

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Sierra Vista Campus
Governing Board 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/98023100818>.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Mark Farr
Mr. Steve Leeder

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Stephanie Money

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DiPeso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The administration requested that the agenda be modified, moving information item 3.02 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Report to the beginning of the meeting, allowing auditors to present earlier in the regular meeting. The agenda was adopted as published with no further adjustments.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion to adopt the meeting agenda, moving item 3.02 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Report to the beginning of the meeting. With no further discussions or modifications, the Governing Board adopted the meeting agenda, with members David DiPeso, Mark Farr, Don Hudgins, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1.04 Citizen's In-Person Interim

There were no requests to address the board.

3.02 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Report

This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting, allowing auditors to present at the start of the regular meeting.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-1473F, the community college district board of directors requires that its auditors present audit results and any findings to the board in a regular meeting without the use of a consent agenda within 90 days of audit completion.

Taryn Stangle, CPA, Financial Audit Manager, from the Arizona Auditor General's Office, presented the FY2024-2025 Audit Report; report highlights include:

- Who We Are
 - Legislative Agency – non-partisan staff
 - Provide impartial information and specific recommendations to improve operations and programs
 - Follow governmental auditing standards
- Why We Are Here
 - Statute requires Board to require its auditors to present audit results and findings in regular meeting – without use of consent agenda – within 90 days of audit's completion
- Auditor Responsibilities
 - Plan and conduct the audit
 - Obtain reasonable assurance
 - Perform tests over controls and/or compliance and report deficiencies and instances of noncompliance
 - Communicate significant matters
 - Express opinions
- District Responsibilities
 - Accurately prepare and fairly present the district's financial information
 - Design, implement, and maintain internal controls
 - Monitor compliance with laws, grants, and contracts
 - Provide fraud representations
 - Make corrective actions for reported findings
 - Provide auditors with all information, timely, and by agreed-upon dates
- 3 District audit reports were issued
 - The financial statement audit report – dated December 22, 2025; unmodified opinion; reliable
 - Report on internal control and compliance – issued March 6, 2026; one finding in internal control
 - Single audit report – dated March 6, 2026; student financial cluster and unmodified opinion; clean
- Report Highlights
 - District's annual comprehensive financial report
 - Auditor issued an unmodified opinion, which means it was a clean opinion and the district's financial statements were reliable.
 - Internal Control and Non-compliance
 - Auditors found one finding in the report on internal control and non-compliance.
 - Single Audit Report – assessment of the district's compliance with federal program requirements over the federal program.

- Audited the student financial assistance cluster, and did not report any findings, and issued an unmodified or clean opinion.
- Financial Overview: Last five fiscal years
 - Revenues
 - FY2021 – FY2025, the districts' revenues have continued to range from a low in 2021 of \$58.4M to a high in 2024 of \$84.3M
 - In 2025, the district's revenue decreased to \$74.5M; the decrease was primarily because the district received a one-time private donor funding of \$9.3M in 2024.
 - Expenses
 - FY2020 – spent from \$51.3M to \$63.3M in FY2025
 - The district's reserves are higher than both the revenues and expenses, which is a good thing. The district's total net position is \$125.7M as of June 30, 2025. \$98.4M of that reserve is invested in capital assets and not really considered spendable. \$13M of that balance is restricted, and the remaining balance of \$14.3M is unrestricted.
 - Audit Results
 - Prior Recommendations
 - District's status in implementing 2 findings from the 2024 audits
 - The district did not properly restrict access to two investment accounts by removing terminated employees from the authorized signers. The district fully corrected the findings.
 - In 2025, the findings related to the district's IT controls were partially corrected in fiscal year 2025.
- Summary of Audit Findings
 - Financial Statement Finding 2025-01
 - The district's control procedures over IT were not sufficient, increasing the risk over systems and data.
- Recommendations Overview
 - Two recommendations to the district:
 - Prioritize implementing IT policies and procedures to restrict access.
 - Assign and periodically review employee users' access for job-role appropriateness and compatibility.

1.05 Standing Reports

1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees

Mr. Steve Leeder, Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT) representative, reported on the All-Trustee meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 22-23; highlights include:

- The meeting included six sessions, including AZ Community College Success Center; board effectiveness, open meeting law & executive sessions; AI FIPSE grant, Janelle's AI presentation was the best; Trustee sharing – highlights from each college; Nick Ponder presentation gave background on state legislature.
- In closing, reported that the AACCT Retreat will be in August in Flagstaff.

1.05.2 Senate

A written April 2026 Senate report was submitted and accepted as published.

1.05.3 Student Government Association

The Governing Board reviewed the Student Government Association report and accepted it as published. Doing an outstanding

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey began his report by congratulating the college rodeo team on an outstanding season. Five athletes, three men and two women, have qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyoming, June 14–20, 2026. Special thanks were also given to Coaches Smith and Bell for their leadership and support throughout the season.

Dr. Perey also congratulated coaches Inglehart and Nelson, along with the Cochise College baseball team, on an outstanding season. The Apache's finished with an impressive 46–15 overall record after advancing to the NJCAA Region 1 Championship Round as the No. 2 seed in the ACCAC Division I Tournament. Although the season ended with a loss to Central Arizona College, it was one of the most successful in program history. The team tied the program record for regular-season wins, broke the single-season home run record with more than 60 home runs, and earned the No. 2 seed in the Region 1 Playoffs. In addition, Assistant Coach Austin Nelson was recognized as the ACCAC Assistant Coach of the Year.

The president noted that in the coming days, the college would celebrate the Adult Education graduation, the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, and Commencement, important milestones that reflect the hard work and perseverance of our students. These achievements are made possible through the dedication and support of college faculty, staff, and the board, whose impact helps students reach their goals and change their lives.

He then shared a short video highlighting Emma Wilson's journey and the impact Cochise College has had on her life.

Legislative Update:

- Arizona's legislative session and budget negotiations remain at a standstill as Governor Katie Hobbs and Republican legislative leaders continue to disagree on several major issues tied to the FY2027 state budget. Earlier this month, Governor Hobbs vetoed the Republican-led \$17.9 billion budget proposal, calling it "unbalanced and reckless," and negotiations have largely centered on disagreements over federal tax conformity, education funding, and overall spending priorities.
- The Legislature has recessed until June 1st while discussions continue behind the scenes. Arizona's fiscal year begins July 1, meaning a budget agreement will ultimately need to be reached before the end of June.
- Cochise College will continue monitoring developments closely and engaging with state partners and legislators as the process moves forward.
- The President has released the FY27 budget proposal, which now moves to Congress for consideration. The President's budget serves as a starting point and outlines priorities, but it is not binding. Congress is responsible for developing and passing the actual funding legislation. A document showing

the president's budget, ACCT's priorities, and what was funded in FY 2026 was left on the dais for board members.

- We will continue to monitor developments and advocate for funding that supports students, programs, and the mission.

Facilities Update:

- At the Douglas Campus, the City of Douglas wellsite project continues moving forward with well drilling expected to begin in early June and water service anticipated by February 2028.
- The building 400 remodeling project also continues on schedule, with roof work nearing completion, and overall completion expected by the end of June.
- We had some heavy rain, and water was able to flow without flooding.
- The building 900 roof replacement project experienced a slight delay due to material availability, with completion now expected in mid-September.
- Work also continues at Huachuca Hall Apartments, where additional abatement, sanitation line replacement, and reconstruction activities are scheduled through the summer and into the fall.
- At the Sierra Vista Campus, commencement preparations are underway, and the Campus Services Building (2600) office build-out continues, with completion now anticipated by the end of June.
- At the Downtown Campus, we are expecting delivery of the helicopter simulator in late June.

Initiatives:

Workforce and Economic Development Update:

- Cochise College will host the Western States Sheriffs' Association Leadership Academy from June 22–26, 2026, on the Sierra Vista campus. This executive-level law enforcement training brings together 20 leaders from 9 different states for a focused leadership development experience. The breadth of participation reflects strong regional engagement and demonstrates Cochise College's capacity to support regional customized contract training.
- Cochise College launched its Summer Camp Program on June 1. This year's summer camp program includes 15 camps with a combined enrollment of 254 students. In addition, Cochise College partnered with the AZ Cyber Initiative to host a Cyber Bootcamp for an additional 20 students. This represents our role as a provider of accessible learning opportunities and supporting early student engagement with college and career pathways.

Nursing and Allied Health Update:

- The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will take place on May 14, recognizing 15 BSN graduates and 67 RN candidates.
- The college recently applied for a grant from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity to expand healthcare workforce pathways, support resilience training for healthcare professionals, and assist students with childcare costs. Grant awards are anticipated in August.
- Additionally, 51 CNA students are completing skills testing today and will be eligible for Arizona certification exams.

Business, Career, and Technical Education Update:

- Wrapped up spring advisory board meetings and saw strong participation, including more than 20 partners in Cybersecurity, 25 in Business, and over 40 in Career and Technical Education.

- Additional highlights include Agriculture's participation in the Earth Day event on the Douglas Campus, Cybersecurity's attendance at the Centers of Academic Excellence Conference, and continued workforce placement success.
- The HVAC program placed two students with local employers, and the Welding program is sending 12 additional students to SpaceX employment opportunities. Although these positions are out of the county, we want to meet workforce needs here. The college is also preparing students for work abroad with the skills needed to succeed

General Comments:

- Community Engagements
- April 22-23 – AACCT All-Trustee Meeting in Phx & All-AZ Academic Celebration (Mr. Leeder)
- April 24 - Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- April 24 – Sky Island Awards Gala
- April 27 – Rural Transformation Grant Meeting w/CEOs
- April 28 – Rural Transformation Grant Collaboration meeting
- April 29 – Red & White Celebration in Douglas at 3 PM
- April 30 & May 1 – Board Retreat (Mr. Farr hosted at ASCU)
- May 1– Red & White Celebration in Sierra Vista (Mr. Hudgins and Mr. Farr)
- May 2 – Baseball Game
- May 7 – Art Mural Ribbon Cutting at Canyon Vista Medical Center (JenMarie Zeleznak & Students)
- May 8 – Provost Candidate Interview
- May 12 – Good Morning Sierra Vista

Upcoming Activities:

- May 13 & 14 – Provost Candidate interviews
- May 13 – Adult Education Recognition at 7 PM
- May 14 – Nurses Pinning @ 7 PM
- May 15 – President's Reception at 5 PM and Commencement at 7 PM
- May 20 & 21 – AC4 Meetings
- May 25 – Memorial Day – College Closed
- May 28 – Police Academy Graduation @ 2 pm
- May 28 – Annual Leave (Dr. Davis - Covering)
- June 9 – Meeting with Greg Volker (City of Benson)
- June 9 – Board – Public Hearing, Special Meeting (Budget Adoption) & Regular Meeting

Mr. Farr inquired about the number of awards to be earned at commencement; Dr. Perey responded that 1,191 associate degrees, 25 bachelor's degrees, and 800 certificates would be awarded this year.

1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – April 2026

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

1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report

The Governing Board reviewed the May Academic Progress Report regarding enrollment and accepted it as submitted.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Christina Safford, Instructional Multimedia Developer, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.2 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Kia Mullins, Executive Assistant to the President and Governing Board, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.3 * Faculty; Appointment (*Derek Shloss, Instructor of History, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.4 * Exempt Staff; Probation Separation (*Molly Dunbar, ERP Systems Analyst, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.5 * Coach; Resignation (*Quint Bell, Assistant Coach, Rodeo, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.6 * Curriculum
- 2.01.7 * Acceptance of Minutes for April 21, 2026 – Regular Meeting

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

2.02 Cochise Combined Trust Renewal

The administration requested that the Board approve a motion to adopt a resolution renewing membership with the Cochise Combined Trust for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Mr. Farr moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion adopting the resolution to renew membership with the Cochise Combined Trust for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members David DiPeso, Mark Farr, Don Hudgins, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.03 Intergovernmental Agreement – Sierra Vista Unified School District Use of Buses for Cochise College Commencement Ceremony

The administration requested that the Board approve a motion authorizing the college president or designee to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement between Cochise College and Sierra Vista Unified School District to provide shuttle bus services for the Cochise College Commencement Ceremony on May 15, 2026.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion authorizing the college president or designee to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement between Cochise College and Sierra Vista Unified School District to provide shuttle bus services for the Cochise College Commencement Ceremony on May 15, 2026. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members David DiPeso, Mark Farr, Don Hudgins, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.04 Ellucian Modernization Contract

The administration requested a motion to approve the Ellucian Modernization Contract. Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, presented details regarding the proposed new SaaS program and contract for Ellucian Student, HCM, and Finance. The new program will include some of the following:

- Reporting generation tools
- Dashboard for students with access to the course catalog, their fee balances, and payments, etc.
- Workflow designer and forms builder
- Cloud security, protecting the college from cyber threats
- Forms assistant – creates forms in seconds and recreates a PDF or an image digitally.
- Over 250 content options such as purchase requisitions, purchase orders, etc.
- HR, the human capital management system, and finance

The Ellucian Modernization contract will replace the college's current contract with Anthology, saving the district the remaining \$7.5M with that contract. The Ellucian contract will be \$4.6M for the software and approximately \$1.9M for implementation, and the college will suspend the current Banner contract, which will save the college a couple of hundred thousand.

Responding to Mr. Leeder, Dr. Davis noted that the program allows the college to develop dashboards with the flexibility to build functionality that links different courses to integrated systems for tutoring, C.A.R.E.S., etc., for students.

On June 1st, the college will stop paying the \$70K-per-month contract with Anthology and withdraw from the contract following Anthology's bankruptcy.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion approving the Ellucian Modernization Contract. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members David DiPeso, Mark Farr, Don Hudgins, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

INFORMATION

3.01 Communications

The college received the following communications:

- Dr. Roman Briggs, Instructor of Humanities, received notification from Megan Perry, Research Network Communication Associate with Common Ground Research Networks, informing him that he has been selected as the recipient of the Information, Medium & Society – The Publishing Studies Research Network International Award for Excellence. Dr. Briggs's "Creative Labor and the Claim of Exclusive Rights to Non-Rivalrous Goods" was selected for the award from among the highest-ranked articles emerging from the peer-review process, according to the selection criteria outlined in the peer-review guidelines. In recognition of his contributions, the article will be featured on their website and announced in the upcoming newsletter and on social media.

3.02 Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report – Moved to the Beginning of the Meeting

3.03 Cochise College Foundation Report

Denise Hoyos, Executive Director of the Cochise College Foundation, provided an update on recent Foundation activity outcomes; highlights include:

College/Foundation Partnership

501(C)(3) and is fiscally separate from the college. The Foundation has a volunteer board, including the college president. The board's role is primarily fundraising and stewardship of the funds or assets that are entrusted to the foundation. The Foundation has an annual audit, a portion of which is included in the college's annual financial report, and it submits a 990 tax form. The current budget is \$219,700, and the expected FY27 budget is \$225K.

Mission: To promote student success through scholarships, program support, and capital development.

Vision: That Cochise College is accessible to all and affordable by our diverse and changing communities.

Scholarships:

- Funds Administered: 160 (100+endowments, 50+ annual)
- New: Artemizia Foundation Art Scholarship, Joan and Rich Tavares Memorial Scholarship, Karen and Jimmy Horton Scholarship, Emergency Scholarship
- Award Process: Financial aid office, academic departments
- Shared a document that listed recipient outcomes
 - In FY25, there were over 1,000 awards to 752 students that year
 - 83% are first-time scholarship recipients since 2014
 - 56% graduated
 - 37% transferred

Program Support:

- Funds Administered: 45 (9 endowments, 36 annual)
- Supporting Adult Education
- Purchase vouchers for taking exams
- Project Houses – improved communities, profits go toward the next house build
- Most Utilized: Athletics funds, Friends of the Art Department, Huachuca Area Alliance for Literacy Fund (for Adult Education), Margaret Kent Fund fuel assistance)

Assets:

- Cash
- Property/Land
- Investments
- Assets are restricted to investments in property
- FY26 – approximately \$19M

FY26 Highlights

- Income - \$1,176,399 (excluding investment income, including property house income)
- Donor Retention – Rolling (calculated daily) = 58% as of May 1, 2026.
- Coming soon – Marjorie and Lowell Stewart Scholarship, and donated house
- New need-based scholarship for any student
- The Foundation has an agreed upon IGA between the Foundation and the college

- Planning for the future: what are the college's fundraising priorities, and what does the foundation need to do to prepare?
- A Hall of Fame inductee presented a challenge that they would match up to \$250K for needs-based scholarships if the college could raise that by the end of the year.
- Recently received a surprise bequest of almost half a million dollars, with no restrictions.
- Received a donated house that will be sold as is from the Foundation
- Host three events a year: Foundation Social, Legacy Giving event, and Hall of Fame

Questions/Comments

Responding to Mr. Leeder, Ms. Hoyos provided information on non-traditional student scholarships, where students apply, and said that they're awarded \$1,200 or \$600 through the financial aid office, which has access to all relevant financial information. And it's for adults who've been away from school for a year or more, generally.

Mr. Hudgins asked how the board could best support the foundation. Ms. Hoyos noted that they could always make contributions to anything that inspires the member.

Dr. Perey thanked Ms. Hoyos, Ms. Berumen, and the Foundation Board for all they have done to support the college.

Mark Bataglia has been on the Foundation Board for 30 years. He is a lawyer and helps individuals set up estate planning.

3.04 First Responders Academy Report

Mr. Jeremy Wagner, Instructor for Administration of Justice, provided a presentation on the First Responders Academy; highlights include:

First Responders Academy

- Eight years in operation, the SEALETA has graduated 193 law enforcement recruits
- To graduate, a recruit has over 20 weeks of training; they are required to complete 800 hours of training, which includes driving, firearms, defensive tactics, law, and report writing.
- Fall 2025 academy class was the largest, with 26 recruits graduating
- Current class has 20 students
- Currently have 29 seat requests for the July 2026 academy
- Has an indoor firearms training complex
- Driving Range

Fire Science Program

- Fastest growing program
- Expansion is based on forecasted community need
- Focus on new partnerships for better training experiences
- New equipment acquisitions have built the program to high standards

Administration of Justice Program

- Increasing student enrollment
- Providing education in innovative ways
- Student success in multiple pathways

- Designing new courses to expand impact on local law enforcement efforts, such as homeland security and border protection

Questions/Comments:

Dr. Perey noted that the program should continue cultivating relationships and assigning credits for prior learning.

3.05 Governing Board Policy 213 – Conflict of Interest First Read

Governing Board Policy 213 – Conflict of Interest has been revised to add language requiring board members to sign a Conflict-of-Interest statement upon taking the oath of office. The policy and statement are presented to the Board as a first read and will be brought back during the June 9, 2026, meeting for a second read and approval.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

- Mr. Leeder
 - Commends the college staff and administration for the remarkable work they do and their contributions to the community.
- Mr. Farr
 - Sincerely thanked the college for all it does to help students accomplish their educational goals. Remarkable to be part of what the college does.
- Mr. Hudgins
 - Thanked the staff and faculty for helping the college become the number one college in Arizona

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Ms. Stephanie Money, Secretary of the Governing Board