



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Retreat Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2025

Location: San Bernardino Valley College, 701 S. Mt. Vernon Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92410

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@sanbernardinocommunitycoll42/streams>

Meeting materials: www.sbccd.edu/govenda

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Nathan Gonzales, Chair
Dr. Cherina Betters, Clerk
Carlos Aguilera, Trustee
Dr. Stephanie Houston, Trustee
John Longville, Trustee
Frank Reyes, Trustee

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez, Chancellor
Jose Torres, Executive Vice Chancellor
Dr. Kevin Horan, CHC President
Dr. Gilbert Contreras, SBVC President
Kristina Hannon, VC Human Resources, Payroll, & Police Services
Dr. Nohemy Ornelas, VC Educational & Student Support Services
Angel Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor Government Relations & Strategic Communications

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Williams, Vice Chair
Christian Espinoza, SBVC Student Trustee (advisory)
Jazmyn Garcia, CHC Student Trustee (advisory)

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT

I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Gonzales called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Trustee Aguilera led the pledge of allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. WELCOME

Chancellor Rodriguez complimented a huge achievement of KVCR earning to Emmy's. Executive Vice Chancellor complimented the staff and KVCR, and clarified the two shows are streaming on their website. Trustee Reyes complimented the executive leadership team for shifting KVCR's focus. Trustee Aguilera and Trustee Betters in addition, recognized the positive work at KVCR.

IV. YEAR-END REVIEW OF STRATEGIC GOALS

Chancellor Rodriguez presented a progress updated for the 2024-2025.

New Leadership – 2 Trustees, new President

Navigate new federal policy changes

Student Enrollment up 14% over last year

Chancellor Rodriguez mentioned the 4 strategic goals, our impact by numbers, expanding student access with the opening of the applied tech building at SBVC, public safety training center at CHC and the workforce training center. Dual enrollment growth, added more evening classes and added weekend classes. Both colleges were recognized for their equity for student success, 88 faculty completed USC equity training and 90 new Ethnic Studies courses added. First in state to have MediCal access program on campus, have food access through CalFresh on campus, student opportunities at KVCR. Facilities awards were awarded for both CHC performing arts center and SBVC applied tech building, emergency preparedness training was increased. Technology audit was completed, ERP planning started, Board approved 2025-2037 master plan and over \$700K earned in incentives.

Trustee Aguilera requested the online rates, and the concentration and position on online learning. Chancellor Rodriguez clarified that the Presidents monitor their enrollment patterns, and the data shows students/community prefer in person classes. Although, we are responsive to the need for the online learners. President Horan have intentional efforts for the DE learning programs and full-on pathways. President Contreras shared being able to shift modalities for online learning for undocumented students. Chair Gonzales asked for raw data along with the percentages.

V. **BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

Consultant Mitch Hovey, Ed.D. and consultant Richard Bray reviewed the Board of Trustees self-evaluation tool and results.

Section 1: Board of Trustees Meetings: All ratings were “All/Most of the Time” or “Often”, except Q3

- Board runs meetings timely and organized. We stay focused on the agenda while allowing for meaningful discussion.
- Board provides opportunities for public input and follows clear, established procedures for participation. This helps ensure respect and engagement from the community.
- While our Board receives agenda materials in a timely manner, there is limited opportunity to contribute to the agenda’s development. Increasing collaboration with the Chancellor in this process could enhance shared ownership.
- Our Board demonstrates a strong commitment to being informed on all agenda items to support thoughtful discussion.
- We work very well as a TEAM!

Section 2: Board of Trustees/Community Relations

- There are times when Trustees make position statements that have not been approved by the full Board.
- Board is careful not to commit to any position beforehand and remains open-minded. Although external pressure may exist, we prioritize hearing all facts before making decisions.
- As a team we are improving in this area.
- Meeting and keeping-in-touch with our elected officials is extremely important to us.

Section 3: Board of Trustees Qualities

- All the time
- Our Board demonstrates a commitment to students and keeps their success at the top of mind. We support initiatives to enhance their educational experience.
- We’d benefit from an updated environmental scan and campus pulse assessment.
- Our Board ensures policies and actions support academic success, equity, and overall well-being.
- We have a very ACTIVE BOARD!
- This is one of the Board’s greatest strengths. Members consistently demonstrate mutual respect, even when opinions differ. We maintain a collaborative and professional environment that values each Trustee’s perspective.
- Our Board demonstrates a strong sense of trust in one another. Our collaborative approach helps us

make well-rounded and student-centered decisions.

- Our Board is open-minded, but we rely heavily on staff from direction and follow-up, which can limit our independence. We need to allow the Board to bring issues forward and set priorities to better exercise our leadership.
- Always! Keeps confidential matters confidential.

Section 4: Board of Trustees Development

- The Board would benefit from a study session on the book 'Trusteeship'.
- Our Board makes an effort to improve through workshops and conferences, but participation varies, and not everyone takes advantage of these opportunities.
- The environmental scan and campus pulse will help the Board have a more proactive role in setting where the Board wants to be in 3-5 years. The current process is staff driven.

Section 5: Board of Trustees Policy Development (no responses to questions in this section)

Section 6: Board of Trustees/Chancellor Relations – all ratings were “All/Most of the Time” or “Often”

- This is a strong area for our Board. We communicate openly and respectfully with the Chancellor.
- Our Board respects the governance structure and we allow the Chancellor to manage day-to-day operations while providing oversight and guidance on policy and strategic direction.
- Always!
- Our Board follows procedures for communicating with staff and respects the appropriate channels. However, greater clarity around rules and expectations could help both Board and staff.
- The Chancellor is well-respected and is constantly participating in local, State, National and international conferences.
- Yes, our Board supports and encourages the Chancellor's active participation. We recognize that this visibility and engagement benefits her leadership and our district as a whole.
- Yes, our Board values and promotes a culture of mutual respect. We believe in fostering an atmosphere where everyone is treated as equals. Also, we recognize being an Elected Official does not make anymore more important than others.
- Yes, our Board places trust in the Chancellor. There is a strong team that is committed to serving the district and its students.

Section 7: District Goal Setting and Strategic Planning

- The information is available at every meeting however we seldom discuss.
- Most definitely.
- Absolutely.

Successes and Accomplishments

- Student enrollment goal was surpassed by over 14% serving nearly 46,000 students across the District.

- Key infrastructure investments were made to expand student success to job training and career pathways – Public Safety Training Center at Crafton Hills College and the Applied Technology Building at San Bernardino Valley College expanding access to in-demand workforce programs.
- Crafton Hills College was named one of 20 colleges to receive the ‘Excellence in Placement Award.
- Data-sharing partnership with the County of San Bernardino using FAFSA data to identify CalFresh-eligible students which was highlighted in the state’s Master Plan for Career Education as a model for reducing food insecurity and supporting student success.
- Completed a districtwide technology audit setting the stage for a multi-year Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) initiative to unify systems across the district.
- Finalized the 2025-2037 Facilities Master Plan.
- Launched a first-in-the-state partnership with Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) and the Chancellor’s office to provide on-campus assistance with Medi-Cal and low-cost health coverage.
- San Bernardino Valley College was named College of the Year for its Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) initiative.
- In partnership with the Board, Chancellor, Leadership team, staff, students, and community leaders much has been accomplished to build a strong foundation of student success as well as build trust within the community.
- KVCR re-established its partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, resulting in a \$1.5 million investment to support the development of the FNX App, which officially launched during Native American Heritage Month.
- EDCT, in partnership with the Youth Educational Stipend (YES) Program, awarded 30 scholarships—each valued at up to \$1,000 to support system-involved or at-risk youth pursuing post-secondary education or vocational training at SBCCD.

Looking Forward

- As evidenced by the self-evaluation completed by the Board of Trustees, recent Chancellor’s Evaluation, and the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Progress Report, great progress and forward movement continues to be made by the SBCCD Board and Leadership Team for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Continue to be visionary leaders making sure that your students have the support, education, and opportunity that they need to build a better future.
- The Board, Chancellor, and Leadership Team should be proud of the team they have become and what they have accomplished together.

Future Strategy Session suggestion: Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) initiative.

Trustee Betters recommended updating the term “at risk” to “at promise”.

Trustee Houston wanted to draw attention to question 3, wondering if there is a need for conversation around a shared understanding that the delegation of the agenda development is placed with the Board Executive committee. Trustee Betters stated that since the Board elects their leadership, if there needs to be a remedy, they need to speak their needs to the Board chair. She stated that she admires that even if different lenses or points, the Board is able to still be able to communicate differences very well. Trustee Houston added that the self-evaluation is looking at the entire year, 2024-2025 had the first half of the year under different Board leadership. Chancellor Rodriguez asked if it makes sense to move the evaluation to reflect the elected leadership instead of splitting it. Chair Gonzales asked if maybe the evaluation should be taken twice. Trustee Betters stated that if filling out the evaluation twice, it might be able to have the opportunity to make adjustments instead of just dissecting at the end of the year.

Trustee Houston stated that attending the County Superintendent's retreat two weeks ago, Snowline superintendent commended the leadership and governance at SBCCD. It is reflected down to the K12 level. Those are the examples and models being shared that are worthy of replication. And how it all connects back to the students.

Consultant Hovey stated that working with multiple districts, they always reflect back to the leadership and structure as an example for the many good things that are being done at SBCCD.

There was conversation and agreement to have two board evaluations (December for January meeting, and May for June meeting).

VI. CONVENE BREAK

The Board convened to break at 9:56 a.m.

VII. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

Chair Gonzales reconvened the public meeting at 10:14 a.m.

VIII. DUAL ENROLLMENT PRESENTATION

Chancellor Rodriguez stated the tremendous success we've had with our dual enrollment program, commended by the state.

Vice Chancellor Ornelas stated the efforts to eliminate barriers for dual enrollment at the district for high school and college students. She mentioned that there's an affordability component, students don't have to pay for the college courses. Students only have to fill out one application, instead of two. Final review of the implementation timeline was in fall 2024. Workgroup focus groups at the district level came together from both campuses to discuss various areas – MOUs, policy, enrollment/outcomes data and student services. This ensured that there was no confusion between both campuses so similar language and policies. Continuing to look at enrollment and outcome data, looking for gaps. Tremendous strides made in technology but making sure that we continue to prioritize and look forward.

Looking at data, looking at 2022-2025, showing continued increase in dual enrollment at both colleges in this area. Three largest areas represented are Hispanic, Caucasian and Asian students. Growth in gender, historically more females than males in dual enrollment population. Largest age groups in program are 16 and 17 years old. About 33% of dual enrollment students are coming from first generation households. Largest group of students coming from the most disadvantaged areas served by SBCCD. More than 50% of students come from most disadvantaged areas.

Most popular courses are freshman composition and US History for dual enrollment.

In closing, want to create sustainability in our courses and program. Really working with high schools that support CTE programs, to help promote and grow these programs together.

Trustee Reyes thanked Dr. Ornelas for the update, asked where the data on slide 14 was acquired since we do have contract with ESRI. Dr. Ornelas stated the information came from the US census. Trustee Reyes asked what account is with ESRI so we can work with them and tour the facility and work together. District researchers created the district boundaries slide and then populated with the information from the US census.

Trustee Betters stated her thanks for the presentation. Asked in the MOU process, are the co-leads speaking to each other and down to the

high school campuses. Dr. Ornelas stated that there is continued PD with staff regarding dual enrollment and how best to talk to parents, back to school nights and with counseling.

Trustee Betters asked about the dual enrollment breakdowns in ethnicity/race and how can we better target and create opportunities for conversations to bump up some of the underserved areas. Dr. Ornelas stated looking at how we staff campuses to have conversation and opportunities to talk to students and help the schools with their outreach to the parents. Looking at different marketing materials, as well. Trustee Betters asked how Middle College students are classified and verified they are included in the presentation numbers. Asked how disabled students are being served with regards to dual enrollment. Dr. Ornelas stated they have different requires and looking into those resources for those students and accessibility. For charter schools, Dr. Betters asked if there are partnerships and Dr. Ornelas stated that we do have some partnerships and colleges are offering online programs currently for those students.

President Contreras stated that dual enrollment is going to be a huge component in the upcoming SBVC 2030 plan to emphasize increasing the dual enrollment in underserved areas. Stated it will be a really big focus in the upcoming year.

President Horan stated that CHC has a bit more difficulty with dual enrollment with working with the various districts. Stated they have proposed a few ideas on how to continue to grow dual enrollment.

Trustee Aguilera applauded Dr. Ornelas on the presentation. Wanted to revisit AB 1142, looking to support this bill since it does deal with dual enrollment.

Chair Gonzales stated on slide 13 stated that even in the least advantaged groups, we still might not be reaching the least advantaged groups in those areas. We have a lot more work to be done for first generation students.

Trustee Houston stated that GIA have opportunities collectively at the top, how can we come together as a region for policies and legislation. If there is opportunity in schedules to attend CA Summit, provides a big picture to see how this work is in the larger state picture for economic development. Great opportunity to see the best collaboration and connected to the Governor's state plan.

IX. LEGISLATION UPDATE

Chancellor Rodriguez stated a lot of moving parts in legislation. Associate Vice Chancellor Rodriguez shared 2025 priorities are college affordability, workforce development and community prosperity. Various federal budget cuts threaten key student support, including cuts to Pell grants, Federal Work Study, TRIO, GEAR Up, SEOG, WIOA, Apprenticeship Program, Reentry Employment Opportunities, Economic Development Administration and Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Associate Vice Chancellor Rodriguez stated promising developments include the Bipartisan Workforce Pell and HIS & MSI grants which are protected. He also pointed out the advocacy efforts in action and the organizations we are partnering with. Federal legislation will be back in session in September so will keep an eye on that.

Trustee Reyes asked with regards to grants at the federal level and where we are with the applications. Dr. Ornelas said our applications are still pending and we're hoping to get some news this fall and see if we fit criteria for some of the disaster relief funding.

Trustee Betters asked about how out of all the cuts, HSI is still protected. Angel stated that this isn't a DEI pot of money and more of a workforce pot of money. Trustee Houston met with legislators from Dept of Education and eligible training providers list and can our students access this through and know where we are as a district on the

ETPL.

Associate Vice Chancellor Rodriguez mentioned that the state proposed budget is currently being signed and listed what is to be funded, Stated CCs were prioritized and fared well in this budget cycle. State legislators return in August so advocacy push before the Governor's deadline in Oct to sign or veto bills.

Currently tracking 21 bills in this legislative session. We are supporting AB 1400, AB 323, SB 391 that fall under workforce and career education. We are supporting financial aid and affordability AB 313, SB 305 (suspended), AB 1035 (suspended), AB 537, AB 850. We are supporting basic needs and student SB 271, SB 761, AB 593, AB 363 (suspend) and we oppose AB 90. We are supporting dual enrollment and pathways AB 988 and AB 731. We are supporting student equity and access AB 695, SB 98 and AB 335 (suspended). We are supporting facilities, housing and infrastructure AB 48, AB 648 and SB 416 (suspended). Associate Vice Chancellor did state we do not have a position yet for AB 1122 but would like to have conversations on position after looking at.

Shared the upcoming advocacy engagements for the coming months with city council presentations, campus tours with state legislators, EDCT tours, state advocacy meetings and K-12 school board presentations.

Trustee Aguilera thanked Associate Vice Chancellor Rodriguez for his presentation. He did ask if there's a packet that shows all the bills with information, who is authoring it, who is supporting or opposing so we can look it over and move forward.

Trustee Betters asked to revisit AB 90 and asked why community colleges only and not CSU. She also asked if there is funding with this bill and no, it is not funded. Chancellor Rodriguez stated she's been very vocal in opposition for this bill.

X. CONVENE LUNCH

The Board convened to break at 11:53 a.m.

XI. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

Chair Gonzales reconvened the public meeting at 1:00 p.m.

XII. BUDGET UPDATE

Chancellor Rodriguez stated that just like legislation, the budget is also dynamic and things are happening even as we speak.

Executive Vice Chancellor Torres to give a perspective on the budget process and the Board's role within the process. Everything that we do is related to the budget structure, integrated planning and the goals of the district, managing 21 funds and budgeting for multi-years. Always looking at the current budget and forecasting out 4 years.

Trustee Betters asked where in the budget cycle current legislation that passed gets worked into the district's budget. Jose stated that bills change and get signed May, June and July and those adjustments are made at the district level in July and August.

Trustee Betters asked about the FCC/PARS Trust with regards to the current stock market. Jose stated that consultants are brought in twice a year to go over the ways the funds are invested.

Trustee Aguilera stated he appreciated the presentation from Executive Vice Chancellor Torres on his breakdown of the budgets and the budget cycle.

XIII. ETHICS PRESENTATION

Chancellor Rodriguez stated that as part of the Board policy, the Board is mandated to do ethics training. Vice Chancellor Hannon introduced the presenter Senior Counsel David Robinett from Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd & Romo.

As a Board member, held to a higher standard and the law recognizes that. The district BP 2715 states the code of ethics/standards of practice for the Board.

Trustee Betters asked for clarification if the conflict of interest laws apply to ALL elected officials. David stated this is specific legislation for California.

Trustee Betters asked for clarification regarding posting on social media within the governing body's jurisdiction.

AP 2712 conflict of interest list of designated positions. Form 700s become public record once filed and are available if asked by the public.

BP 2716 and BP 2717 state the policies for political activity and personal use of public resources for Board members and district employees.

Trustee Betters asked a clarification on her social media, stating she has a disclaimer stating these are her thoughts and opinions.

XIV. SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERS

Chancellor Rodriguez introduced Mr. Melgar, president & CEO of Plaza Strategies, LLC, presenting on social media as it pertains to the Board and the district.

Impactful social media presence for public sector leaders includes authentic material, pictures tell the story, get creative and lead with a values statement as opposed to 'proud, humbled, excited', and what impression do you want people to have when they read your posts?

Trustee Betters stated her appreciation for the presentation and new social media strategy ideas for herself and the Board.

Mr. Melgar stated that knowing the voice you want to use and being consistent and authentic will reach the largest audience.

XV. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Board: Board Business Meeting

August 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.


SBCCD Boardroom

550 E. Hospitality Ln., Ste 200

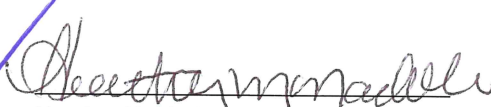
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Chair Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

The Board of Trustees approved the June 24, 2025, minutes on August 14, 2025.



Dr. Cherina Betters, Clerk
SBCCD Board of Trustees



Heather M. Madole, Administrative Officer
SBCCD Office of the Chancellor

