

The Courier

Highlights from the Governing Board Meeting



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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Board Reports

Governing Board members praised both commencement ceremonies and multiple graduation events, including the nursing pinning ceremony, Grossmont Middle College High School graduation, the veterans' ceremony, and the healthcare technology dinner event.

Board President **Bill Garrett** remarked that Cuyamaca's commencement has nearly outgrown the quad area, and it was fantastic to see how much growth and involvement has taken place, and the diversity of students drawn to the variety of programs. **Garrett** said he highlighted the District's high school outreach programs at a recent SDICCCA meeting. He thanked both colleges and the District for moving the agenda forward on student success initiatives.

Trustee **Greg Barr** said the Grossmont College Theater Department fundraising event reached its \$30,000 goal to fund a program for high school students and Grossmont Theater Arts students next summer.

Trustee **Debbie Justeson** noted that graduates come from all walks of life, including those who are coming back for retraining, not just younger adults.

Trustee **Edwin Hiel** expressed his appreciation for the District's Student Services, EOPS, and DSPS programs and the career center, saying he was impressed seeing everything that takes place in the programs during the tour prior to the Board meeting.

Cuyamaca College Student Trustee **Elsa Hernandez** said she was excited and ready to take on the challenge of serving as student trustee and introduced her family. **Hernandez** said the first Kudapaw Carnival was a success, and the ASGCC is working to make it an annual event. The traditional pancake breakfast took place on Wednesday of finals week, with student government leaders serving the food.

Grossmont Student Trustee **Peg Marcus** thanked students and her husband, Jeff, for being present at her swearing-in. She reported talking with fellow student trustee **Hernandez** about plans for joint community projects, working together as East County's colleges to demonstrate to residents the District's commitment to educating its people and serving the community.



Student Trustee Peg Marcus

New Student Trustees Sworn In

The newly elected student trustees on the Governing Board were sworn in for the 2013-14 term by Board President **Bill Garrett**.

Peg Marcus is the trustee representing Grossmont College and **Elsa Hernandez** was elected from Cuyamaca College.



Student Trustee Elsa Hernandez

Board Actions

Board members discussed the awarding of a contract to the Strata Information Group for professional management, consulting services, and assistance in the management of the Information Systems Department under docket Item 304.

Rosinski inquired regarding concerns raised about the contract. Vice Chancellor Business Services **Sue Rearic** responded that many of the questions had come from individuals not fully informed about ongoing District technology issues, such as complex changes in the payroll system that would make the District's payroll system independent from the County Office of Education. **Garrett** said he would like to see the districtwide departmental survey results relating to Information Systems the next time a survey is administered. Chancellor **Cindy Miles** said information technology is an area she has given a lot of attention since she arrived at the District. She said she detects misplaced frustration with the questions and service, and described a loss in programming staff who have proved hard to replace due to low salary schedules. **Miles** said the demand for technology services have gone up exponentially in higher education. She said she was pleased with the increased accountability in the contract with Strata Information Group. **Rosinski** said she would support item 304, and would like a report to the Board on the results of the survey. The item passed by a vote of 5-0.

Garrett expressed his appreciation for efforts in putting together the District's tentative budget under docket item 305 to be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the State of California. The District will know more in September. **Justeson** thanked staff for presenting a clear overview of the tentative budget that was easy to understand. Item 305 passed unanimously.

The Governing Board unanimously approved all other items on the meeting [agenda](#) by consent.

From Closed Session

The Governing Board gave direction to the Chancellor to negotiate with the Fraternal Order of Police, Administrators Association, and Classified School Employees Association regarding the impacts and effects of moving police services to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor **Cindy Miles** thanked the Board for its support regarding the recommendation to consider changes in the District's public safety contracts. She said there will be discussions with labor leaders and a presentation at the July Board meeting. **Miles** said the recommendations are in no way an indictment of the individuals currently working in the District's Public Safety Department, describing them as 10 very dedicated individuals. **Miles** said job protection is a priority and pledged to provide more details in upcoming reports. ♦ **Miles** recognized the work of **Rearic** on the contract for *Proposition V* management services with Gafcon, Inc., including months of preparing Request for Proposals and reviewing bids in a very public competition. **Miles** commended improvements in the contract, including the use of technology in terms of reporting and accountability. ♦ **Miles** reported on the recent First Friday Breakfast meeting of the East County Chamber of Commerce at Grossmont College attended by Congresswoman **Susan Davis** and Supervisor **Dianne Jacob**, and thanked **Hiel** for his participation.

Bond Funding Approved

Governing Board members approved on consent the issuing of the first series of General Obligation Bonds permitted by the passage of *Proposition V* by voters in 2012. The bond amount will not exceed \$80 million.

Attorney **David Casnocha** of the law firm of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth and **Rod Carter**, representing the underwriting team of RBC Capital Markets, De La Rosa & Co. and Piper Jaffray & Co., provided a summary on issuing the bonds. The resolution authorizes the bonds and approves the official underwriting statement provided to investors. The first series of bonds will be current interest bonds only. When the bonds are sold, the funds will be held in the County of San Diego treasury and invested by the County Treasurer per county policy; the District will withdraw the money as needed on a project-by-project basis over the next three years. **Rosinski** asked if the Governing Board would be apprised if a Capital Appreciation Bond sale was proposed; **Casnocha** said all details would be brought to the Board's attention as part of the authorization for each bond series and voted on.

If the District's debt service can meet a minimum threshold, be refinanced and reduced, this will be pursued. All savings would be returned to taxpayers. **Casnocha** said this will be done only if a minimum economic benefit is met.

Distance Education Report

Trustees reviewed the District's Distance Education efforts in a report presented by **Christopher Tarman**, Senior Dean for Research Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, and **Kerry Kilber Rebman**, Grossmont College Dean of Learning and Resource Technology. Enrollment trends at both campuses are slightly down from their highest point, but are picking up. The profile of students in online courses mirrors statewide averages, with more women than men enrolled, and more students 25 and older. Online courses have more withdrawals than regular courses. **Tarman** said students do not always understand the commitment expected of them. Success rates are similar to regular courses when withdrawals are not considered. The gap in the success rate between online courses and regular courses is about 10 percent and has been steady. **Rebman** said activities to address achievement gaps include regular effective contact between instructors and students; proper faculty preparation and support; help from the GCCCD Online Success Website; ongoing training; and student preparation tools. **Rebman** said the District is the first California community college to subscribe to the "Quality Matters" pilot program, a faculty-driven, peer-review process.

Hiel observed that certain student populations are well served by distance education, and the District needs to focus on retention and success rates. **Hiel** said he reviewed the online success quiz for students and complimented its effectiveness. **Miles** said distance education will continue to grow, and applauded the colleges' efforts to improve online learning success.

District Services Report

Vice Chancellor **Sue Rearic** reported that Board members have before them contract renewals for two long-time contractors: Gafcon, Inc., to manage the *Proposition V* construction program; and the Strata Information Group for technology management services. ♦ **Rearic** said Senior Director of Facilities Planning and Maintenance **Dale Switzer** has developed five-year plans for both campuses that include proposals for buildings that will allow the District to secure state funds augmenting *Proposition V* funding. Governing Board members will receive an overview report at next month's Board meeting.

Tim Corcoran, Interim Vice Chancellor Human Resources, recognized the 12 individuals who have retired from the District this fiscal year: **David Arredondo, Jeanine Carson, Joann Cooper, Sheridan DeWolf, Connie Elder, Patrick Garity, Linda Greer, Linda Mitchell, Alba Orr, Jeannette Sandu, Ann Sharp, and Maurice Watkins**. He said there will be many recruitments in the fall, and that Human Resources will be working on streamlining some of the processes to lessen the burden on hiring committees. ♦ **Corcoran** said the District received a hearing officer ruling that upheld the decision of the Governing Board to terminate an employee last November.

Presidents' Reports



President **Sunny Cooke** said 450 students celebrated their achievements in earning associates' degrees and certificates at Grossmont College's commencement on June 5. In all 2,159 degrees and certificates were awarded in academic year 2012-13. ♦ Former broadcaster and traffic reporter **Monica Zech** provided the keynote speech to Grossmont College's 20 Office Professional Training (OPT) graduates. ♦ **Cooke** reported that Grossmont Instructor **Beth Smith** will take over July 1 as statewide Academic Senate President.



President **Mark Zacovic** reported that 620 associate degrees and 210 certificates were awarded at Cuyamaca College's commencement on June 6. This year's keynote speaker was **Alex Montoya**, manager of Latino affairs with the San Diego Padres. ♦ The Associated Student Government sponsored the Kudapaw Carnival May 22, providing students a chance to celebrate the end of the semester and take a little break before the start of finals. Several student organizations had tables at the event. ♦ **Zacovic** acknowledged the hard work of Interim Vice President of Instruction **Danene Brown**, who is leaving for a new position at Mesa College.

Staff Reports

Fraternal Order of Police representative **Mark Rensink** said members hoped negotiations would begin as soon as possible regarding public safety services.

CSEA representative **Jennifer Curtis** introduced herself to Board members and said she would serve as CSEA's representative to the Board until further notice. **Curtis** said rumors that CSEA had taken a position on the Strata contract are incorrect. CSEA has no official position on the contract.

Staff Notes

Cuyamaca College welcomes **Jamie Adams**, Athletic Trainer; **Jennifer Lewis**, Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Training; and **Jessica Yakou**, Student Services Specialist to campus.

Grossmont College welcomes **Sara Ferguson**, ESL Instructor; and **Cathy Miller**, English Instructor, to its faculty. Additionally, **Katrina VanderWoude** joins the administration as the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Howard Irvin will continue as Interim Dean of Counseling Services at Grossmont College through 2013.

Board Meeting Schedule

The Governing Board's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at the Cuyamaca College Student Center. The open session will begin at 6:30 p.m., following closed session scheduled for 5:00 p.m. The schedule of regular Governing Board meetings for 2013 is posted online at [2013 Governing Board Meeting Schedule](#).