

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025
Sierra Vista Campus
Governing Board Room – 301
6:00 p.m.**

Members of the public who wished to attend the meeting via video conference joined at <https://cochise.zoom.us/j/93713161963>.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. David DiPeso
Ms. Stephanie Money
Mr. Steve Leeder
Mrs. Jane Strain

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Strain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The administration requested the agenda be approved, replacing agenda items 2.02 – Placeholder – Facilities & Project Manager and 2.03 – Placeholder – Mechanic/Shop Specialist. The administration is requesting the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the hiring of the administration's recommended candidates. With no further modifications, the agenda was approved.

1.04 Citizen's In-Person Interim

There were no requests to address the board.

1.05 Standing Reports

1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees

No AACCT Report was provided; the Board appointed member Mr. Steve Leeder as the new AACCT representative.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mrs. Strain seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Leeder as the new AACCT representative. Mrs. Strain made a few personal comments regarding how important it is to have local-level representation in the state-level AACCT system and how glad she is to see a newly elected board member be nominated to represent the college.

With no further discussions the board approved with David DiPeso, Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Jane Strain voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

1.05.2 Senate

No Senate report was provided as there was no May meeting.

1.05.3 Student Government Association

No Student Government Association Report was provided as students are on summer leave.

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey provided updates to the Governing Board; highlights included:

Legislative Update:

- Progress at the Arizona Legislature remains slow. The House and Senate are scheduled to reconvene June 16, leaving two weeks to finalize the state budget before the June 30 deadline. Lawmakers remain divided over surplus spending, but a budget deal is anticipated. The College continues to monitor state and federal legislation, including potential impacts on federal education funding, such as:
 - Stricter Pell Grant credit requirements current 12 credits to 15
 - Elimination of Adult Education/TRIO programs
 - Student loan repayment reforms

Facilities Update:

District Facility Condition Assessment (FCA)

- Completed at all campuses; final report expected in mid-August

DC

- Renovations in progress at administrative buildings, Central Plant, Library, and other buildings; and truck road improvements are completed.
- Lease agreement for use of the administration building is finalized with Hensel Phelps and prepared for occupancy the week of June 23.

SVC

- Library Café progressing; Campus Services Building renovations underway.

DTC

- Police cruiser simulators operational; helicopter simulator pending delivery.

Initiative Update:

Institutional

- Quality Initiative Report has been submitted as part of HLC accreditation (focused on bachelor's degrees).
- ACEN granted candidacy for the BSN program; site visit required by June 2027.
- All spring EMT and fire science students passed certification exams.

Workforce/CTE Programs

- The home construction project is nearing completion, next build is underway.

- OSHA training will be provided for Douglas Port of Entry project and city employees in Douglas and Benson.
- AI class scheduled for Women in Business group in Willcox.
- Summer camps are underway with 160 students in 9 programs.

General Comments:

Community Engagements:

- Participated in multiple events including graduations, end of year celebrations, and community meetings (e.g., Senator Mark Kelly roundtable, NAU partnership updates).

Upcoming Events

- June 12 & 16 – Annual Leave
- June 17 – Meeting the student Artemizia Foundation Museum Scholarship recipient
- June 17 – meeting with the director for the Mayo Family Foundation
- June 18 – Zoom meeting with Robert-Francios (SimLeader)
- June 19 – College Closed for Juneteenth
- June 23-24 – Annual leave
- June 25-26 – AC4 annual meeting
- July 2-14 – Annual leave
- July 8 – Zoom only board meeting (consent agenda only)

Questions/Comments

Mr. Hudgins asked if the punch lists for the new construction projects have been completed; Dr. Davis responded noting that most have been, but still have a few items being addressed.

1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – May 2025

The Financial Report for May 2025 was presented and accepted as submitted.

1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report

The Governing Board reviewed the June Academic Progress Report regarding the College Enrollment.

1.05.7 Monthly Academic Progress Report

The Governing Board reviewed the June Academic Progress Report regarding Adult Education.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Manuel Burgos, Building Maintenance Technician II, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.2 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Viviana Leyva Valenzuela, Financial Aid Technician II – Temporary, Douglas Campus*)

- 2.01.3 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Acacia Barnett, Director of Small Business Development Center, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.4 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Boris Espinosa Delgado, Learning Management Systems Manager, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.5 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Tobias Scott, Director of Workforce Development, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.6 * Coach; Appointment (*Maya Ivana Siles Oporto, Assistant Coach – Women's Soccer, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.7 * Faculty; Appointment (*Veysel Cetiner, Instructor of Computer Information Systems, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.8 * Faculty; Separation (*Tim McDaniel, Instructor of Virtual Reality and Content Development, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.9 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (*Andrea Alston, Events Management Specialist, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.10 * Adult Education; Resignation (*Lance Baxter, Adult Education Instructor, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.11 * IGA Renewal – City of Douglas Bus Service
- 2.01.12 * IGA Renewal – Southeast Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy
- 2.01.13 * Acceptance of Minutes for May 13, 2025 – Truth in Taxation Public Hearing and Special Meeting
- 2.01.14 * Acceptance of Minutes for May 13, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with no further discussion. The Governing Board unanimously approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, Steve Leeder, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

***Introductions of new employees ***

Mr. Wick Lewis, Director of Human Resources, introduced Don Raley, Director of First Responders Academy.

2.02 Placeholder – Facilities Maintenance & Project Manager

The administration requested the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Owen Long, Facilities Maintenance & Project Manager, Douglas Campus.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving the hiring of Owen Long Facilities Maintenance & Project Manager. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, Steve Leeder, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.03 Place Holder – Mechanic/Shop Specialist

The administration requested the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the hiring of Miguel Arvizu, Mechanic/Shop Specialist.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving the hiring of Miguel Arvizu, Mechanic/Shop Specialist. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, Steve Leeder, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.04 Trustee Emeritus Designation for Mrs. Jane Strain

The administration requested the Governing Board adopt a motion to resolve the designation of Trustee Emeritus to Mrs. Jane Strain.

Chair Hudgins read the Proclamation and presented Mrs. Strain with a medallion. Dr. Perey announced that the administration had submitted for a Lifetime Membership to the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) in honor of Mrs. Strain's years of service to the college and Governing Board.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving the designation of Trustee Emeritus to Mrs. Jane Strain. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.05 Appointment of Chief Fiscal Officer

The administration requested the Governing Board adopt a motion to designate Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, as the Cochise County Community College District's chief fiscal officer.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion approving the request to designating Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, as the Cochise County Community College District's chief fiscal officer. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, Steve Leeder, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.06 Property Purchase Agreement - City of Douglas

The administration requested the Governing Board adopt a motion to authorize the President or designee to sign the property purchase agreement conveying approximately 3.4 acres of land to the City of Douglas for construction of a new water system, along with associated easements.

Dr. Perey noted that the City of Douglas is looking to expand utility services in preparation for the construction of the new Port of Entry. As part of this expansion, Douglas is looking to construct a new water well site and water treatment system. The agreement, which has been reviewed by legal counsel, outlines the intent for the college to connect to the new system, while maintaining existing wells for backup and irrigation purposes and be billed by the city rates. It also states if the city does not complete the water system within 10 years, the property will revert back to the district.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion authorizing the college president or designee to sign the property purchase agreement conveying approximately 3.4 acres of land to the City of Douglas for construction of a new water system, along with associated easements. Mr. Hudgins inquired about how the 10 years came to the discussion, Dr. Davis replied, stating it will take the city time to build the system. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, Steve Leeder, and Jane Strain all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

INFORMATION

3.01 Communications

- No communications for the May board meeting.

3.02 Academic Affairs Division Report

Janelle Simpson, Acting Dean of Academic Affairs, provided a presentation on AI at Cochise College and the widespread student use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Microsoft Copilot, with studies showing up to 92% of students using AI in their schoolwork; highlights include:

AI in Higher Education according to a 2025 global survey:

- In a 2025 global survey, 61% of college faculty use AI in teaching; while 80% of faculty think their institution's policies lack clarity
- In a Cochise College survey, 23% of employees responded, stating they felt competent implementing AI tools in their daily work or teaching.

Challenges & Considerations

- Academic integrity
 - Stigma – away from “all AI use is cheating”
 - Unclear boundaries
- Equity/access
- Faculty readiness – under prepared
- Ethical use and privacy
- Bias and reliability
- Workplace demands – 66% business leaders won't hire workers without AI skills
- Constantly changing

What the College Has Done

- SSVEC Grant to support training and strategic planning
- Hosted Dr. José Antonio Bowen who led workshops in AI
- Created AI-focused Book Clubs specifically around AI in Education
- Group of employees have formed an active AI Community of Practice
- Conducted an AI Survey (Spring 2024)

What's Next

- AI Curriculum
- Additional Trainings
- Book Clubs
- AI Committee – Campuswide policies and ethics
- Policy Development

Questions/Comments

Mrs. Strain asked if AI would be addressed in the upcoming HLC visit. Dr. Perey responded that the topic of AI could come up in discussion, particularly regarding curriculum and student outcomes, as AI is increasingly expected in the workforce. He emphasized the need to shift the perception of AI from being viewed as cheating to being seen as a necessary tool, and to focus on teaching students to use it ethically and responsibly.

Dr. Perey also shared that the College is hiring an educational technologist who will help scale AI implementation across the institution, supporting students, faculty, staff, and even community engagement through continuing education and workforce development initiatives. He noted that AI is already widely used by younger generations, and that the college must prepare them appropriately.

Mrs. Strain noted that Maricopa has developed AI certification; however, Dr. Perey stated most experts advise against launching degrees or certificates in the field due to rapid changes; instead, the focus should be on developing practical AI skills—particularly in prompt engineering.

Mr. Leeder questioned whether ACCT or other institutions are helping with breaking the AI code. Dr. Perey discussed examples from other institutions, such as Arizona State University's partnership with ChatGPT and noted that Cochise College is already ahead of the curve with efforts like faculty guidance on AI usage in syllabi, forming an AI committee, and ongoing policy reviews.

Mr. Hudgins raised concerns about AI's impact on critical thinking. Ms. Simpson likened AI use to calculators, noting that effective use depends on the user. Therefore, students must be trained not only in AI tools but also in evaluating the accuracy and bias of AI-generated content.

Dr. Perey led a discussion regarding an executive order encouraging AI integration in K-12 education, highlighting the urgency for higher education institutions to act.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Hudgins turned the time to Governing Board members to provide comments/share information.

- Mrs. Strain
 - Noted her overwhelming emotions with the reception she received during her retirement celebration.
- Mr. Leeder
 - Thanked Mrs. Strain for showing him the ropes as a new trustee.
- Mr. DiPeso
 - Thanked Mrs. Strain for her service on the Board and noted that she deserved every honor she received.
- Mr. Hudgins
 - Thanked Mrs. Strain for all her years serving on the board and wished her all the best on her next adventure.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board