BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr. Jess del Bosque, Chair
Mr. Tom Moser
Dr. Barbara Andersen
Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock
Mr. Mel Takehara
Dr. Gary Tollefson, 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 4:30 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM:

The Chair recognized that a quorum of Board members were present.

III. FLAG SALUTE

The Chair asked all in attendance to participate in a moment of silence to honor former Skagit Valley College student, Private Kerry David Scott, who was recently killed in Iraq.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Meeting Board Minutes – September 8, 2003

The consent agenda item was approved as presented.
V. RECOGNITION OF RECENTLY TENURED FACULTY

Ms. Susan Tinker introduced Ms. Beth Cole, Student Support Services Counselor.

The Board congratulated Ms. Cole and the Chair announced that they would take a five-minute break to enjoy a celebratory cake.

Dr. Tollefson stated that Ms. Marie Johnson, Business Management Training Instructor and Mr. Patrick McVicker, Firefighter Training Instructor also recently received tenure but were unable to attend the meeting. They have been invited to the November 10 Board meeting.

At 4:35 p.m. the meeting adjourned for a five-minute break and reconvened into open session at 4:40 p.m.

VI. COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:

Dr. Tollefson introduced Dr. Mack Armstrong, Superintendent of the Mount Vernon School District.

Dr. Armstrong distributed statistical information on the Mount Vernon School District (MVSD) and their Fall 2003 newsletter. He stated that he would like to present information on the challenges and opportunities that the school district faces.

Dr. Armstrong stated that MVSD has a dedicated certificated staff of 375 teachers and administrators and a support staff of 360. He said that the MVSD has an annual operating budget of $42 million, approximately 82.1% of that money goes toward salaries and benefits.

Dr. Armstrong reported that there are 3100+ students enrolled at the elementary level and there is large growth in the number of Hispanic students. He reported that there is also a fast growing Eastern Europe/Western Asian population in Mount Vernon. Dr. Armstrong stated that 30% of the MVSD student population is monolingual, non-English speaking. He reported that special education students make up 15% of the total school district population, the federal standard is 12%. Dr. Armstrong stated that 21% of the high school students are enrolled in the vocational program and over 60% of elementary school students participate in the Free & Reduced Lunch Program.

Dr. Armstrong said that one of the goals for MVSD was to help students overcome odds so they can become high achievers. He stated that one of the district’s challenges is the Washington Assessment of Student Learning
(WASL). Dr. Armstrong said that the WASL is one of the five most rigorous assessment tests in the nation. He said that another challenge for the district is the new federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, commonly known as “No Child Left Behind.” Dr. Armstrong reported that the two biggest challenges of the district are providing education and services for handicapped students and non-English speaking students.

Dr. Armstrong stated that he believes in the future there will be a heavy emphasis on early childhood development; preschool, daycare centers, etc. He said that he believes “seamless delivery”, connectivity to other education systems will become more important in the future.

Dr. Armstrong said that an area critical to students but one the district cannot reach is the need for adult literacy.

Dr. Armstrong stated that he believes strongly in Running Start. He knows there are high standards and wants to ensure that students are ready for it when they arrive at the college.

Dr. Armstrong highlighted some current programs the MVSD is providing: PrepWork Consortium, Peer Educator Training Program, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), and the recent National Science Foundation grant that will impact thousands of students.

Dr. Armstrong said that he welcomed the opportunity to having ongoing conversation with the faculty, administration and Board of Trustees of SVC. He said that the college and high school were once closely linked and he believes it is headed back that direction.

A question was asked regarding the NSF grant. Dr. Armstrong explained that the grant from NSF is for $15 million and will be used to train instructors to be better teachers in science.

A question was asked regarding additional funding for bilingual needs. Dr. Armstrong replied that there is some additional funding, however, if adequate yearly progress is not made the money is withdrawn. A question was asked regarding more detail of the AVID program. Dr. Armstrong replied that the AVID program is a college-preparatory program for middle and high school students who are not achieving to their potential.

The Chair thanked Dr. Armstrong for taking the time to participate in the meeting and for the information he provided.
VII. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Public Comment

Mr. Josef Kunzler – Read from a document that he distributed to the Board. The document stated his concern regarding the amount of money the Trustees had spent since January 1, 2003, for special Board meetings, his hope that the Board would pass a resolution in support of Boeing constructing the 7E7 in the State of Washington, and his concern over the high school dropout rate in Skagit County.

Mr. Moser asked if the Board should ask Dr. Tollefson to check with the State Board to see if it is appropriate for the Trustees to consider a resolution supporting the 7E7 construction. The Chair agreed. Mr. Takehara stated that he is on the board of the Economic Development Association of Snohomish County and he is not aware of either Edmonds or Everett Community Colleges passing a resolution supporting the 7E7 construction. Dr. Tollefson said that he will check with the State Board and will report back to the Trustees.

2. Cardinal Cove

Mr. Moser stated that he has talked informally with some former students regarding the sale of Cardinal Cove. He said their general feeling is that Cardinal Cove should be kept for public use.

Mr. Moser reported that on September 10, he, Dr. Tollefson, college staff members, the three Skagit County Commissioners and staff members from Skagit County Parks and Recreation met at Cardinal Cove. They reviewed the facilities at Cardinal Cove and discussed a possible partnership with the county, or possibly the county would be interested in purchasing the property. Mr. Moser stated that it is clear the property is currently under-utilized.

Mr. Moser stated that the parks staff will probably present a plan regarding the county’s interest in Cardinal Cove at the December or January Board meeting.

Mr. Moser stated that he has talked to Mr. Muia, Director of Student Life, about the possibility of maintaining Cardinal Cove, without draining resources, and is it possible to use it as a student facility. Mr. Moser stated that he would like to continue the dialogue with the students and keep them in the loop.

The Chair thanked Mr. Moser for his efforts on this issue.
3. Dr. Barbara Andersen

Dr. Andersen stated that her term as Trustee would have ended on September 30, however, she was contacted by Governor Locke’s office prior to that time and asked to continue to serve until a new trustee was selected, to which she agreed. She stated that she was contacted again last Friday by the Governor’s office and they said that a new appointment would be made very soon.

Dr. Andersen stated that due to her health issues and her husband’s impending retirement she chose not to serve another five-year term as trustee. Dr. Andersen then shared some of her thoughts about the outstanding people associated with Skagit Valley College

Ms. Arden Ainley, Interim Director of Public Information, introduced Mr. John Garner to the Board. Mr. Garner is a lifetime resident of Skagit County and a supporter of Skagit Valley College.

Mr. Garner recalled some of his memories of earlier days at the college.

The Chair thanked Mr. Garner for attending the meeting.

VIII. COLLEGE REPORTS:

1. Educational Services

Ms. Susan Tinker, Vice President – Educational Services, distributed copies of the 2003 edition of the “Sqajet.” She stated that the publication consists of photography, poetry and writing of faculty, staff, students and community members.

Ms. Tinker stated that she would be attending a dinner later that evening recognizing a computer training partnership between Skagit Valley College and Goodwill Industries. The computer training is directed primarily at assisting members of the Latino community in developing computer skills. The training is funded by a grant from the Gates Foundation.

2. ASSVC

Ms. Charese Hinshaw, ASSVC President, stated that student government members had recently attended two leadership workshops and will be attending another one this week at Western Washington University. She stated that the first district meeting will be held on October 15 and elections will take place the week of October 20. Ms. Hinshaw reported that Ms. Tiffany Green will serve as ASSVC Vice President representing Whidbey Island Campus.
3. SVCFT

Ms. Vicki Talbott, SVCFT Vice President, stated that one of the ideas being discussed in Olympia, is the idea of Performance Contracts. She said that a Performance Contract is an agreement between the state and individual institutions in which the state agrees to provide “regulatory relief” in exchange for performance guarantees.

Ms. Talbott said that “regulatory relief” in this context means permission, given to an individual college, to disregard “burdensome” laws and regulations. If the legislature values the laws it has passed, individual negotiating should not lead them to withdraw the laws. If the laws have become burdensome, the legislature can repeal them through the appropriate legislative process. She stated that “regulatory relief” seems neither helpful nor necessary.

Ms. Talbott reported that the states of Arkansas, Minnesota, and Kentucky have tried performance contracts and then dropped their programs. She said that success with performance contracts has been seen in two colleges, St. Mary’s in Maryland and the Colorado School of Mines. These two colleges are small and specialized and already have high retention and graduation rates. Ms. Talbott stated that the students as well as the programs are significantly different at community colleges and large state universities.

Ms. Talbott stated that the assumption behind the performance contract support is that colleges and universities are not responsive to concerns of the public or the legislature. She stated that individuals who are involved, such as the Board of Trustees, with Washington’s colleges know this is not true. Ms. Talbott said that along with the other colleges in the system, Skagit Valley College cares deeply about retention and graduation rates and related issue, and that our strategic goals reflect this.

Ms. Talbott reported that the state already can require that institutions of higher education perform at certain levels of quality and achieve certain outcomes, without creating a system, Performance Contracts, that has large risks and the potential to undermine the trust, credibility, and consistency of the system. She stated that SVCFT hopes the Board will join them in exploring this issue, considering the risks and the threats, and will communicate their concerns to the representatives in Olympia.

4. WPEA

Ms. Carolyn Batchelor, WPEA President, thanked Dr. Andersen for her service on the Board. She stated that Dr. Tollefson and Ms. Sue Williamson, Executive Director of Human Resources, recently met with classified staff at the Whidbey Island Campus.
Ms. Batchelor stated the concern of employees over the loss of Premera as a healthcare insurance provider, because now there will only be two choices of health insurance for Whidbey employees. She stated that many of the healthcare providers are off the island and many employees have to take large amounts of time off work for medical appointments. She asked the Board to contact legislators regarding developing a solution for this problem.

Ms. Batchelor said that at the July Board meeting she mentioned a survey conducted by classified staff that identified a top concern as the role and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. She stated that if she had thought about it more she would have used a better word than jurisdiction. Ms. Batchelor said she brought up the results as a way to improve communication, and she does not have specific information on the concerns. She said she hopes the meeting on October 17, which the Chair, Dr. Andersen, and Dr. Tollefson will be attending, will provide an opportunity for classified staff to ask questions of the trustees.

5. Administrative Services

Mr. Bruce Klewer, Vice President – Administrative Services, reported that 70 parking spaces have been added off of LaVenture. He stated that 80 additional spaces will be added at the northeast section of the Mount Vernon Campus.

Mr. Klewer stated that we are currently in the pre-design stage of a new science/allied health/technology building. He reported that as of today McIntyre Hall is at 70 feet, the final height will be at 80 feet.

6. Foundation

Dr. Tollefson stated that the Foundation leadership is still in transition and he hopes to have a director in place soon.

7. PFD Report

The Chair reported that the building excavation and foundations have been completed for McIntyre Hall. He stated that the project continues to stay on schedule and budget. The Chair said that there will be a tour of the project site on October 15 at 5:10 p.m. and Board members are welcome to participate.

The Chair reported that the original fundraising goal of $17 million for the project has been exceeded and they are now working on Add Alternates and the $1 million endowment.
8. TACTC

Dr. Andersen stated that she and Ms. Hancock recently attended the TACTC fall legislative conference. She said that the presentations were all geared around polling to see what bills can actually be passed. She stated that every poll showed that 80% of the people perceive that there is plenty of money in government but that it is misspent.

Dr. Tollefson stated that he, the Chair and others from the community will be attending a meeting tonight sponsored by the League of Education Voters to better support K-12 and higher education.

9. President

Dr. Tollefson introduced Ms. Sue Williamson, the new Executive Director of Human Resources. He also introduced Ms. Yu Ran this year’s exchange instructor from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Dr. Tollefson said that Ms. Yu Ran is teaching Chinese language, history and physical education courses. He said that we hope to send one of our faculty to Beijing sometime in the near future and to also send a delegation from the college to firm up the relationship with Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Dr. Tollefson reported that Ms. Susan Tinker was recently awarded the Earl Norman Leadership Award. He stated that this prestigious annual award honors an outstanding Washington community college administrator who, through visionary leadership and management skills, has made significant contributions to the college and community. Dr. Tollefson said that Ms. Tinker has also been nominated for the Skagit Women’s Alliance and Network (SWAN) 2003 Woman of the Year Award.

Dr. Tollefson said that he has been presenting at numerous service club and chamber of commerce meetings and he thanked Ms. Ainley for her assistance in preparing the presentations.

Dr. Tollefson reminded the Board that on October 15, Secretary of State Sam Reed will present the Virtual Reference Service grant to the Library at 2:30 p.m. on the Mount Vernon Campus.

Dr. Tollefson requested that the Board consider choosing a date for a two to four hour work session regarding college planning. Following discussion the date of February 24 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. was set for the planning process work session.
Dr. Tollefson distributed the 2002-2003 Accountability Report. He stated that this document is sent to community members and provides a framework to review the strategic plan goals.

IX. NEXT MEETING:

Monday, November 10, 2003, 4:30 p.m. – Board Room, Mount Vernon Campus

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no discussion items for executive session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.