

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4  
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE  
Tuesday, May 13, 2025  
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Ozell Jackson III – Chair  
Dr. Carl Bruner – Vice Chair  
Ms. Mariko Doerner  
Ms. Megan Scott O'Bryan  
Dr. Christopher Villa, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Ozell Jackson, recognized that a quorum of Board members was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No guests at this time.

V. RECOGNITION OF TENURE FACULTY

Dr. Villa recognized tenure faculty that were recently awarded tenure at the March Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Darren Greeno said a few words about each faculty member.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2025
2. Board Special Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2025
3. Board Special Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2025
4. Board Special Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2025
5. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report
6. Exceptional Faculty Awards 2025-2026

It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Mariko Doerner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

## VII. COLLEGE REPORTS

### 1. ASSVC REPORT – Brendan Perry

Students from the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses recently attended the WACTCSA Legislative Academy at Lower Columbia College. During the event, they reviewed legislative outcomes from the 2025 session and began identifying student priorities for 2026. The top three statewide priorities selected by students were: free community college for all, addressing housing insecurity with a focus on housing discrimination against students, and adding a student member to each SBCTC college Board of Trustees.

ASSVC applications for the 2025–26 academic year are now available. Significant turnover is expected, as many current representatives are graduating and either transferring to four-year institutions or entering the workforce.

Mount Vernon ASSVC is concluding a student survey on campus food services. Once complete, the results will be shared with college administration.

Mount Vernon ASSVC recently approved new club constitutions for both the Dental Therapy Club and the Grappling Club.

The Services & Activities (S&A) Committee has finalized funding decisions and is notifying budget managers. The committee voted to raise the S&A fee to the state maximum. The final budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the June meeting.

### 2. SVCFT – Kip Zwolenski

Kip reported that the accreditation visit went well, with strong engagement from faculty throughout the process. He shared that collective bargaining resulted in a three-year contract, which faculty will vote online to ratify during the second week of June and expressed appreciation for how smoothly the process went. Kip also noted that the HSI Symposium was a success and that he was proud to be part of it.

### 3. WPEA – Lance Levesen

WPEA members ratified their new contract on April 3, 2025, with a vote of 74% in favor and 26% opposed. Despite the ratification, the final state budget released on April 26 excluded funding for WPEA's Higher Education Coalition, General Government, and Highline College contracts. As a result, no cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) were included for these employees. WPEA has stated that the delay in bargaining was due to the Office of Financial Management (OFM), which did not return to the table until December 17, despite WPEA being ready to begin bargaining on October 1.

The exclusion from the state budget affects over 5,300 WPEA-represented employees. WPEA is urging the Governor to veto the budget and call a special session to secure funding

for the ratified contracts. If the Governor signs the budget as is, the union plans to return to the bargaining table for a third round of negotiations (Bargaining 3.0).

#### 4. PRESIDENT – Dr. Christopher Villa

Dr. Villa reported that on May 5<sup>th</sup>, SVC held their second annual Cardinal Community Day, a professional development event that provided faculty and staff the opportunity to hear from the college president about the state of our college. Approximately 250 SVC enthusiastic and positive folks participated in the program. Dr. Villa opened the program and cited our recent successful accreditation visit, provided an update on SVC enrollment and student completion, and reiterated our focus on our culture of authenticity and transparency as we move forward in achieving measurable outcomes.

Dr. Villa said that he is pleased to report that enrollment continues to increase at the college. Current unduplicated headcount is at 7,784, up from 7,375 in fall quarter 2024. AFTE is up another 8% in academic year 2024-25 compared to 2023-24. We are on target in achieving this measurable outcome. Student completion rate (degree completion, certificate completion, and/or transfer) is currently at 40% up from 36% and trending in a positive direction toward achieving a 42% completion rate by academic year 2027-28.

On Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, the SVC Executive Cabinet met for a full day retreat in which we reviewed multiple divisional plans that were directly linked to the five strategic priorities noted in the 2024-2028 SVC Strategic Plan. Cabinet focused on achieving efficiency, demonstrating accountability, and realizing return on investment when addressing priorities for the college with regard to resource allocation.

#### 5. ACREDITATION REPORT – Dr. Gabriel Mast

Dr. Mast, Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), presented a report to the Board on the initial findings from the recent accreditation visit. The college received four commendations and three recommendations. The findings are preliminary and will be finalized in July.

#### 6. CORE THEME REPORT – EQUITY IN ACHIEVEMENT – Dr. Darren Greeno and Carla Gelwicks

The Board received the Core Theme Report on Achievement, which focused on student completion, learning outcomes, and progression. Key takeaways included continued improvement in completion rates across all racial and ethnic groups, with SVC performance exceeding system averages. Equity gaps, particularly among Hispanic, Black, and multi-racial students, remain a priority. The report emphasized using both internal and external data for planning and decision-making, and faculty and deans will address equity gaps through the Program Review Process.

#### 7. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Trustee Doerner attended the Around the Americas One Ocean Voyage event on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, where an overview of the One Island, One Ocean program was presented. The program focuses on student engagement and environmental awareness. The event was well attended.

Trustee Bruner attended the Cardinal Community Day on May 5th, noting the strong turnout at the opening gathering at McIntyre Hall. He attended two breakout sessions and observed high levels of participation and engagement throughout the event. Trustee Bruner also provided an update on the Head Start Policy Council. He noted the group's strong engagement, with active participation and a clear sense of ownership among members, including parents and families. The council chair was recognized for a high level of commitment, and Director Lykins was commended for her ability to guide discussions respectfully and effectively.

Trustee Scott O'Bryan reported strong Board participation during the recent accreditation visit. Trustees met with evaluators, responded to thoughtful questions, and focused on providing meaningful feedback. The session was productive and informative.

Trustee Jackson shared recent updates from the Whidbey Island Campus, including a visit with the Black Student Union. He noted that the President's Reception on May 1 had a good turnout, with several attendees showing interest in future partnerships with the college. The college also took part in the Whidbey Culture Fest and parade on May 3, where the Cardinal mascot was a big hit, especially with kids and families.

#### VIII. ACTION ITEM

1. Recommendation to approve the Head Start Continuation Grant Application.

It was moved by Carl Bruner and seconded by Megan Scott O'Bryan to approve the Head Start Continuation Grant Application as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#### IX. STUDY ITEMS

1. Recommendation of RN to BSN degree.

This item was up for study and will be brought to the Board for approval at the June 3, 2025 board meeting.

2. Recommendation of Board of Trustees' Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026.

This item was up for study and will be brought to the Board for approval at the June 3, 2025 board meeting.

3. Recommendation of Election of Vice Chair 2025-2026

This item was up for study and will be brought to the Board for approval at the June 3, 2025 board meeting.

#### X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

June 3 2025, 4:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus, Administrative Annex.

## XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Jackson announced at 5:53 p.m. that the Board would convene into Executive Session to discuss matters as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (g), to review the performance of a public employee. He stated that he anticipated the Executive Session would take 30 minutes and that the Board does not intend to take action when they returned to open session.

At 6:23 p.m., Chair Jackson extended the Executive Session by 10 minutes.

At 6:33 p.m., Chair Jackson extended the Executive Session by 5 minutes.

At 6:38 p.m., Chair Jackson extended the Executive Session by 10 minutes.

## OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the meeting into open session at 6:48 p.m.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Jackson adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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Ozell Jackson, Chair

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Dr. Christopher Villa, President  
Executive Secretary to the Board