



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

Minutes

March 14, 2024

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

Members Present

Ms. Beth Smith, Chair
Mr. Angel de la Portilla
Mr. John Davis
Ms. Daisy Lopez-Cid
Mr. John Martinez
Ms. Tracey Stockwell

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Sasso, Vice Chair

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

Call to Order

Chair Smith called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes
February 1, 2024
Regular Meeting**

Ms. Lopez-Cid moved to approve the meeting minutes of the February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske welcomed Mr. John Newstreet, President and CEO of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Plinske stated that the Chamber, founded in 1924, today represents approximately 900 small, medium, and large companies, organizations, and local governments.

Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia is proud of the long partnership shared with the Chamber over the years. Valencia has long been represented on the Chamber's Board of Directors, on which Dr. Plinske served as Provost for Osceola and Poinciana campuses. Dr. Lancelot Gooden, Provost, Osceola and Poinciana Campuses, currently represents Valencia as a member of the Chamber Board.

Dr. Plinske shared that Valencia staff have served on the Chamber's Area Councils throughout Osceola County, and the College and the Chamber have worked together on grants, resulting in Valencia students becoming recipients of scholarships awarded by the Chamber. This work will continue to flourish under Mr. Newstreet's leadership.

Dr. Plinske welcomed Mr. Julio Sánchez, Osceola Prosper student. Mr. Sánchez shared his enthusiasm and gratitude to Valencia and the Osceola Prosper program.

Dr. Plinske reported that she attended the inaugural graduation for the Precision Optics, Photonics and Fiber Optics Technician program at the Osceola Campus, held February 22, 2024. Dr. Plinske shared that this 15-week training program was designed in partnership with Lockheed Martin, to meet the manufacturing sector's growing need for precision optics and photonics technicians in Central Florida. Dr. Plinske indicated that, while Lockheed Martin made the initial request for the training program, Valencia learned that many employers in Central Florida have similar needs for this skilled workforce.

Dr. Plinske shared that Lockheed Martin has been one of Valencia's strongest supporters since the College's inception and continues to support many of the degree programs and short-term training programs offered by the College, demonstrating the value of community partnerships. Dr. Plinske stated that this program was also made possible by a \$1.5million grant from AmeriCOM, the Defense Precision Optics Workforce Development and Technology Ecosystem Project, funded by the Office of Industrial Policy of the Department of Defense (DoD).

Dr. Plinske recognized Mr. Joe Battista, Vice President, Workforce, Career and Professional Education, Ms. Carolyn McMorrان, Assistant Vice President, Professional and Continuing Education, and their team, for their successful efforts.

Dr. Plinske provided an update related to legislative changes in State requirements for the College's general education offerings, which was distributed to the Board.

Dr. Plinske noted that the 2024 Legislative Session Report was distributed to the Board. The Report included the session highlights, a high level summary of the 2024-2025 appropriations bill (pending approval by Governor), and a summary of substantive bills relevant to the College that passed.

Mr. Davis thanked Dr. William Mallowney, Vice President for Policy and General Counsel, and Dr. Plinske, for their work.

Faculty Association Report

Dr. Jennifer Lawhon, President, Faculty Association, provided a summary of Valencia's Learning Day, a college-wide event designed to provide employees with the opportunity to learn, celebrate, and inspire one another. The report was distributed to the Board.

Dr. Plinske thanked Ms. Carla McKnight, Vice President, Organizational Development and Human Resources, and her team, for their good work.

Student Government Association Report

Mr. Andres Perez, Collegewide SGA President, Mr. Fritzon Louis, SGA Vice President, and Ms. Lourdes Lopez, SGA Executive Secretary, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included a discussion of the SGA trip to Tallahassee, a summary of the SGA General Assembly Feedback Session, and information related to the SGA annual elections dates.

The Board thanked the SGA leaders for their thoughtful contributions and leadership.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

- 1. Award of ITB #2024-21, Construction of Optics Lab at Osceola Campus:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado stated that, on February 13, 2024, the College issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) #2024-21, Construction of Optics Lab at Osceola Campus, to the annually prequalified pool of General Contractors. The project will provide for the renovation of two rooms on the first floor of the current CIT Building at Osceola Campus to accommodate the Optics Lab. Funding for this project is sourced from Valencia's grant award received through the Florida Department of Education's Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive (CAP) Grant Program. Following discussion, Mr. Martinez moved to authorize the College to award ITB #2024-21, Construction of Optics at Osceola Campus, to The Robins & Morton Group, as presented. Should the College not be able to negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with The Robins & Morton Group, negotiations to cease, and negotiations will commence with the second-

ranked bidder and so on until a fair, competitive, and reasonable agreement is reached. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 2. Award of ITB #2024-16, Building 10 Office Renovations, West Campus:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado stated that, on January 2, 2024, the College issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) 2024-16, Building 10 Office Renovations, at the West Campus. This project consists of interior renovations of approximately 11,600 square feet, to relocate certain functions previously housed at the former College's District Office building to the first and second floors of Building 10 at West Campus. Following discussion, Ms. Lopez-Cid moved to authorize the College to award ITB #2024-16, Building 10 Office Renovations, at the West Campus, to Skanska USA Building Inc., as presented. Should the College not be able to negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with Skanska USA Building Inc., negotiations will cease, and negotiations will commence with the second-ranked bidder and so on until a fair, competitive, and reasonable agreement is reached. Mr. de la Portilla seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 3. Award of ITB #2024-02, Road Safety Improvements and Pavement:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado stated that, as part of Florida's 2022 General Appropriations Act, Valencia College was awarded \$17,571,279 in federal SFRF funds to address deferred building maintenance challenges. Using a portion of this funding, the College intends to conduct Road Safety Improvement and Pavement Rehabilitation of the West Campus' perimeter roadway. Following discussion, Mr. de la Portilla moved to authorize the College to award ITB #2024-02, Road Safety Improvement and Pavement Rehabilitation at the West Campus, to Hubbard Construction Company, as presented. Should the College not be able to negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with Hubbard Construction Company, negotiations will cease, and negotiations will commence with the second-ranked bidder and so on until a fair, competitive, and reasonable agreement is reached. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 4. Award of ITB #2024-14, Air Handler Unit (AHU) Replacement, East Campus:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado stated that, as part of Florida's 2022 General Appropriations Act, Valencia College was awarded \$17,571,279 in federal SFRF funds to address deferred building maintenance challenges. Using a portion of this funding, the College intends to replace twenty-two (22) Air Handler Units (AHU) at the East Campus. The project provides a turnkey solution which includes, but is not limited to, demolition and removal of existing air handlers and installation of new units. Following discussion, Mr. Davis moved to authorize the College to award ITB 2024-14, Air Handler Unit Replacement at East Campus, to

Bernhard MCC, LLC, as presented. Should the College not be able to negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with Bernhard MCC, LLC, negotiations will cease, and negotiations will commence with the second-ranked bidder and so on until a fair, competitive, and reasonable agreement is reached. 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 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:

- 5. Additions, Deletions or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 6. Property Deletion**

Reports

Chair Smith 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. Plinske presented an update on the College's 2030 Strategic Impact Plan with respect to College Access. The written report was distributed to the Board. The presentation included a review of the 2030 Strategic Impact Plan Goal areas, college access goal, a baseline visualization, leading indicators, progress through 2021, and a summary related to the Osceola Prosper impact. The Board engaged in a full discussion. Future strategic discussions in which the Board would like to engage were also identified.

Board Comments

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

Adjourn

Chair Smith adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Secretary

Chair