

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 8, 2016

Call to Order A special meeting of the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board Vice President John Leal at 12:00 noon on March 8, 2016, in the District Office Board Room, 1525 E. Weldon Avenue, Fresno, California.

Trustees Present Richard Caglia, President (12:35 p.m.)
John Leal, Vice President
Robert “Bobby” Kahn Jr, Secretary
Miguel Arias
Ronald Nishinaka
Patrick Patterson
Eric Payne
Cody Sedano

Also present were:
Diane Clerou, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources
Gregory Taylor, General Counsel, SCCC
Lucy Ruiz, Interim Executive Director, Public and Legislative Relations, SCCC
Barbara Martin, Interim Executive Secretary to the Chancellor, SCCC

Public Comment Susan Johnson, FCC Classified Employee, spoke in support of Dr. Azari for President of Fresno City College. She is very concerned about the process and asks the Board to come up with a process that makes things work together in the spirit of congeniality.

Christy Okeke, an FCC student spoke. She expressed her opinion that she was treated poorly by Dr. Azari and that is not right. She was not allowed to continue in the nursing program. All she wants is finish her education and justice.

Susi Nitzel, FCC Classified Senate, spoke. She wanted to make a public statement of support for Dr. Azari in regard to the president’s position at FCC and is honored to have her as president again.

Harry Zahlis, FCC employee spoke on his own behalf. He is in support of Dr. Azari for FCC President. He said her passion for FCC is unwavering and she is compassionate to everyone.

Dr. Gerri Santos, FCC, spoke. She said she is not interested in if

Public Comment
(continued)

someone likes or dislikes each other. She wants African American students to be served and that has not been happening. She said her voice will not go away as long as African American students are not being served.

Deborah Lewis, FCC, spoke in support of Dr. Azari as FCC president.

Karla Kirk, FCC Faculty. She stated she is here as an individual. She is not affiliated with AAFSA and they have not spoken for her. She is in support of Dr. Azari as FCC President. She said comments she heard at the open forum was not what she gets from her students.

Rochelle Franklin, FCC student. She spoke saying that she felt as a student her voice didn't matter, only faculty matters. She does not feel her particular situation was handled well and does not support Dr. Azari as president of FCC.

Miesha Young spoke saying she is here to support a student (Rochelle Franklin). She said Dr. Azari's secretary is rude, unprofessional and hung up on her. She was thinking of coming back to school, but now does not want to be a part of FCC.

Cody Sedano, representing himself, not ASG. He said that personally his relationship with Dr. Azari has been a beneficial one. Every time he has had a grievance on behalf of students he has taken it to Dr. Azari and she has addressed it accordingly. As student trustee he has taken it upon himself to investigate when certain incidents happened on campus to see what's really going on. What he found was displeasing to him. What he found was that a student thinks she is being wronged on this campus. What he can say is that certain things on the campus are being manipulated and the student is being scripted on what to say to the Board by a certain faculty member. He can say this because he has had a grievance and taken it to the same faculty member. He was told to mind his p's and q's and take it with a grain of salt, what was said. A retired professor made a comment that offended him as a veteran. He took this up with Dr. Bolen, who was one of his favorite teachers and had gotten him involved in student government. He was told that it wasn't a problem, I should take it with a grain of salt. What he took this as is an employee pushing their own agenda. And it hurts him to say this, this is what he found in his research. He thinks Dr. Azari would be the best thing for this campus because she has worked so hard for this campus.

Closed Session

President Nishinaka stated that in closed session the Board will discuss the following:

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/EMPLOYMENT,
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

1. Interview Finalists – Fresno City College President

The Board moved into closed session at 12:28 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board moved into open session at 4:34 p.m.

President Caglia stated the Board did not take any reportable action during closed session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Bobby Kahn /s/

Robert “Bobby” Kahn Jr.
Secretary, Board of Trustees
State Center Community College District

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