MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2002
5:30 p.m. – Board Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr. Jess del Bosque, Chair
Ms. Elizabeth Hancock
Mr. Tom Moser
Mr. Mel Takehara
Dr. Lydia Ledesma-Reese, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:
Ms. Lisa Radeleff, Administrative Assistant/Executive Secretary to the President

I. CALL TO ORDER:
The Chair, Mr. Jess del Bosque, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM:
The Chair recognized that a quorum of Board members were present. Dr. Andersen was not able to attend due to a family member’s illness.

III. FLAG SALUTE

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:
The minutes of the January 14, 2002 meeting were approved as presented.
The minutes of the January 28, 2002 special meeting were approved as presented.
The minutes of the February 5, 2002 special meeting were approved as presented.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Public Comment

Ms. Angelica Hernandez, an instructor at SVC, read a letter that she had written to the Trustees urging them to support Senate Bills 6235 and 6367.
The Chair thanked Ms. Hernandez for her comments.

Ms. Claudia Palomera, a community member, spoke in support of the proposed legislation to provide resident tuition to children of undocumented workers.

Ms. Carolyn Batchelor, SVC classified staff member, spoke regarding her concern about internal communication. She stated that she received an email from the president on Wednesday morning, February 6 regarding the president’s resignation. Ms. Batchelor said she expected further information to follow from the Public Information Office or from the Board of Trustees, however, she received nothing except an email that was sent to faculty and forwarded on to classified and exempt professional staff. She said that classified staff does have an interest in what is happening at the college.

The Chair stated that he took responsibility for the lack of communication and has taken steps to ensure better communication in the future.

Mr. Dale Ragan, community member, thanked the Trustees for handling a difficult situation. Mr. Ragan urged the hiring of an executive vice president for the College.

Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, Director of the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP), spoke regarding the LEAP Legislative Conference recently held in Olympia. He stated that Dr. Ledesma-Reese is Chair of the LEAP Advisory Board, and that she has been a committed and solid leader. Mr. Sanchez reported that Dr. Ledesma-Reese was honored at the conference with a Lifetime Achievement Award from LEAP. Mr. Sanchez then presented the award to Dr. Ledesma-Reese. He thanked Dr. Ledesma-Reese for her leadership and dedication to students.

Mr. Sanchez also stated that he hoped the Board of Trustees would support House Bill 2330.

Ms. Elizabeth Ibanez, community member, spoke on behalf of the children she works with in her role as prevention coordinator. She stated that the community was glad when Dr. Ledesma-Reese’s arrived. Ms. Ibanez stated that Dr. Ledesma-Reese’s presence and leadership changed a number of children’s lives.

Mr. Jesse Cavazos, Migrant Council Parent Coordinator, asked for the Trustees to support HB 2330. He stated that one question migrant parents always ask is how they can afford to give their children access to higher education. Mr. Cavazos also stated that he has had the pleasure of working with Dr. Ledesma-Reese several times and sees her as a great asset to the community.
2. Correspondence

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that the following items had been distributed to the Trustees:
- The minutes from the Skagit Regional Public Facilities District January 15, 2002 meeting;
- The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges 2000-2001 Academic Annual Report
- Email from a former Boeing worker who is enrolled in the Truck Driver Training program;
- February 8, 2002 email update to the college community.

VI. ACTION ITEMS:


Mr. Moser asked that this action item be postponed until the next regular Board meeting. He stated that Dr. Andersen has had strong input regarding this policy and he would like to wait on taking action until Dr. Andersen is in attendance.

The Chair stated that this item would be postponed until the March 11, 2002 Board meeting.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that internally the college has a revised governance model that needs to be implemented, and this postponement will delay it another month.

2. Resolution 02-02, Naming of the Soccer Field

It was moved by Ms. Elizabeth Hancock and seconded by Mr. Tom Moser to approve Resolution 02-02, naming the soccer field as the “Wally Sigmar Soccer Field.”

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Resolution 02-03, Naming of the Fire Training Tower

It was moved by Mr. Tom Moser and seconded by Ms. Elizabeth Hancock to approve Resolution 02-03, naming the fire tower as the “Jerry Banta Fire Training Tower.”

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that Mr. Jerry Banta and his family and the family of Dr. Wally Sigmar will be presented with the official resolutions at the March Board meeting.
4. Resolution 02-04, Naming of the Science Building at Whidbey Island Campus

It was moved by Ms. Elizabeth Hancock and seconded by Mr. Tom Moser to approve Resolution 02-04, naming the Science Building at Whidbey Island Campus as “Sprague Hall.”

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Resolution 02-05, Naming of the New Building at Whidbey Island Campus

It was moved by Ms. Elizabeth Hancock and seconded by Mr. Tom Moser to approve Resolution 02-04, naming the new building at Whidbey Island Campus as “Oak Hall.”

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that Dr. Brinton Sprague and his family will be invited to the April Board meeting, which will be held at the Whidbey Island Campus, to receive the official resolution.

6. WPEA Labor Agreement

The Chair stated that the Trustees would need to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. They would adjourn for approximately 15 minutes.

ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:55 P.M.
RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION AT 6:05 P.M.

Mr. Dick Geier, Vice President of Administrative Services, presented a brief review on the process used for the WPEA Labor Agreement. He stated that classified staff had ratified the agreement. Mr. Geier said that the major revisions to the agreement included: changes in the classified evaluation process, the addition of flex time and telecommuting options, and the possibility of going to a 4-day/10 hour work week during the summer.

Mr. Mike Merrill, Vice President of WPEA, stated that one of the significant changes to the agreement is that there are now two bargaining units, one for staff and one for supervisory. He reported that WPEA held a ratification vote on Friday, February 8, and of the 95 classified employees eligible to vote, 55 voted and all 55 voted for the ratification. Mr. Merrill stated that WPEA appreciates the good work that Mr. Geier and the other members of the management negotiation team did and also appreciates their give and take efforts.

It was moved by Ms. Elizabeth Hancock and seconded by Mr. Tom Moser to approve the WPEA Labor Agreement as presented.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. COLLEGE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. SVCFT President’s Report – Ms. Trish Barnes

Ms. Barnes, SVCFT President, read the following report:

In our report last month, SVCFT invited board members to join us for our monthly SVCFT meetings. Today, Jess del Bosque and Tom Moser did. We appreciate the time that they took and the discussion that we were able to have with them. We hope that board members will join us again.

On Martin Luther King Day, three faculty and ten students from a class taught by one of the faculty went to Olympia to lobby for support for community colleges. We talked with five of the six district representatives and emphasized the fact that community colleges are part of the solution to the economic setbacks in the state. We also asked them to consider alternatives to increased tuition as ways to make up the budget deficit that we are facing.

The next lobbying day is Monday, February 18.

In the past month, approximately 30 faculty have been involved in two different professional development activities on the Mount Vernon campus. One of these is a class about Small Group Instructional Diagnosis, a technique faculty can use to gather information from students about what is working and what can be changed to help them learn more effectively. The other is a seminar about Learning that Lasts. In this seminar, faculty are meeting on Friday afternoons to talk about the learning that is most important for our students: what it is, how we teach, and how we assess.

2. WPEA Report – Mr. Mike Merrill

Mr. Merrill, WPEA Vice President, reported that the labor management committee team has met to discuss implementation of this coming summer’s 4-day/10 hour week schedule. He said that the goals and objectives of management are being taken into consideration and the team is working on how to achieve those goals. Mr. Merrill stated that exempt professional staff are being included in this development process.

Mr. Merrill also reported that WPEA has asked for list of current classified positions and those employees who are currently exempt professional staff but were once in classified staff positions. They may have reversion rites back to classified.
Mr. Merrill stated that three classified employees recently went to Olympia for the WPEA Legislative Day and met with four of our local legislators. Health benefits and parity in cost of living adjustments were the two main issues addressed.

3. ASSVC Report – Mr. Jesse Collins

Mr. Jesse Collins, ASSVC Vice President, reported that Cardinal games, both men’s and women’s, will now be broadcast on KSVR. He stated that the ASSVC President now has a column in the *Cardinal* student newspaper.

Mr. Collins reported that there would be two new committees for this year, the Cardinal Sports Committee—which will be dedicated to increasing fan attendance and support, and a Cardinal Lounge Committee. He stated that not many students use the lounge and ASSVC wants to have it be an area where students are more comfortable.

Mr. Collins stated that one of the main issues the ASSVC President wanted him to mention is the Graphic Arts Program. He said that ASSVC is against dropping the Graphic Arts program. Mr. Collins stated that ASSVC believes that Graphic Arts could make a lot of money for the school. He said that student government feels that it would be better to bring the program to the Mount Vernon campus.

VIII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT:

Ms. Hancock reported that the Whidbey Island Campus recently received the Employer of the Year for 2001 from the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce.

The Chair congratulated Dr. Mick Donahue, Vice President of Whidbey Island Campus, on this award.

IX. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

Dr. Ledesma-Reese highlighted the following items during her report:

- On January 17 SVC co-sponsored the Champions of Diversity program with Western Washington University. Dr. Ledesma-Reese thanked the Chair for attending the program;
- On January 18 she attended a House of Representatives Higher Education Committee round table discussion on transfer and articulation;
- The Robert Burns Dinner was held on January 26. Dr. Ledesma-Reese thanked Mr. Moser, Mr. Takehara, and Ms. Hancock for attending. She stated that the event was very well done;
- On February 4 SVC co-hosted with Bellingham Technical and Whatcom Community Colleges the annual legislative dinner. She stated that the dinner was
very successful and well attended. This dinner was held during the state trustee conference in Olympia;

- February 7-8 Dr. Ledesma-Reese participated in the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project’s (LEAP) annual Legislative Conference in Olympia. Governor Locke and Senator Maria Cantwell were in speakers at the conference banquet;
- The C.H.E.F. Club Celebration Dinner will be held on February 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria;
- There will be a Foundation Board meeting on February 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fredlund Music Room;
- Dr. Ledesma-Reese reported that Mr. Mel Takehara’s Senate confirmation hearing was held on February 4;
- Dr. Ledesma-Reese distributed to the Trustees minutes from the December 12 Informal Northwest Consortium president’s meeting.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

1. 2001-2002 Operating Budget Update

Mr. Geier presented a review of college expenditures to-date. He stated that compared to last year we are below the rate of expenditure.

Mr. Geier stated that revenue has increased from this same point last year. The International and Running Start programs both have increased revenue from last year and tuition revenue has also increased.

He stated that SVC is healthy but we should be aware that there could a turn around at some point—we should be cautiously optimistic.

The Chair thanked Mr. Geier for his report.

2. Time to Degree

Ms. Susan Tinker, Vice President of Educational Services, and Dr. Maureen Pettitt, Director of Institutional Research, presented a report on time to degree completion. Ms. Tinker stated that one of the Board of Trustees' goals is to have college ready students complete a degree in two years—assuming they enter SVC college ready and are full time students.

Ms. Tinker reviewed steps that have been put in place to advise students on finishing a degree in two years and how SVC ensures that students can get the classes they need.

Dr. Pettitt reviewed statistics for two-year degree completion for students who need developmental education, 20% of those students will complete a degree in two years.
She stated that 51% of students who were not developmental education students completed a degree in two years.

Discussion followed the presentation. The Chair thanked Ms. Tinker and Dr. Pettitt for their report.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

Monday, March 11, 2002, 5:30 p.m. – Board Room, Mount Vernon Campus

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Chair stated that the Trustees would need to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. They would adjourn for approximately 30 minutes.

CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:45 P.M.
RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION AT 7:30 P.M.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, and no action taken during Executive Session, this meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jess del Bosque, Chair
Lydia Ledesma-Reese, President
Executive Secretary to the Board
Lisa Radeleff, Secretary to the President