

COLLEGE OF
MARIN

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting
June 8, 2010
Minutes**

A. Special Meeting

1. Call to Order Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Marin Community College District was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board President Long in the Deedy Staff Lounge in the Student Services Building on the Kentfield campus. All publicly elected Trustees were present except Trustees Dolan and Treanor, who arrived at 6:44 p.m., and Student Trustee Parker, who arrived at 7:05 p.m. Trustee Namnath participated by telephone from Davis, California.

M/s (Hayashino/Conti) to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

2. Citizens' Requests to Address the Board on Non-Agenda Items

None

3. Chief Executive Officer's Report

a) Staff Reports

1. WASC Update

President White distributed copies of our Institutional Self-Study Report and asked Board members to review the document and send questions and comments to her in writing by June 15, 2010.

4. Update on COM Superintendent/President Search

Board President Long asked the Trustees to reserve the following dates on their calendars for final Superintendent/President interviews: August 30 – September 2 from 4:00 on and all day on September 3. She reported that consultant Stan Arterberry has informed her that we have received 65 applications for the position, 3 of which are incomplete.

5. Board Study Session

a) Budget Workshop

Al Harrison, Vice President of College Operations, gave a presentation on the current state of the budget, outlook for the future, possible short and long-term solutions for eliminating our budget deficit, and issues that need to be addressed (copy attached).

Issues facing the district include the following:

- Negative CPI inflation adjustment for secured property
- Smaller increase in supplemental property tax revenue
- Additional reductions in categorical funds from the state
- Major increases in employee benefits, including STRS & PERS rates
- 2009/10 deficit which impacts ending fund balance
- Eliminating 2010/11 budget deficit
- Implications of continuing need to eliminate budget deficits
- Evaluating short-term and long-term solutions to eliminate budget deficits

He pointed out that property taxes, our main source of revenue, have declined for three years and that we need reserve levels that can withstand economic downturns.

Possible long-term solutions for eliminating a deficit include prioritizing resource allocations, benchmarking against other districts and “rightsizing” our district, and controlling benefit costs. He noted that tough decisions will have to be made. He suggested looking at offering two-year evening programs or a weekend college as possible ways to increase enrollment. Dr. White commented that the district needs to become serious about income generation that will buffer our declining tax revenues.

Requests for information:

- Trustee Kranenburg asked for information on the success of our various academic programs.
- Trustee Hayashino requested information on vacant positions and their corresponding dollar amounts.
- Trustee Conti asked for feedback from our categorical managers on the impact of the cutbacks on their programs.
- Trustee Namnath asked how much money we could save by cutting out summer school or even “mothballing” the school during the summer.

Vice President Harrison responded that staff will research and provide this information.

Some possible courses of action that Trustees requested consideration of included:

- Finding out the criteria for competitive federal grant money and determining if we can qualify and deliver
- Considering the hiring of a grant writer
- Considering the unique needs of our Marin County student population
- Coordinating summer school offerings with other community college districts
- Working on partnerships

- Contacting our legislators to generate support for our special programs
- Working on endowments
- Considering going out for a parcel tax

Several Trustees commented on the need to focus on our college mission and make our students the priority, keep budget cuts as far away from the classroom as possible, maintain a prudent reserve level, find additional sources of revenue, and be innovative and creative.

Student Trustee Parker left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Dr. White distributed information on Student Characteristics Spring 2010 prepared by Dr. Chialin Hsieh, Director of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness (copy attached). Dr. Hsieh will be invited to the June 22 Board meeting to answer questions on these reports.

b) Review Board Priorities 2009/2010

Dr. White called the Board's attention to the 2009/2010 Board Priorities in their Board packets.

c) Timeline for Board Priorities 2010/2011

This will be addressed at a future Board meeting.

6. Recess to Closed Session

M/s (Treanor/Conti) to recess the meeting in recognition of Dr. White's service and in memory of Pauline Bregante, former longtime COM employee. The motion passed unanimously (7-0) and Board President Long recessed the meeting to closed session at 9:25 p.m.

B. Closed Session

Board President Long reconvened the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Marin Community College District in closed session at 9:30 p.m. in the Deedy Staff Lounge, Kentfield campus. All publicly elected Trustees were present except Trustee Namnath who participated by telephone from Davis, California.

There was no one present who wished to address the Board on the items listed to be discussed in closed session, and the Board went into closed session.

Trustee Dolan left the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

The closed session recessed at 10:50 p.m.

C. Reconvene to Open Session

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board President Long reconvened the meeting into open session at 10:51 p.m. All Trustees were present except Trustee Dolan and Trustee Namnath, who participated by telephone from Davis, California.

2. Report of Closed Session

Board Clerk Conti reported the following action taken in closed session: M/s (Hayashino/Conti) to approve a contract with the Interim Superintendent/President. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1 with Trustee Dolan abstaining.

3. Adjournment

Board President Long adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m.