma Day and the Student Organization Council's initiatives.

The Board thanked the SGA for its thoughtful contributions and leadership.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

- 1. Recommendation to Approve Development of a Collegewide Strategic Facilities Plan:** Mr. Oscar Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado shared that, on March 10, 2023, in accordance with Sec. 287.055, F.S., Valencia College issued Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2023-15 - Campus Master Planning, to find and select a qualified firm to assist the College in the development of a Strategic Facilities Plan Statement of Qualifications were received from twelve (12) firms and opened on April 14, 2023.

A public evaluation meeting was held on April 28, 2023, and three (3) firms were shortlisted. On May 8, 2023, a final evaluation public meeting was held. DLR Group was selected as the top ranked qualified firm. As a result of discussions and negotiations held with the DLR Group, as well as feedback and recommendations discussed at the August 2023 District Board of Trustees meeting, the project scope and cost were established. The College requested approval for and authority to continue to engage DLR Group to implement the project at a cost not to exceed \$648,380.

Following discussion, Mr. Martinez moved to approve the College's Strategic Facilities Plan development project, and authorize the College to engage DLR Group, Inc. for this purpose at a cost not to exceed \$648,380, subject to the negotiation of a mutually agreeable contract, as presented. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 2. Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)/School District of Osceola County (SDOC) Memoranda of Understanding:** Dr. Isis Artze Vega, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Artze Vega stated that Valencia College has established collaborative partnerships with both of its service area school districts, OCPS and SDOC, to increase the college readiness and college transition of high school graduates in Orange and Osceola counties. Historically, these partnerships have supported thousands of students with everything from enrolling in dual enrollment courses to completing the FAFSA and Valencia application, and have provided support to the Valencia Outreach and Recruitment team in facilitating events both in high schools and at Valencia campuses. Sample outcomes include remarkable gains in the college-going rates: from 41.3% (among the lowest in the state) in 2011 to 56% in 2019 in SDOC, as well as a 100% increase (or doubling) of student participation in Valencia dual enrollment over the last decade across both school districts.

In support of these ongoing efforts, Valencia seeks to renew the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for 2023-2024 to continue to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement (Articulation Agreement), as entered into between the College and the school districts. The MOUs contain the following key provisions:

- The school districts employ and assume responsibility for individuals who serve as Valencia Transition Coaches, providing targeted, individualized support to students and families and partnering closely with both high school-based counselors and the Valencia Outreach & Recruitment team. The school districts also provide Valencia with program support, student data, reports, and other information related to program operations on a regular basis.
- Valencia provides collaboration and training opportunities to the Coaches, offers college transition programming at each high school, supplies data and reports, and provides funding in support of the personnel and programs (OCPS - \$392,334; SDOC - \$355,723).

Following discussion, Mr. de la Portilla moved to approve that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College authorize the College to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with each of the school districts in the College's two county district service area, OCPS and SDOC, in support of College access goals and to improve high school graduation, college readiness, and successful college enrollment for students, and further authorizes the expenditure of up to \$748,057 in support of the College Transition personnel and programs at the high schools, as presented. Ms. Lopez-Cid seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 3. Purchase Authorization, Orlando Freightliner, Inc.:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Mr. Cristancho Mercado stated that on October 12, 2023, Florida Commerce (formerly Department of Economic Opportunity) approved funding for the purchase of six (6) Freightliner trucks by Valencia College for the use in its Commercial Driving License (CDL) training program, through the Florida Job Growth Workforce Training Grant. The grant funds the purchase of six (6) Freightliner trucks that will expedite the provision of training and support the expansion of the CDL Training Program.

Valencia College, in accordance with the instructional equipment exemption provided by Rule 6A-14.0734 (2)(a), F.A.C., sourced the used freightliner market and negotiated the best value for the College. Orlando

Freightliner, Inc, located in Orlando Florida provided the best overall value and price. The total purchase price for all six (6) Freightliners is \$475,206.

Following discussion, Mr. de la Portilla moved to authorize the College to purchase the six Freightliner trucks, at a total of \$475,206, from Orlando Freightliners, Inc., as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Stockwell and seconded by Ms. Lopez-Cid to consider, accept, and approve items 4, 5, 6, and 7 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 RFQ 2024-06, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, & Technology Engineering Design Services, Continuing Services Agreement**
- 5. Approval of 2024-2025 Academic Calendar**
- 6. Additions, Deletions, or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 7. Property Deletion**

Reports

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

- A. Financial Report**
- B. Valencia Foundation Report**
- C. Legislative Implementation Report**

Strategic Discussion

Dr. Brandon McKelvey, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services, and Dr. Lesley Frederick, Vice President, Student Affairs, presented an update on the College's Student Services Business Process Redesign. The written report was distributed to the Board. The presentation included a review of the CampusWorks/Valencia College partnership history, and the College's intense focus on the core foundational work related to Admissions, Residency, Advising, and Financial Aid.

Board Comments

Mr. de la Portilla thanked Mr. Joe Battista, Vice President for Workforce, Career and Professional Education, and his team, for providing Board members with a hands-on experience at the robotics/semiconductor lab.

The Board thanked Valencia's leadership, faculty, and staff for their work.

Adjourn

Acting Chair Sasso adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Secretary

Chair