

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Sierra Vista Campus
HR Building 300 Room 301
4:00 p.m.

Members of the public who wished to attend the meeting via video conference joined at <https://cochise.zoom.us/j/95185202973>.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Don Hudgins, Chair
Ms. Stephanie Money, Secretary
Mr. David DiPeso, Member
Mr. Mark Farr, Member
Mr. Steve Leeder, Member

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DiPeso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with no modifications.

Mr. Farr moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

1.04 Citizen's In-person Interim

There were no requests to address the Governing Board.

1.05 Standing Reports

1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)

Mr. Leeder, AACCT Representative, provided the following updates:

AACCT held a brief Zoom meeting on January 28. Election of officers was conducted, with all positions filled by acclamation; a written list of newly elected officers will be provided. The meeting also discussed two upcoming AACCT-related events to include:

- All-Trustees Meeting- April 22-23
 - Held in conjunction with the All-Academic Celebration.

- AACCT is seeking 4–5 topic suggestions from trustees by February 22. One possible topic under consideration is artificial intelligence initiatives, including work related to the FIPSE grant.
- AACCT Retreat – August 19-20:
 - Suggested discussion topics are being collected, including AI, and the group may also review AACCT bylaws during the retreat.
- Attended the ACCT Legislative Summit on February 7-11, highlights include:
 - Attending a directed trustee role in advocacy training 101 level.
 - Discussion of Pell and the direct loan program
 - Discussion of FY26 appropriations and politics, including shifting Workforce Pell to the States.
 - Mr. Leeder mentioned it was a fantastic visit and enjoyed hearing from the Under Secretary of Education, and meeting with Senator Kelly’s assistant, Senator Gallegos, Congressman Ciscomani, and Congresswoman Grijalva.

1.05.2 Senate Report

The written Senate report for January 2026 was provided in the board packet for review and was accepted as published.

1.05.3 Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association presented an update to the Governing Board; highlights include:

Narin Adams, SGA President, addressed the board and introduced the new officer:

- Jeremy Courtney, SGA Treasurer.
- Major: Allied Health
- Hobbies: Photography, working out, and family time

SGA Officers showcased the spring 2026 events:

- Back-to-school breakfast
- Vision board activity
- Voting Rocks event
- Blood Drive with Red Cross – 42 pints of blood, 126 lives saved.
- Western-themed student club fair and student support services connecting new students with services
- PTK fundraising bake sale
- Valentine ice cream social

Andrea Lemmie, SGA Vice President of Public Relations, discussed upcoming events:

- Black History Celebration SV – 2-4 pm
 - Mayor McCaa to present a proclamation
- St. Patrick’s Day Celebration
- Roadside Clean Up
- Back from Break Bonanza

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Hudgins thanked the team for the report and all they do for students at the college.

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey, college president, started his update by acknowledging the board's proclamation recognizing February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month and emphasized the vital role of CTE programs, faculty, staff, and industry partners in supporting local workforce needs. He also noted that February marks his one-year anniversary as president and thanked faculty, staff, and the governing board for their continuous support. He then provided updates to the Governing Board; highlights include:

Legislative Update:

- Nearly 2,000 bills have been introduced in the Arizona Legislature. Budget discussions for FY2027 are underway, with the Governor's proposal emphasizing fiscal restraint, K–12 stability, and targeted workforce initiatives.
- Community college funding levels are expected to remain stable, though revenue implications tied to federal tax conformity remain unresolved.
- The college is monitoring relevant state bills and planning conservatively.
- At the federal level, Workforce Pell expansion remains scheduled for July 2026, with significant rulemaking still required at the state level.

Facilities Update:

- District
 - Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) – the Gordian Group
 - Review of Gordian's submitted Final FCA Report was not acceptable; it did not accurately reflect the district's current needs over the next 10 years
 - All facilities supervisors and key senior technicians are reviewing the database again
 - Another Gordian meeting was held on Friday, February 13, and the weekly meeting will continue until asset priorities and deliverables are correctly identified
- DC
 - City of Douglas Wellsite
 - Wellsite and water line easement geotechnical evaluation completed
 - Well drilling expected to begin the first week of March
 - Welcome Center Turnabout/Parking lot A improvements
 - Xeriscaping project completed
 - Flagpole installation completed
 - Project Completed
 - Adult ED (400) Renovation Project
 - Structural roof support completed and exterior wall openings framed and ready for stucco
 - Stucco application to schedule to start the week of 20 February
 - Roofing proposal accepted, and materials have started arriving
 - Site walk with Garland and Sandflat Roofing scheduled for 20 February
 - Roof installation scheduled to start the week of 23 February
 - Entrance storefront proposals received and are being arranged for purchase
 - Interior classroom build-out to start once roof installation is completed
 - Building 400 Drainage Project

- North courtyard concrete removed, drainage grade set, and new concrete placed
- West landscape removed and drainpipe trenching completed
- Drainpipe schedule for installation week of 20 February
- West side grading/retention basin to follow over the next few weeks
- Once Library access is established through the courtyard, drainage improvement will begin on the east side (current Library Entrance).
- General Classrooms (700) Renovation
 - Conference Room and Offices completed, ready for use
 - Breakroom build-out progress
 - ADA Lift and new storefront entrance procurement in progress
 - Awaiting Access Control proposal
- SVC
 - Library/Student Union/Science Building Roofs
 - Flat roof membrane restoration is needed due to excessive sun damage and wear
 - Working with The Garland Company to determine the best recoating product
 - Requirements are excellent durability and 20 20-year warranty
- DTC
 - Flight/Police Cruiser Simulators
 - Helicopter flight simulator delivery date is tentatively scheduled for spring break week.

Initiatives:

Workforce:

- Workforce hosted the first official Police Simulator training event on 7 Feb for the Cochise County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team. This iteration started the quarterly training to support CCSO SAR driving and special maneuvers drills. This first training cohort had 7 attendees.
- On 7 and 14 Feb, the college hosted FAA Part 107 training for 13 Cochise County Sheriff's Officers, two Cochise County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Officers, and two Benson Police Officers. This FAA Part 107 training helps certify users in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle usage
- On 11 Feb, Workforce collaborated with Nursing and Allied Health to showcase the college at the Bisbee High School Career Fair.

Mr. Hudgins noted that the drone program partnership is strong.

BCTE Division:

- On 14 Jan, college representatives attended the Jobs for the Future (JFF) Workforce Outlook Virtual Meeting with the US Department of Labor, and Education, Department of Commerce
- On 20 Jan, staff met with BuildUS Grant Coordinator Arohi Park about Cochise playing the coordinating role on the PACE/New Era Grant preparation. The relationship began about 5-6 months ago when Arizona G&T and the electrical cooperatives invited the college to the discussions; now they want the college to serve as the liaison between Community Colleges.
- On 22 Jan, the college attended the Port of Entry/Arizona Regional Economic Development Mixer in Douglas, AZ

- On 27 Jan, college representatives attended the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) Conference on Skilled Trades in Southern Arizona:
 - Connected with SSVEC Training and Development Manager - Steven Garate about potential collaboration opportunities with the college.
- SpaceX Starbase Update - Two more of the welding program completers will be headed to Starbase at the end of the spring semester. The college has 8-12 more students planning to apply by May 2026.

Nursing:

- Received continuing accreditation without deficiencies for the Paramedic program from CoAEMPS and for the LPN program from the AZ Board of Nursing.
- Working with Robert Tracy, the AZ Clinical Educator from PHI Air Medical, who has requested the college to be their training center/simulation lab for onboarding and continuing education for flight nurses and paramedics. They are currently contracted with Banner UMC to use their simulation labs, but are interested in collaborating with Cochise College instead.

Community Engagements:

- Jan 14 – AACC Workforce Pell Implementation update
- Jan 21-22 – AC4 Meeting in Phoenix
- Jan 28-30 – Cochise Combined Trust Meeting in Tubac
- Feb 2 – Rural Health Transformation monies from the Federal Government
- Feb 4 – Arizona Rural Health Transformation with key stakeholders in Cochise County to put a team together to address high needs in the county
- Feb 6 & 9 – CIO
- Feb 7-11 – ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.

Upcoming Activities:

- Feb 19 – AC4 Meeting & Meeting with Willcox Superintendent
- Feb 20 – Meeting with Sheriff for Leadership Training – prepare with other region sheriffs to talk about a mid-level regional training
- Feb 20 – Legacy Foundation Event @ New Legacy Event Center
- Feb 23 & 24 – HLC Accreditation Site visit
- Feb 25-26 – AC4 Meeting
- Feb 26 – TRiO celebration on Douglas Campus
- March 2&3 – Post HLC visit Celebration
- March 4 – Staff Budget Retreat
- March 5 – presenting to the Sky Island Leadership Team on higher education
- March 10 – Good Morning Sierra Vista
- March 17 – Board Meeting at 4 PM

1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – January 2026

The Financial Report for January 2026 was provided in the board packet and approved as submitted.

1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report – February 2026

The monthly Academic Progress Report for February 2026 included an update on awards and completions.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Duane Dugie, Electrician Senior Technician, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.2 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Analise Durham, Office Assistant Nursing, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.3 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (*Darwin Waldron, Aviation Mechanic, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.4 * Exempt Staff; Resignation (*Wick Lewis, Executive Director of Human Resources*)
- 2.01.5 * Coach; Resignation (*Maya Ivana Siles Oporto, Assistant Coach – Women's Soccer, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.6 * Faculty; Resignation (*Nilah Haines, Instructor of Aviation Programs, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.7 * Non-Exempt; Separation (*Anastasia Rogers, Accounts Payable Lead Technician, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.8 * Exempt Staff; Separation (*Brenden Pitt, Academic Career Counselor, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.9 * Non-Exempt Staff; Retirement (*Rosa Berumen, Charitable Giving Coordinator, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.10 * Exempt Staff; Retirement (*Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant to the President and Governing Board, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.11 * Updated Course Fee FY2026-2027
- 2.01.12 * Acceptance of Minutes for January 13, 2026 – Regular Meeting
- 2.01.13 * Acceptance of Minutes for February 3, 2026 – Work Session

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*** Introduction of New Employees ***

Dr. Jacqie Allen, Associate Vice President for Student Services, introduced T.J. Fisher, Director of Advising and Career Services.

2.02 Board Policies for Second Read and Approval – Policy 632 – Family and Medical Leave Act, and Policy 644 – Performance Evaluations

The administration presented Board policies 632, Family and Medical Leave Act, and 644, Performance Evaluations, for second readings and final approval.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Mr. Farr seconded a motion to approve Board policies 632, Family and Medical Leave Act, and 644, Performance Evaluations, for second readings and final approval. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

3.01 Communications

- Dr. Perey and the Governing Board received a note from Mrs. Jane Strain, former Cochise College Board Member, for recognizing her as an Association of Community

College Trustees (ACCT) lifetime member. Jane also recognized the college administration and Board for their dedication to the students, employees, community partners, and County residents.

- Dr. Perey and the Governing Board received a note from college instructor Bryan Homrighausen, thanking them for approving his Spring 2027 Sabbatical request to complete his doctoral studies.
- Dr. Perey received an email informing him that Cochise College has won the 2025 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) Paragon Award. NCMPR is the country's premier professional group for marketing and public relations pros at community and technical colleges. The Paragons is a signature awards program that honors colleges for producing the best creative, strategic work in the nation.

3.02 Administrative Services Report

Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, presented information regarding the college's insurance and risk management program, along with a high-level overview of district operations; highlights include:

Risk Management:

- Board Policy 406 Asset Protection
 - Internal Controls
 - Ethics and Compliance
 - Procurement and Disposal of Equipment
 - Insurance
 - Preventive and Deferred Maintenance

Insurance Review:

- Liability and Property
 - The College is part of the Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. - "The Trust", along with other community colleges and K-12 school districts from across the state – a total of 248 members, covering 14K vehicles, \$38B in property value, 110K employees, and over 800K students.
 - In FY25, the Trust processed 16K claims totaling over \$40M in claims costs. Cochise College filed one claim in 2025 related to a lightning strike that damaged fire panels and electrical systems, estimated at around \$25K in damage.
 - The Trust offers comprehensive property and liability coverage to members, including general liability, automotive liability and physical damage, professional liability, and cyber liability coverages.
- The Aviation department and the Airport are independently insured
 - Insurance pools focus on stabilizing long-term costs, reducing risks, and improving member safety. In addition to processing and paying claims, pools invest in loss prevention and member education to minimize personal, physical, and property damages and losses.
 - A couple of issues regarding leased planes
 - Last year, a plane on the runway clipped a lawnmower - \$140K repairs
 - Student landing in winds with a hard landing in Tucson
- Athletes
 - The college carries catastrophic athlete insurance, which helps in the event of a significant injury to a student athlete that their personal health insurance does not cover.

Operations Overview:

- Administrative Services is comprised primarily of behind-the-scenes functions at the college. Administrative Services operations provides the foundation for other areas of the college to operate successfully. All areas strive to provide excellent customer service and be proactive in meeting the needs of faculty, staff, and students.

Administrative Services Organization:

- Athletics
 - At Cochise College, athletics reports to the EVPA. We have a successful athletics department that includes Women's soccer, basketball, and rodeo, and Men's baseball, basketball, and rodeo, athletic trainers, compliance, and sports information management
- Facilities, Risk Management, and Shipping and Receiving
 - Facilities include building maintenance, skilled trades, grounds, custodial services, risk management, and the mailroom/shipping and receiving
- Finance
 - Finance includes general and grants accounting, fixed asset management, budget, audit, accounts payable, and AR/Student Accounts
- Procurement and Auxiliary Services
 - Procurement includes all purchasing, including RFP, purchase cards, and purchase order processing, as well as providing oversight for the bookstore and food service contracted third parties.
- Payroll/Employee Benefits
 - Payroll/EE benefits manages processing payroll, employee benefits management, and compliance with the many out-of-state employees the college has (mostly AF online).
- Human Resources
 - HR manages the employment life cycle from recruitment and onboarding to professional development and separating from the college.
- Executive Assistant/Internal Audit
 - Executive Assistant/Internal Audit serves as the executive assistant to the EVPA and conducts internal compliance audits, and assists finance, procurement, payroll, and HR with some backup support and external compliance requirements.
- Technology Services
 - Tech service includes a currently vacant CIO position (search in progress), security and compliance, permissions and access, infrastructure and network services, user support services, and project management.

3.03 Annual Investment Report

Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, presented highlights of the Cochise College annual investment report per Board Policy 408; highlights included:

Portfolio Management Strategies:

- Cochise College invests funds to ensure long-term financial stability and vitality of the institution.
- Investments total at about \$34 million and include
 - Funds to sustain operations for four (4) months per best practices; sister schools do from 3 to 9 months
 - Funds for planned projects and capital investments
 - Contingency funds for unexpected

- Funds to make payments for revenue bonds for a minimum of one year in advance

Investments by Time to Maturity

- 41% are invested in the near term - one year
- 22%: 1-2 years
- 2%: greater than 4 years

An overview of Investment Balance as of December 31 was provided; highlights include:

- Over the past eight years, normal fluctuations have been shown. The decline in 2019–2020 reflected planned withdrawals to fund the construction of the Automotive Technology Building.
- Funds were later built back up to support additional capital projects, including the Firearms Training Complex and Bugen Hall. State appropriations for the Firearms Training Complex and a significant trust donation for Bugen Hall offset what would have been larger impacts on investment balances. As a result, current investment levels remain strong.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. DiPeso asked what the difference was between the short-term and long-term interest rates right now. Dr. Davis replied that it is minimal, around 3.6%-3.9%, with an average of 3.8%.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

- Mr. Hudgins
 - Thanked the college administration, staff, and faculty for all they do to support students.
- Mr. Leeder
 - Attended the ACCT Legislative Summit – pushing as hard as they can on the national level to carry the message from community colleges. Dr. Perey focuses on sustainability, and he noted that we are doing a great job in that regard.
 - Mentioned the college has good allies on the national and state levels.
 - Thanked everyone for all they do.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.01 Executive Session – President’s Annual Evaluation and Contract

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

Mr. Hudgins recessed the regular meeting at 5:09 p.m., and the board moved into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to close the Executive Session and resume the Regular Session. The board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

5.02 Contract for the College President

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Farr seconded a motion to extend President Perey's contract for fiscal year 2026-27 by one additional year, or until June 30, 2029; increase the contribution to deferred compensation by one percent (1%), and provide a base salary increase that is consistent with other college employees. All other terms and conditions of the contract shall remain the same as the current contract. There was no further discussion, and the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Ms. Stephanie Money, Secretary of the Governing Board