

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Mariko Doerner – Chair
Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero – Vice-Chair
Mr. Ozell Jackson III
Ms. Vhari Rust-Clark
Dr. Thomas Keegan, Interim President

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Mariko Doerner, recognized that a quorum of Board members was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No guests at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2026
2. Board Special Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2026
3. Skagit/Island Head Start Report

It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Ozell Jackson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

COLLEGE REPORTS

1. Associated Students of Skagit Valley College (ASSVC) REPORT Maria Gallegos, President, Whidbey Island Campus

A recommendation was brought forward by students to modify the Student Technology Fee, increasing it from \$5 to \$6 per credit and adjusting the cap from 8 to 12 credits. This would increase the total fee from \$40 to \$72 per student per quarter, expanding funding for future technology requests. The fee has not been increased since its implementation approximately 20 years ago.

Both campuses are planning Centennial Day events in partnership with the Foundation and the Office of the President, scheduled for May 19 at the Whidbey Island Campus and May 20 at the Mount Vernon Campus. Plans include a Centennial Mural in Mount Vernon and the unveiling of a Welcome Pole at the Whidbey Island Campus.

At Mount Vernon, ASSVC is launching a "Late Night in the Library" program. Two ASSVC representatives will be stepping down at the end of winter quarter, and the Board will begin the process for 2026–2027 membership. Most current representatives are expected to graduate and transfer.

ASSVC and Mount Vernon Campus President Ashley Zamora will host a student forum on Thursday, March 12, in partnership with Interim Vice President for Student Services Yadira Rosales.

At Whidbey Island, the program board is planning a Masquerade Ball on Friday, March 13. One ASSVC representative will be graduating at the end of winter quarter, with two additional graduates expected in spring, recruitment efforts are planned to fill these positions.

The PTK blood drive took place today, with all appointment slots filled.

2. Skagit Valley College Federation of Teachers (SVC-FT) Kip Zwolenski, Union President

No report at this time.

3. WPEA – Lance Levesen

The WPEA contract was approved by 95 percent, with optimism expressed that legislators will provide funding. Ongoing monitoring of SB 6346 was noted, with concerns raised regarding the proposed millionaire tax. Additional concerns were expressed regarding contract negotiations for 2027–2029, communication with faculty, and telework agreements. Appreciation was extended to the Trustees for their

leadership, as well as to President Keegan, and shop stewards shared that they are looking forward to meeting with him.

4. PRESIDENT – Dr. Thomas Keegan

President Keegan thanked the Board for the opportunity to once again lead the college and expressed appreciation to the Board Chair for her leadership. He also noted that Trustee Doerner has been reappointed and confirmed by the Governor's Office, with a term extending through September 2030, and acknowledged Trustee Bruner's recent Senate confirmation.

An update on enrollment was provided. The college is currently engaged in four audits, led by Dr. Mike Cogan, and work continues on the SBCTC financial review and corrective action plan.

President Keegan reviewed his goals for the year, noting that progress is underway and that he will share updates at the upcoming Board retreat for feedback.

A system and legislative update was provided, with the legislative session concluding this week. Of particular significance were the anticipated cuts to Running Start, which were reduced by approximately half, due in large part to the work of Rep. Dave Paul. This adjustment will allow colleges to continue offering Running Start in the summer with state support.

The Strategic Priority Report was referenced, reinforcing the importance of these reports.

President Keegan shared that the college was awarded \$1.4 million in funding over 36 months from the Ballmer Foundation to support and expand the Maestros initiative.

An update was provided on the Campus View Village expansion, with the SVC Foundation Board of Governors approving the next step of soliciting loan proposals for the planned project.

Additional updates included the success of the recent athletics auction. A reminder was also shared regarding the Hall of Fame event scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2026.

5. Strategic Priorities Performance Report | Opportunity

Yadira Rosales and Dr. Gabriel Mast presented an update on the college's Strategic Priorities performance measures related to Opportunity.

4. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Trustee Doerner reported that she attended the McIntyre Hall Endowment Annual Meeting, where she provided an update on operations and costs. She also suggested

that the college should extend invitations to legislators for campus events and tours to strengthen engagement.

Trustee Perez-Lucatero shared highlights from the SVC Foundation Board of Governors meeting. She expressed appreciation to Kathleen Petrzelka and the culinary department for providing an excellent dinner. She also noted that scholarship applications exceeded 800 this year and announced the launch of a new Foundation website. Additionally, she highlighted the upcoming unveiling of the Welcome Pole at the Whidbey Island Campus on May 19 as part of the Centennial Celebration.

Trustee Rust-Clark reported attending the athletic auction, noting it was a great success and praising the students for their outstanding participation.

Trustee Jackson provided an update on the national ACCT team and discussed current challenges facing the organization.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Kai Dupe
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Kai Dupe - Computer Science (BS), effective Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Recommendation of Tenure – Mr. Michael Greiner
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the granting of tenure to Mr. Michael Greiner – Physics, effective Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Edgar Rosas Alquicira
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Edgar Rosas Alquicira - Biology, Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Mariko Thomas
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Mariko Thomas – Communication Studies, effective Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Recommendation of Tenure – Ms. Michelle Walters
It was moved by Vhari Rust-Clark and seconded by Flora Perez-Lucatero to approve the granting of tenure to Ms. Michelle Walters – Nursing, effective Fall Quarter 2026.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Recommendation of WAC 132D-150, Code of Student Conduct
It was moved by Ozell Jackson and seconded by Flora Perez-Lucatero to approve the WAC 132D-150, Code of Student Conduct as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Recommendation of Head Start – Change of Scope
It was moved by Ozell Jackson and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the Head Start – Change of Scope as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Recommendation of President Search Timeline
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the presidential search timeline as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Recommendation of Request for Proposal (RFP) for Search Consultant
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the request for proposal (RFP) for a search consultant as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Recommendation of Presidential Search Advisory Committee (SAC) Role, Charge, Committee Make-up, and Process of Selection
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the presidential search advisory committee (SAC), role, charge, committee make-up and process for selection as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Recommendation of Process to Identify Membership of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee (SAC)
It was moved by Flora Perez-Lucatero and seconded by Vhari Rust-Clark to approve the process to identify membership of the presidential search advisory committee as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be May 12, 2026, at 4:30 pm, Mount Vernon Campus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Doerner adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Mariko Doerner, Chair

Dr. Thomas Keegan, Interim President
Executive Secretary to the Board