REVISED

APPROVED REVISED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Benson Center
4:00 p.m.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. DiPeso called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Mark Farr – arrived late at 4:07pm
Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Steve Leeder
Ms. Stephanie Money

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Don Hudgins

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Money led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The administration requested the agenda be approved, with no modifications, the agenda was approved.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the agenda as posted. With no further discussion, the board approved with David DiPeso, Steve Leeder, and Stephanie Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1.04 Citizen's In-Person Interim

There were no requests to address the board.

1.05 Special Recognition: City of Benson Key to the City Presentation INFORMATION

Mayor Joe Konrad presented the City of Benson Key to the City to College President and Cochise College Governing Board in recognition of Cochise College's significant contributions to the Benson community and the region.

Mayor Konrad noted Cochise College's longstanding service to Cochise County since its establishment in 1964 and highlighted the College's role in providing educational opportunities, workforce development, career training, and support for student success. Remarks included recognition of the impact of the Benson Center in providing local access to higher education and training opportunities for residents of the Benson area.

Mayor Konrad also acknowledged the contributions of the Governing Board, Dr. Perey, faculty, and staff in supporting the College's mission and service to students and communities throughout Cochise County.

Mayor Joe Konrad presented a Key to the City of Benson to Cochise College Governing Board and read the plaque inscription.

Mr. Mark Farr arrived at the Governing Board Regular Meeting at 4:07pm and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Perey accepted the recognition on behalf of the College and expressed appreciation to the Mayor and the City of Benson for the honor and for the longstanding partnership between the City and Cochise College.

1.06 Standing Reports

1.06.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees

No AACCT report was provided.

1.06.2 Senate

No Senate report was provided.

1.06.3 Student Government Association

No Student Government Association Report was provided.

1.06.4 College President

Dr. Perey reported that the College is preparing to welcome students for the fall semester. He noted that Convocation was held for faculty and staff and that the College officially launched its strategic planning process. He highlighted that the development of the next Strategic Plan will include input from employees, students, community members, and partners.

Arizona Legislative Update:

- Reported that the Arizona Legislature completed work on the FY2027 state budget.
- Cochise College is currently developing FY2028 budget requests for submission through AC4 to the Governor.
- Cochise College did not receive significant new ongoing state funding and anticipates a continued cautious budget environment.
- Dr. Perey further noted that the upcoming election cycle may influence future state budget and legislative priorities and stated that the Board will be kept informed of developments.

Federal Legislative Update:

- Congress has not yet completed the FY2027 budget process. The Senate approved a short-term continuing resolution (CR) that would extend federal

funding through December 11 and provide additional time for negotiation of the FY2027 appropriations bills; however, final action by both the House and Senate remains necessary before current federal funding expires on September 30.
    - If enacted, the CR would temporarily prevent a federal government shutdown and maintain current funding levels for higher education programs, including Pell Grants and TRiO programs.
- Notification was received regarding the College's 2025-2028 WIOA Adult Education grant award; however, uncertainty remains regarding future federal adult education funding.
- The Board will continue to be updated as additional information becomes available regarding federal funding developments.

Facilities Update:

Dr. Perey provided updates on major facilities projects across the district.

District
- Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) – The Gordian Group
    - FCA final deliverables delayed until the end of August
    - FCA will feed into Facilities Master Plan (FMP) as part of the strategic planning process

Douglas Campus
- City of Douglas Wellsite
    - Well boring and production casing installation completed
    - Flushing to follow once gravel filter is installed around the casing

- Building 400 Renovation
    - Recent rainstorms have prevented adequate drying of roofing materials
    - Roof installation on hold until mid to late September
    - Interior build-out expected to start early October
    - Project completion delayed until mid-November

- Building 900 Roof Replacement
    - Roof replacement activities continue both flat and sloped section
    - Weather permitting, the project remains on schedule for substantial completion by early September.

- Huachuca Hall Apartment Renovation
    - Planning continues for the renovation of Huachuca Hall apartments
    - Preparation of as-built drawings is nearing completion, after which the project will enter the State Fire Marshal review process
    - Project completion anticipated in January 2027

Sierra Vista Campus
- Student Union Roof Restoration
    - Project Completed
        - Extended life of existing roof system
        - Avoided need for full replacement

- Tutoring Center Relocation
  - Relocation from Learning Commons Center to the Library completed
  - Provides students with improved access to academic support services

- Campus Services Building (Building 2600)
  - Conference room remodel complete
  - Final work for Office of Technology and Facilities Offices is underway
  - Expected to be complete by this week or next

Initiative:

Nursing and Allied Health programs:

  - Demonstrate strong student outcomes, including a 95.31% first-time NCLEX pass rate for students who completed the nursing program in May.
    - Reported that Canyon Vista Medical Center hired 30 graduates from the College's nursing program during the previous year.
  - Fourteen students completed the paramedic program during the summer, and ten graduates earned both state and national certification through successful completion of the National Registry examination.
  - Eight students were reported to be on track to complete the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in December.
  - EMS, Fire Science, and related advisory committees continued collaborating with local agencies to provide input on program development.

- Business and Career and Technology Education
  - Residential Construction Technology Build house is in escrow
  - Summer Camps provided hands-on-learning experiences in Culinary Arts, Automotive Technology, Cybersecurity, and Game Design
  - Assistant Dean Mike Gaspar presented a workforce update to the Southern Arizona Contractors Association
  - Agriculture Instructor Amie Esteves represented Cochise College at the Arizona FFA State Leadership Conference College Fair

- Workforce Development:
  - Law Enforcement Academy Class 26-2 launched with 21 recruits and currently has 20 recruits enrolled, including six female participants, establishing a new academy record for the highest number of female recruits enrolled in a class
  - Planning continued for the College's first Detention Officer Academy to address regional workforce needs and expand career pathway opportunities.
  - Cochise College hosted the Western States Sheriff's Association Leadership Academy on the Sierra Vista Campus, bringing together emerging law enforcement leaders from across the western United States for leadership development training.

<u>Community Engagements:</u>

- June 11 – ACCLA Graduation in Phx. (Quint and Cara)

- June 16 – Ribbon Cutting – Douglas Campus Science Building Renaming – Ann Stephen (Viticulture Program) @ 9AM
- June 15-20 – College National Rodeo Finals (Dr. Davis attending)
- June 18 – College Closed – Observance of Juneteenth
- July 8 – Sheriff's Assist Team Awards Luncheon @ 11AM
- July 14 – Board Meeting (Zoom ONLY via Consent Agenda Items)
- July 17 – July 21 – Mountain States Annual Conference
- Aug 4 – Good Morning Sierra, Vista – Dr. Perey Updates
- Aug 10 – Convocation – Douglas Campus all day
- Aug 11 – Next Regular Board Meeting at the Benson Center

Upcoming Events

- Aug 12 &14 – Campus Experience – New Student Orientation
- Aug 13 – Education Forward Arizona Meeting
- Aug 17 – Fall Semester Begins
- Aug 18 – Foundation Orientation – Douglas Campus
- Aug 19- 20 – AC4/ACCT Retreat – Flagstaff
- Aug 25 – Welcome Back BBQ with Administrative Cabinet
- Aug 28 – TRiO 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Sep 2 – Foundation Meeting
- Sep 7 – College Closed – Labor Day
- Sep 8 – Next Regular Board Meeting in Sierra Vista

Questions/Comments

1.06.5 Monthly Financial Report – June 2026

The Financial Report for June 2026 was presented and accepted as submitted.

1.06.6 Monthly Financial Report – July 2026

The Financial Report for July 2026 was presented and accepted as submitted.

1.06.7 Monthly Academic Progress Report

The Governing Board reviewed the August Academic Progress Report regarding Military Programs.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Isela Franco, Academic / Career Advisor, Sierra Vista Campus*)*

2.01.2 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (Eric Meyer, AI Grant Partnership Coordinator, Downtown Center*)*

2.01.3 * Faculty; Appointment (Morgan Olson, Aviation Pathways Flight Instructor, Douglas Campus*)*

2.01.4 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Wenceslao Frisby, Facility Services Technician, Douglas Campus*)*

2.01.5 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Teresa Perez, Credentials Evaluator, Sierra Vista Campus)
2.01.6 * Faculty; Resignation (Laura Hughes, Instructor of Student Success, Douglas Campus*)*
2.01.7 * Faculty; Resignation (Dru Simmons, Instructor of Nursing, Downtown Center*)*
2.01.8 * Acceptance of Minutes for July 14, 2026 – Special Virtual Meeting

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

3. INFORMATION ITEMS INFORMATION

3.01 Communications

Dr. Perey received a letter from Cochise County Sheriff Mark J. Dannels expressing appreciation to Cochise College for its partnership and support in hosting the inaugural Western States Sheriffs' Association Leadership Academy. The letter recognized the College's facilities, hospitality, and commitment to leadership development, highlighted positive feedback from academy participants, and provided special recognition to Cullen Scarborough and Baillie Nelson for their professionalism and contributions to the success of the event.

3.02 Community Engagement Division Report

Dr. Jennifer Wantz, Executive Dean of Community Engagement, provided updates on community engagement and the centers.

Dr. Wantz did not discuss Foundation, Marketing Communications, and Douglas Campus as the board will receive reports at a later time. She stated she would be happy to answer any questions on those areas.

- Outreach
  - Parades
    - Cochise College participated in the 2025 holiday parades in Willcox, Sierra Vista, and Douglas and plans to participate in those community events again in 2026.
  - Community Tabling
    - Cochise College participated in several community outreach and tabling events, including the City of Sierra Vista's Fourth of July celebration at Veterans Memorial Park.
  - Partnerships
    - Cochise College collaborates with the University of Arizona Extension and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, assisting with community meetings and helping community members identify and communicate local needs.
  - Invitation for TRiO
    - Invited Governing Board Members to 25th Anniversary of TRiO
    - Graduated TRiO Student who PHD is being paid for by NASA has been invited to speak.
- Library
  - The Sierra Vista Campus Library received grant funding for:
    - One group study pod accommodating three to four students.
    - Three individual study pods.

        - A "Library of Things" collection, allowing students to check out items such as podcast equipment, portable charging packs, visual study timers, and noise-canceling headphones.
        - Continued support for student hotspot lending through annual grant funding.
    - It was reported that the four individual study pods installed on the Douglas Campus recorded more than 900 student usage hours and were utilized by an estimated 80 students per month.
        - Student feedback on the Douglas Campus study pods resulted in privacy enhancements, including the installation of frosted window tinting, and the pods received a student satisfaction rating of 4.45 stars.
    - Additional improvements included the installation of new storefront-style doors at the Douglas Campus Library.

- Events
    - Approximately 1,500 events were hosted annually for internal and external clients.
    - A slide reflected more than 4,400 events during 2025-2026.
    - The increase was attributed in part to implementation of the CourseDog scheduling system.
        - CourseDog counts setup, event use, and cleanup as separate entries.
        - It was noted that event reporting is expected to become more accurate for comparison purposes over the next two years.

- Benson Center
    - Academic course offerings included:
        - ENG 101
        - MAT 081
        - BIO 156
        - BIO 160
        - Watercolor and oil painting courses
    - Updates included:
        - Activities related to the Benson Butterfield Rodeo were highlighted, including Jody, Willcox Center Coordinator, serving as a rodeo judge.
        - An update was provided on the City of Benson Community Survey, which generated a response rate exceeding 10%, a level generally considered strong participation and will assist the City in identifying community needs.
        - The Southeastern Arizona Association of Governments (SEADG) is scheduled to meet at the Benson Center on September 17, and Community Engagement will have a representative present.
- Wilcox Center
    - Jody completed Project CENTRL in July, gaining additional knowledge and strategies for serving rural communities.
    - Dr. Wantz reported increased use of the Willcox Center by external clients was reported, and Jody was recognized for cultivating community partnerships and events, including Wine Growers Association meetings, a Women's Conference held July 25, the upcoming Beat the Heat Business Showcase

- Civic Engagement
    - Book club, which has traditionally been held during the spring semester, will be offered during the current semester.
        - Change in schedule was made to coincide with the midterm election cycle and to promote the importance of voting.
        - Selected Book: *Thank You for Voting* by Aaron Smith
        - The book club is intended to help students understand the value of voter participation and the impact of individual votes, including in midterm elections.
    - Presidential Commitment
        - The College received its 2026 Highly Established Action Plan from the ALL IN organization, which serves as the institution's civic engagement strategic plan for the next two years, received a score of 29 out of 32 points, and will guide civic engagement efforts through the midterm and next general election cycles.
    - America 250 service projects
        - Service projects continued to provide students with community service opportunities, including roadside cleanup projects completed during the spring semester, with additional projects planned for the fall.
        - Cochise Cares reported more than 1,300 participants and over 20,000 service hours since 2019. Erica Reid, English Instructor at the Sierra Vista Campus, was recognized as Employee Volunteer of the Year at Convocation for her volunteer work supporting educational and training opportunities for youth in other countries.
- New This Year
    - Service-Learning
        - Service Learning was merged into the Civic Engagement Committee, and the reinstatement of a Service-Learning Program was reported.
        - The program is supported by an anonymous donor scholarship totaling more than $11,000.
        - Eligible students who complete service-learning activities connected to their coursework may receive tuition reimbursement, subject to available funding.
        - Students participate by applying classroom knowledge to community-based service projects and demonstrating the impact of their work.
        - One of the initial service-learning opportunities will involve students supporting community astronomy outreach events ("star parties") in collaboration with Dr. Davies, Astronomy/Physics Instructor.
        - Participating students will share knowledge gained in the classroom with community members through these outreach activities.
        - It was reported that the program is intended to expand as additional faculty members become involved and develop new service-learning opportunities for students.
- Student research Colloquium
    - Dr. Wantz reported on the establishment of a Student Research Colloquium. The event will be held on the final Friday before finals each

semester and will provide students with an opportunity to present research and academic projects through poster presentations.
    - Participants will be able to include their presentation experience on resumes and academic portfolios.
    - Additional presentation categories will include:
        - Phi Theta Kappa
        - Honors Program
        - Service-Learning projects
        - Student passion research projects
- Camp Naco partnership
        - An update was provided on the College's partnership with Camp Naco, which is preparing to reopen in spring 2027.
        - Camp Naco will host the Borderlands Festival on October 17, and Cochise College plans to participate through educational programming, outreach activities, and informational tabling.
        - Efforts are underway to increase student participation in internship opportunities associated with anthropology and related academic programs.

Questions/Comments

Mr. Leeder asked Dr. Wantz to inquire whether the relocation of tutoring services and the implementation of extended hours would increase tutoring capacity.

- Dr. Wantz reported that tutoring utilization at the Sierra Vista Campus remains strong. She explained that the primary enhancement is increased access to computer lab services rather than a significant expansion of tutoring capacity. She also included that the computer lab had been relocated from the Learning Commons to the Library, to allow students access computer resources until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
- Dr. Wantz further reported that the College continues to provide 24/7 online tutoring services and a 24/7 library chat service to support students outside regular operating hours.

3.03 Student Success – Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP)

Dr. Jacqie Allen, Associate Vice President for Student Services, provided updates on the 2025-2028 Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP). The plan began development in late spring 2025 and was finalized in late fall 2025.

Research and Analysis

- Dr. Allen noted that the SEMP is a comprehensive, data-informed framework designed to align recruitment, enrollment, retention, and student success efforts with the College's mission, strategic priorities, and available resources.
- Dr. Allen explained that the plan focuses on both enrollment growth and student success by supporting students throughout their educational journey and improving educational and career outcomes.
- Dr. Allen noted that strategic enrollment planning is particularly important for community colleges because enrollment is influenced by a variety of external factors, including:
    - Demographic changes

- Workforce and labor market needs
- Local economic conditions
- Dual enrollment trends
- Transfer patterns
- State and federal funding considerations

- Dr. Allen discussed how the plan begins with research and data analysis, and includes charts and tables showing historical enrollment trends, student success data, environment scan results, and workforce and labor trends.
- Dr. Allen highlighted that the findings show that enrollment has fluctuated in recent years, with steady increases from 2022 to 2024. Growth has been strongest among part-time and younger aged groups, while enrollment of students aged 25 and older has declined, and the 18–24 group has grown only modestly. This reflects a shrinking pool of traditional-aged students in Cochise County. Persistence and retention rates have remained steady, with graduation rates fluctuating between 18–21%. She stated that the College always wants to keep a focus on retention, where we can make a considerable improvement is in our completion and transfer rates. Up to 30% of students who transfer to a university do not graduate from Cochise College.

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Initiatives

- Dr. Allen reviewed the three primary initiatives included in the plan:
  - Enrollment Growth:
    - The goals under enrollment growth focus on expanding access, improving prospective student conversion rates, and creating re-engagement campaigns to bring back students who have stopped attending.
  - Student Success
    - The student success goals focus on increasing our persistence, retention, and completion rates. Examples include expansion of our early alerts, instituting systemic early registration campaigns, and improving the successful outcomes of students who began in developmental education courses.
  - Workforce and Transfer
    - The workforce and transfer initiative relies the most on academics and student services collaboration. These goals look to enhance our credit for prior learning opportunities, to build structured degree maps, and to expand and refine our transfer/university partnerships.
  - Dr. Allen explained that these initiatives and goals were selected after careful consideration as to what would make the most impact within the three-year timeframe, to ensure the colleges moves the needle on our strategic enrollment efforts.

Measuring Success

- Dr. Allen reported that key performance indicators (KPIs) were established to measure progress toward plan goals.
- Fall semester FTSE (full-time student equivalent), we have targeted a 3% increase. Recent data shows an increase of ¾ of a percent from fall 24 – fall 25.
- Application-to-registration yield rate, currently at 35.6%.
- Met annual target for the retention KPI, which was 44% for fall 2024 cohort.

- The non-successful KPI measures the group of students who do not continue taking classes, graduate, or transfer. For this KPI, we want to see a decrease. Recent data for the 2024 cohort shows it stayed the same as baseline of 32%.
- The last KPI looks at transfer rates within one year of graduation. target is to have a 2% increase each year. Unfortunately, decrease for 2024.
- Dr. Allen highlighted that we are in year one of the plan and some of the goals and strategies have not yet been implemented and are still in the development stage. As you can see, we've had some successes already, which is good news.

First-Year Progress

- Reported progress on several plan initiatives, including:
  - Enrollment Growth
    - Expanded BAS access and launched stop-out outreach
  - Student Success
    - Revised program declaration and launched early-registration campaigns
  - Workforce and Transfer
    - Advance Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) processes and U of A collaboration
  - Accountability
    - Established SEM Committee and began dashboard development

Questions/Comments

Mr. DiPeso asked what efforts are being made to bring back the approximately 30% of individuals who have earned some college credit but did not complete.

- Dr. Allen responded that the College is using targeted outreach efforts, including direct phone calls and social media marketing campaigns, to re-engage former students with some college credit but no completed credential, and plans to gather feedback from those students to better understand barriers to completion and identify opportunities for institutional support.

Mr. DiPeso and Dr. Allen briefly discussed evening classes and cohort opportunities for students who have returned to the workforce or do not have the time to attend school on a full-time basis.

Mr. Leeder asked whether the College has the appropriate tools and resources to achieve that level of microdata regarding former students and students with unsuccessful outcomes.

- Dr. Allen reported that implementation of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system will improve the College's ability to track and re-engage prospective and former students. Dr. Perey noted that the system will track student touchpoints to support outreach efforts, and discussion emphasized the importance of data collection and alternative outreach methods for reconnecting with former students.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

- Mr. Leeder
  - Commended the Convocation program and recognized the contributions of staff, Dr. Wantz, and Dr. Brown in advancing strategic planning efforts and fostering faculty engagement. Mr. Leeder expressed appreciation for the College's work and encouraged continued focus on implementing the strategic plan.
- Mr. Farr
  - Expressed appreciation for the dedication, knowledge, and community engagement demonstrated by College employees. He noted the College's visible presence throughout the community, expressed enthusiasm for the beginning of the new academic year, and acknowledged the positive impact the College continues to have on students and the community.
- Mr. DiPeso
  - Stated that the Benson Center meeting is one of his favorite meetings of the year and noted that he was able to attend after being excused from jury duty.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

5.01 Executive Session – Real Property Discussion

Mr. Leeder moved, and Mr. Farr seconded a motion to move into Executive Session for discussion of Real Property. There was no further discussion by the board. The Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. DiPeso recessed the regular meeting at 4:56 p.m., and the board moved into Executive Session at 4:57 p.m.

Mr. DiPeso adjourned the Executive Session at 5:33 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Mr. DiPeso confirmed that no board action took place during the executive session.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiPeso adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kia Mullins, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Ms. Stephanie Money, Secretary of the Governing Board