

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF  
STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
November 13, 2015

- Call to Order                   A special meeting of the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Ron Nishinaka at 11:08 a.m. on November 13, 2015, in the District Office Board Room, 1525 E. Weldon Avenue, Fresno, California.
- Trustees Present               Ron Nishinaka, President  
Richard Caglia, Vice President (arrived at beginning of closed session)  
John Leal, Secretary  
Robert “Bobby” Kahn Jr.  
Pat Patterson  
Eric Payne (arrived at beginning of closed session)  
Miguel Arias (arrived at beginning of closed session)
- Also present were:  
Bill F. Stewart, Interim Chancellor, SCCC  
Diane Clerou, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources  
Barbara Hioco, Interim Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Institutional Effectiveness  
Cynthia Azari, Interim President, Fresno City College  
Sandra Caldwell, President, Reedley College  
Deborah Ikeda, Campus President, Clovis Community College Center  
Christine Miktarian, Associate Vice Chancellor of Business and Operations, SCCC  
Pedro Avila, Assistant to the Chancellor, Enrollment Management, Admissions, Records, and Information Services  
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               None
- 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 – Chancellor
- President Nishinaka called a recess at 11:15 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board moved into open session at 6:00 p.m.

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

Public Comment

Stephanie Curry, Reedley College Academic Senate President, spoke in favor of the facilities bond and informational campaign.

Elizabeth Romero, Clovis Community College Academic President, stated that the CCC Facilities Committee has identified needs and supports the informational and bond campaigns.

Stephanie Babb, Clovis Community College Director of Marketing, addressed the group on behalf of Pat Ricchiuti who could not be present. Mr. Ricchiuti is president of PR Farms and wants the Board to know he is in support of the informational campaign.

Seth Yates, Fresno City College Chemistry Department, spoke in favor of the informational and bond campaigns. He presented information to the Board regarding facilities and maintenance needs of the FCC Science Building. The Board asked for a tour of the building and it was agreed that could be set up next week.

Rodney Olsen, graduate of Fresno City College and current biology instructor at FCC, spoke regarding the facility and maintenance needs of the FCC Science Building. He spoke in favor of the informational and bond campaigns and offered tours as well.

Brad Ditton, citizen of the Oakhurst area, spoke in support of the informational and bond campaigns.

Bob Mitchell, Golden Westside Planning Committee, addressed the Board expressing the importance of the bond issue and said he hoped the Board would look at it in the broader sense including the needs of West Fresno.

Debbie Darden, Golden Westside Planning Committee, spoke in support of the bond and the need to do what's right for West Fresno. She asked the Board to reconsider the numbers and amounts allocated to West Fresno.

Michaelyn Lewis, concerned citizen, advised the Board that she is in

support of facilities for Southwest Fresno and asked that they allocate appropriate funds. Ten million dollars is not enough.

Consideration to  
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Informational  
Campaign Regarding  
District Facilities  
Needs

The following is transcribed from the audio recording of the meeting.  
**President Nishinaka** – Moving on to our next item, Consideration to Proceed with Informational Campaign Regarding District Facilities Needs. The Board was going to have some discussion tonight in terms of whether we will proceed.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – If you have any questions I can answer them. We are prepared to go and if the Board says go, we will kick it off.

**Trustee Caglia** - I thought we already agreed on this.

**Trustee Kahn** – Mr. Chairman, if I could make a suggestion that maybe you could give each trustee like three minutes to state where they are on the bond, we could speed the meeting along that way. I know it's getting late for the audience and we still have a closed session to take care of as well.

**President Nishinaka** – Would that be agreeable with the Board?  
All agreed.

**President Nishinaka** – Let me start on my left with Trustee Arias.

**Trustee Arias** – Thank you Board Chair. I am supportive of the bond and proceeding with the informational campaign as long as we're crystal clear that the determination on the allocation of funds is not being approved at this time. And that we have heard the requests from various communities to make significant investments and I feel, as a trustee, that it is my role to insure that those investments are equitable and appropriate. And that when it comes to prioritization of projects we prioritize projects that are a safety concern first, before we begin to fund projects that are, in my view, are amenities that we would all like to have in any part of our respective districts. So, again to be clear, I am in favor of moving forward with the information campaign as long as we're clear that at this time we aren't allocating specific resources or approving specific priority projects from any area. That decision I think needs to take place in coming months as the Interim Chancellor begins his work on addressing, accessing all the options before us.

**President Nishinaka** – Trustee Kahn

**Trustee Kahn** – I'd just like to say that I am all in on the bond. I think we owe it to the students, we owe it to the communities that we serve. I think it's important that we keep the big picture in mind that we need the money to build these facilities. If we don't pass a bond I think we are going to be challenged even to make these safety improvements, let alone take care of parking and take care of, I mean if we don't pass the bond there is going to be no center in the

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southwest, there's going to be no improvements in Oakhurst, there's going to be no parking structure, so I think that the biggest focus is that we pass the bond. The bond language will allow us to have a little leeway in the allocation of the funds. So I think that our main focus is to keep our eye on the ball and that we pass the bond so that all areas of our district benefit.

**President Nishinaka** – Trustee Payne

**Trustee Payne** – I just think that you know we heard from you know our academic senates and they spoke passionately about the need for these resources. And we've heard from our faculty members that are in the classroom and our students, most importantly, who have expressed extreme support for this. That really this is going to be a transformational time for our district as we look to the future with these resources. And I think that there is opportunity here but I also think we need to take into consideration some of what we've heard here this evening. And some of those concerns, and I'm hoping that as we begin to move forward in this process we'll begin to have further conversations around what those needs are. Because, you know, we heard from Mrs. Darden, we heard from Mr. Mitchell and we heard from Mr. Ditton around that there is an extreme need in some of our underserved communities. I hope that this administration will do what it can and will do all that it can to help meet those needs. And if at any point in time I feel that the communities' needs are not being met in this process I'm going to speak boldly in terms of what we could be doing more of. But, I stand firmly in supporting the informational campaign as we move forward.

**President Nishinaka** – Thank you.

**Trustee Caglia** – I'm ready to go.

**President Nishinaka** – Trustee John Leal.

**Trustee Leal** – Well, I too am in support of moving forward with the bond. I think we're ready to go, I think time is of the essence. I personally have heard from all the constituent groups in all the areas and I can name them, Clovis Community College the obvious needs here at Fresno City College, my alma mater Reedley College also has academic needs to fill etc, etc. And let's not forget west Fresno and that promise and I'd also like to include the promise that was made at the last bond, refresh your memory folks, 2002 a previous or a different board approved that bond with the idea of trying to build a new career technology center where two of my sons have benefited from attending. And I will tell you that we have a tremendous need to upgrade, to modernize and to expand, so that's what we have to do. We have to be futuristic, we have to look not two years down the road but rather 15 to 20 years into the future to meet the needs as

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Mr. Ditton pointed out for his community. So we need to look at all the local communities, in order for this to pass, in order to meet the needs of all of our communities that we care about. As board members we don't just care about our area, let's make that clear. We need to work together, every staff member, every board member, every leader of this district needs to be behind this bond and to reach out to the community and sell this bond by saying to them, this is our promise that we will keep because we are going to have enough money to meet all of the needs. I know that sounds Pollyanna, but I really believe it's possible and the time is now. We must not lose this opportunity to move forward. Thank you.

**President Nishinaka** – Trustee Patterson

**Trustee Patterson** – I'll just say that I think a bond is necessary for this district to proceed and for future growth, especially cognizant of the fact that we don't have a guarantee that we're going to get any state funding to fund our facilities in the future. Whether that will dry up completely or what I don't know. But I think we ought to plan on that. I will express my concerns here. I just heard some enlightening things about the CTE at Clovis and I wasn't aware of in that I didn't know welding was going in there. I don't know that it's structured for that at this point. And if we're putting welding classes and similar classes in Clovis what about the southeast site that was supposed to be the, we were planning on the most advanced vo tech and bring everything from Annadale and put it over there and, so if we're going off on different tangents I don't know but as a board member I think this is incumbent on us, as board members to really have this talked about and decided upon where we're going. But also you know west Fresno has come up. I think that Gaston Middle School is one of the greatest things that's ever happened to the southwest area of our town. I've seen, I've been there firsthand and I'm sure students and the families and the neighbors, the participation it changed it completely and I think that's great. I don't know if we're prepared to go in there and put in a community college center. You know that's an expensive proposition. I haven't heard what the state is willing to pay us. They pay us for center status, they pay us for college status, one million or three million a year to help fund that. But I haven't heard any of the facts that deal with that. Plus you know we talk about the capacity at Fresno City College. It's been a while since I've seen anything on that. What is our capacity and where are we at percentage wise? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think Merle Cannon is going to come in and do some.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – Yes, he's working with us.

**Trustee Patterson** – Now if, I would have the upmost confidence that

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if Merle Cannon came in and gave us a good study on facility needs and the prospects of that we would get a great job. He's the one that came in for Madera, wasn't he Bill?

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – Yes, he's done a tremendous amount of work for us in doing these kinds of things.

**Trustee Patterson** – Brian, is that right? Didn't he do also Clovis?

**Brian Speece** – Yes.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – He's doing some work with us in Sacramento.

**Trustee Patterson** – And you see those were great facilities, the planning in it was great, but we knew where we were going well in advance before we did it. That's where I have my problem. I think we need to get together, we need to study it more. Of course you can study and study, that's not what I'm saying. You know me, I'd rather do something wrong than do nothing at all. But the thing is I think we ought to know. The other thing is that I don't have any problem with the prospects of doing a bond for that which we have already planned. We've already gone through the planning process. The southeast site had a lot of planning. It appears that over the years that some of what I remember as being the planned outcome for that, the VTC, has changed a bit. But I hope that will come back to where it is. But that was at the southeast site. Let's do something with that and let's get going on that. But I haven't seen what is really going to happen there. You know, there has been discussion about the police academy and locations, that's where it's supposed to go, that's where the building footprint has been. You know, what's it going to take to get it going? We're waiting on the state bond. I don't know, has the state bond been approved, and it's going on the ballot for sure? I don't know yet.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – It's going on the ballot in November.

**Trustee Patterson** – This year or next?

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – Next fall. It'll be the same time as we go and hopefully it will pass. Again, there's only two million dollars in there for the entire state, so it isn't going to buy an awful lot, it'll buy some. We are putting together by the way a plan for the southeast side center that will have the educational plan that's there. It will tie in with what we're going to do with the southwest side, I'm sorry, the southwest side, it will tie in with the other. We will have a plan together on that. We've been working on that and we'll be bringing that forward over a period of time. We will do that. We have a good bit of information we'll be sharing with you as we go along. As we develop more, Brian and I are continuing to work on a regular basis. As it comes in we'll be sharing it with you. I think it will be sound planning. Merle Cannon is helping us. We have another firm that is

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helping us do some studying. So we are moving forward, I'm confident we can get it done. I'm very pleased to hear that you, I won't take up more than my three minutes I want you to know that, but I'm confident, I'm very pleased and I really appreciate hearing from all these people that have spent since the year 2010 doing this planning. As far as welding at Clovis, one of the things I will say to you is that we've been in a program where we've been identifying the pathways, working hard in the entire district, the pathways, we're well down the road. We're going to have a major planning effort to which all of you will be invited. That will come about between the end of January and the first of February. In it we will be talking about what the greatest needs are in the technical areas in the district. That may mean that welding will not go to Clovis, but there will be other programs that will be at Clovis that will be highly technical in nature. And so we will take a look at it and go from there. So don't hang your hat on welding at Clovis. But there will be a major, major center there for vocational technical which they do not have the facilities now. Is my three minutes up?

**Trustee Arias** – Chancellor, I want to add one thing, that I appreciate the comments by our staff that are here today. I know we have thousands of employees. (Addressing the audience - If you'd like I can do an interview with you afterwards, you don't have to bother recording me. Thank you.) We have thousands of employees, we have more than 40 thousand students, we also have more than a million residents in our jurisdiction. And in my view what you're hearing from some of the board members is we understand the needs that we have in the district, but we also understand our responsibility to be able to communicate the right expectations to our more than million residents in our jurisdiction and we have to be thoughtful that we don't promise anything we can't fulfill and that we fulfill the promises that we made in the past. And that we do it in a way that is equitable is thoughtful and is fiscally prudent. So, that's our fiduciary duty on this board and we have that responsibility and I personally take that very seriously. So I appreciate the input that staff has given today and our students are first and foremost, but we also have to look at the bigger picture. Because ultimately none of us want to build buildings we can't maintain, that we can't operate or are in the wrong place or are designed in an incorrect way.

**Trustee Patterson**- I'd like to add one more comment in that too often our planning is done maybe five years ahead, that we build a building and when it comes time to occupy it, it needs to change. I was listening to the biology, chemistry labs, you know I heard about the different machines. I didn't hear about a Raman Spectroscopy,

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you know. That's where science is changing. What about Raman Spectroscopy? You know that's where we should be going. That's where I think we should be looking to the future and start to fund those new sciences, new technologies regardless of what arena. Let's not build a welder that's going to be the old arc welder that I go sometimes in my back shop. Well, not arc welding, but even acetylene, you know, we need to really be looking to the future and I think we ought to do everything we can when we go to the bond. Let's not be looking at building something that's going to be in use five years from now that we're using now, let's go beyond that.

**President Nishinaka** – I'm sure we'll do that. With input from industry and faculty and program reviews and all the others. I know we had the charrette a few years ago. I know it will all come together. I guess for the record I should say that I totally support the bond and have supported it since the first discussion. I have been out talking to a number of our local school districts and we have received several letters of support from the school districts and from some of the local businesses. And we're looking forward to, I'm looking forward to moving forward with the bond and want to make sure that all of the areas, all the areas of all the campuses are included in moving forward as a district and not just a college. We've had that dialogue and good to hear that all of the board members are in favor of moving forward with that kind of campaign and its time that we move forward. Make it happen.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – I think it would be meaningful for us to go ahead though and make a motion and second it and to...

**Trustee Arias** – A motion to support the informational campaign.

**Trustee Leal** – I second it.

**Trustee Patterson** - May be better to define what an informational campaign really means.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – Well, would you like me to talk about that?

**Trustee Patterson** – I would like to because I don't want it to be construed at some future date that we're voting on, approving, going out for a bond of a certain number.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – No, that's not what we're going to do. The informational campaign will be based on the facilities we have. What we're going to do is that we're putting together a campaign where we will be, we're doing it by colleges, we have it divided up, we'll be in every service club, every PTA, we'll have it and we'll show it to you when we get it done. We're working on it right now. We will have a presentation that will be probably about 25 minutes in length. We'll try to get to every quilting circle, every PTA, every other group, any groups that any of you belong to we certainly want to go, we want to



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talk to them. We are going to train all of our people that will be going out and will be speaking. We're going to be putting together about three pieces of information that will go to opinion leaders that we'll mail. And we're putting that together at this time. We will be running voter drives on each of our campuses before the spring primary and also into the fall. We are going to have a community group in which we're asking each of you, you recall, we sent it to you to serve. You're on the Clovis one in case you forgot, I'm sure you're working hard at getting that done. At any rate we're going to put those together. The community themselves, the colleges are putting together their own utilizing their student body. And by the way, it's wonderful for these people to step up and want to help. We're a year out and yet these people are saying let's go, let's get it done. That is a wonderful kind of thing that we're doing, so we have a comprehensive program, and by the way, we're almost all volunteers. We're all taking this on as an additional duty, we're not hiring a bunch of other people. We're doing it ourselves, people are stepping up and we'll be out there and I hope that you'll see us on the road and I hope that you will also do your share as a member of the community and each of those on those committees. They will be operational at the first of the year, all our committees, and we will be moving forward. So, that is the thing, that we're going to take the message to the people.

**Trustee Kahn** – Call for the question.

**President Nishinaka** – Call for the question, all in favor say aye.

**Trustee Payne** – Roll call vote?

Roll Call Vote was taken as follows:

**Barbara Martin**- Trustee Arias?

**Trustee Arias** –Aye

**Barbara Martin** – Trustee Caglia?

**Trustee Caglia** – Yes

**Barbara Martin**- Trustee Kahn?

**Trustee Kahn** – Yes

**Barbara Martin** – Trustee Leal?

**Trustee Leal** – Yes

**Barbara Martin** – Trustee Nishinaka?

**President Nishinaka** – Yes

**Barbara Martin** – Trustee Patterson?

**Trustee Patterson** – Yes

**Barbara Martin** – Trustee Payne?

**Trustee Payne** – With the understanding that it's going to be an

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equitable process and we're going to engage our stakeholders in an authentic way. Yes.

**Barbara Martin** – 7 to 0

**Trustee Arias** – Board Chair I would like to request that this discussion be recorded in the official minutes that come before the board for approval. And that it be actually be a standard recording of the action. I think everybody here who spoke here today and our comments need to be recorded for the official minutes that are very specific.

**Dr. Bill Stewart** – We will do so.

**Trustee Arias** – Thank you.

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. Chancellor

President Nishinaka called a recess at 6:53 p.m.

Open Session

The Board moved into open session at 9:05 p.m.

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. by unanimous consent.

*John Leal /s/*

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John Leal  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
State Center Community College District

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