



BOARD OF TRUSTEES Retreat Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2026

Location: Museum of Redlands, Event Pavilion, 1 N. Center Street, Redlands CA 92373
Meeting materials: www.sbccd.edu/govenda

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Nathan Gonzales, Chair
Joseph Williams, Vice Chair
Dr. Cherina Betters, Clerk
Carlos Aguilera, Trustee (arrived at 4:38 p.m.)
Dr. Stephanie Houston, Trustee
John Longville, Trustee
Christian Espinoza, SBVC Student Trustee (advisory-
via Zoom)
Jazmyn Garcia, CHC Student Trustee (advisory)

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 & Police Services
Dr. Nohemy Ornelas, VC Educational & Student Support Services
Angel Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor Government
Relations & Strategic Communications

MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Reyes, Trustee

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT

I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Gonzales called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees' business meeting is conducted pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953. Student Trustee Espinoza is participating by Zoom conference. Let it be reflected that Student Trustee Espinoza has an advisory vote only which will be cast immediately before the regular members of the Governing Board cast their official vote.

Trustee Betters led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

II. CLARIFICATION

None

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. SBCCD Board Self-Evaluation

- Self-Evaluation Survey Results – Mitch Hovey and Richard Bray (consultants) reviewed the board self-evaluation survey results. The self-evaluation instrument consisted of seven categories of governance responsibilities with a total of 40 governance indicators. Seven Evaluation forms were completed anonymously and submitted to the advisors electronically for analysis.
- The information obtained from the self-evaluation was reviewed and a summary of findings was put together by the advisors to share with the Board at the Board Retreat to be held on January 22, 2026.
- Our review uncovered that Question #5 'Comment Box' did not record comments made. The glitch has been fixed.
- In developing this report, all 40 questions were reviewed and analyzed so that overall summary information could be presented to the Board for additional discussion and reflection.
- 28 of 40 questions saw the Board of Trustees answering Unanimously 7-0-0-0

- *Of the remaining 12 questions* the Board of Trustees answered, 6 questions had a 6-1 split
- Two of the remaining 6 questions were split 5-2 (Q4, Q22) One was split 4-3 (Q14), and Two were split 3-4 (Q19, Q20)
- Only one question in the survey was rated as 6 “Most or All of the Time” and 1 “Seldom”
Q10 - The Board strives to maintain an open dialogue with governmental and community leaders.
- Thirty-Nine of the Forty Questions were rated as a combination of “Most/All of the Time” and “Often” (97.5%)
- Section 1: Board of Trustees Meetings:
 - *Collaboration, consistency and respect are the foundation of Board interactions. (Q#1)*
 - *The Board respects their decision to allow the Board Chair and BEC to lead development of agendas. This provides efficiencies to get materials to all board members in advance of meetings. (Q#3)*
 - *Allow more time for discussion. (Q#3)*
- Section 2: Board of Trustees/Community Relations
 - *The opportunity is always provided. What might be accomplished or value found by adding listening and focused group sessions so we hear what we might not be hearing. (Q#7)*
 - *I think the District Administration does a great job at this. However, as a Board we conduct legislative visits but do very little with community leaders as a Board. (Q#10)*
- Section 3: Board of Trustees Qualities
 - *As a Board how might we benefit from more robust student success conversations? (Q#11)*
 - *How might the Board benefit by bringing the Board’s perspective on the needs of the community and students together in a document and see how it aligns with other perspectives? (Q#12)*
 - *We have come a long way and I truly value and respect each of my colleagues. (Q#15)*
- Section 4: Board of Trustees Development - no comments
- Section 5: Board of Trustees Policy Development – no comments
- Section 6: Board of Trustees/Chancellor Relations – no comments – notes Results indicate a high level of trust between the Board and the Chancellor.
- Section 7: District Goal Setting and Strategic Planning
 - *We are extremely fortunate to have a much respected, appreciative and knowledgeable Chancellor in our district. (Q#40)*
- *Areas of Focus: Question 4: The board makes a sincere effort to be informed on all agenda items prior to meetings.*
 - *5-2-0-0 (no comments).*
 - *Trustee Batters commented the board correspondence is exceptional. This may provide the opportunity for other members to put items on the board agenda.*
 - *Trustee Longville commented elicited the least long-winded discussion.*
 - *Chair Gonzales commented the board books/agendas are huge and can understand the variance due to the enormity of the board books.*
 - *Trustee Houston commented the sincere effort might be different related to the volume of information and a lot of room for subjectivity in a lot of effort.*

- *Question 5: The board adheres to its adopted code of Ethics.*
 - 6-1-0-0
 - *Comment: could we have a discussion on the impact of personal social media posts? I am not sure of the line between freedom of speech and reputation of the board as a whole.*
 - *Chair Gonzales recommended a communication/freedom of speech professional development. Chancellor Rodriguez agreed to host a Strategy Session with this topic.*
 - *Trustee Betters commented social media is so nuanced and they don't get take off their hats. It is a humanizing aspect as to what it means to be an elected official. Counting that as the visibility of the board.*
 - *Trustee Houston commented that you are interviewing every day, nothing you do is neutral. Perception is reality. She recommended a deeper dive with professional development and an expert in the field. Room for a deeper understanding of the impact.*
- *Question 10: The Board strives to maintain an open dialogue with governmental and community leaders.*
 - 6-0-1-0
 - *Comment: I think the District Administration does a great job at this. However, as a Board we conduct legislative visits but do very little communication with community leaders as a Board.*
 - *Trustee Williams commented an individual trustees never have spoken to nonprofit boards, community organization boards, etc.*
 - *Trustee Aguilera commented how the board can help reach out and strengthen our work in the region.*
- *Question 14: The Board is visible in the community.*
 - 4-3-0-0
 - *Trustee Betters commented that allows the individual a representation as the board is visible in the community. A follow question would be beneficial as how the respondent is evaluating it, using the board as collective or individual.*
 - *Trustee Williams commented he would like to be more visible in the entire service area.*
 - *Trustee Aguilera circled back to social media posting which may cause individuals to feel not visible.*
- *Question 19: The Board keeps informed by seeking and reading current education literature.*
 - 3-4-0-0
 - *Chair Gonzales commented there is a lot of literature and can be overwhelming.*
 - *Trustee Aguilera commented he would like to be directed as to what to read that would be helpful.*
 - *Trustee Houston commented be careful what you ask for, we are not in the*

trenches everyday, the Board is at the governance level. The information sent by the Chancellor and/or VCs would be focused literature.

- *Question 20: The Board improved its governance skills and keeps current on educational issues through board workshops and attendance at local, regional, and national conferences.*
 - *3-4-0-0*
 - *Chair Gonzales commented he cannot take the time off from his work schedule to attend the conferences he would like to attend.*
 - *Trustee Betters commented looking at the strength of the board as they complement each other. Generally, enjoys colleagues on the board.*
- *Question 22: The Board strives toward growth through a yearly board in-service program, planned in concert with the Chancellor, and based primarily on where the Board wants to be in 3-5 years.*
 - *5-2-0-0*
 - *Trustee Williams commented that more meetings are not needed. Regarding agenda's information item, anyone can pull it and talk about it.*
- *Tips for Trustees and the Leadership Team -- You are in this for the long haul; it's a marathon, not a sprint! Stay strategic and focused.*
- *Using the results from today's self-evaluation report, continue to focus on where the Board wants to be 3-5 years from now, and keep at the forefront the aspirations of the Board.*
- *Let's not forget: the bottom line is meeting the learning needs of your students.*
- *Frequency of Board Self Evaluation – The Board agreed to complete in January (once per year).*
 - *Trustee Houston agrees with once per year.*
 - *Trustee Betters recommended only once per year.*
 - *Chair Gonzales recommended twice per year.*
 - *Trustee Aguilera only in Jan.*
 - *Trustee Williams agrees with both.*
 - *Trustee Longville agrees with once per year.*
 - *Trustee Betters commented that the survey is very long.*

B. Legislative Priorities/Updates

- AVC Rodriguez reviewed the 2025 advocacy highlights.

Ynez Canela presented Advocacy in Action: January 2025 – December 2025

We're not just showing up—we're shaping policy, influencing funding, and securing wins for our students.

AB 2033 Passed – EBT on Campus

AB 1891 Passed - Use multiple criteria for allied health screening

AB 1885 Passed – Award \$1,298 and consider 9 units full time if they are disabled

AB 2500 Passed – Allow CSAC to move financial aid deadline for emergencies

AB 1796 Passed – Tell K-12 parents about CTE provided at local schools

Events:

July 26th EDA Groundbreaking
September 23rd Board of Governors
October 18th AB 2033 Event with Asm Reyes
December 3rd VIP Tour of Applied Tech
March 6th Applied Tech Ribbon Cutting
April 18th Hosted GIA Meeting with the Inland Empire Caucus
April 23rd Your Voice Matters
May 8th SBVC Scholarships with Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

- 2026 Laws Going into Effect
 - AB 323 (Fong) – Strong workforce expands CTE across K-14 through regional partnerships. This bill authorizes Strong Workforce Funds to provide direct support to students, employers for paid internships, apprenticeships or student-run enterprises.
Since SWP started, the state has invested \$1 billion in CTE programs across the CCC system.
According to the Chancellor’s Office, over 140,000 vocational certificates were awarded in 2023– 24, and 72–73% of SWP students obtain jobs in fields related to their training
 - AB 313 (Ortega) – Allows the state to extend by 30 days the deadline to submit a financial aid application. The usual deadline is March 2, and this would extend it to April 2 in case the opening of the FAFSA is delayed.
 - AB 537 (Ahrens) - This bill reduces the minimum unit requirement for California Community College (CC) students to qualify for a California College Promise fee waiver from full-time (12 or more units) to 9 units.
 - SB 761 (Ashby) – This bill would scale up what we are already doing at SBCCD, to use FAFSA data to inform students if they qualify for CalFresh. This would create a data-sharing agreement between CSAC and Department of Social Services.
 - SB 98 (Perez) – Requires notification of immigration enforcement on school campuses.
 - Trustee Gonzales inquired about guidance for notification of ICE on campus. VC Hannon commented SBCCD has a policy and police have training and correspondence with local authorities. President Contreras commented SBVC has a website designated. Student Trustee commented CHC has safe places and Chief Bonnet has been very visible on campus.
 - AB 648 (Zbur) – Exempts CCC housing projects from local zoning rules.
 - EVC Torres commented this is good timing to allow a faster construction period.

January	February	March	April
☐ January 10: Budget must be submitted by Governor	☐ February 20: Last day for bills to be introduced	☐ March 26: Spring Recess	☐ April 6: Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess

- Federal Update
 - Workforce Pell Grant Implementation
 - Trustee Houston commented the accreditation standards have not changed. The federal aid to be aligned with workforce and economic development. Shift focus to

- Department of Labor requirements.
- Federal Changes – Department of Education
 - 6 new partnerships.
- Federal HSI Update
 - **SBCCD joined more than 170 colleges in signing a letter to Congress** urging them to protect funding for the Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and Minority-Serving Institution programs. Along with Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College, SBCCD proudly stands with the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) in this effort.
 - **How students are impacted:** If the HSI program is eliminated, Latino students and all those who attend HSIs like Crafton Hills and SBVC will be impacted. These funds help us build science labs, strengthen online education, support equity-focused programs, and improve curriculum for every student.
 - **Fiscal impact at SBCCD:** If the HSI program is eliminated, it would mean an opportunity loss of up to \$3 million for SBCCD. These are not funds being taken away, but future investments we would no longer be eligible for — investments that strengthen our campuses and expand student opportunities.
 - **What we are asking Congress to do:**
 - Publicly oppose the Administration’s proposal to cut HSI funding.
 - Reaffirm support for HSIs and the 5.6 million students we serve.
 - Ensure these essential programs continue to be protected.
- Trustee Betters inquired if we have the capacity to acknowledge Senator Reyes in a honorable way. Chancellor Rodriguez mentioned that hypothetically she may be the SBVC commencement speaker.

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ January 3: House & Senate begin their 2026 session ❑ January 30: Legislative deadline as current stopgap funding for most government agencies expires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ February 16-20: Both the House and Senate are scheduled for a week-long recess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ March 16-20: A mid-month recess period is scheduled for both chambers ❑ March 30: The Senate begins a two-week Spring State Work Period extending into early April. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ April 13: Lawmakers in both chambers are scheduled to return to Washington for legislative business following the spring break

- Upcoming Advocacy Engagement

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CCLC Conference ✓ Sacramento advocacy meetings (Jan. 26) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kick-off Local community engagement ✓ Goal: 50 presentations between February and May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ San Bernardino City Council update (TBD) ✓ Final K–12 School Board presentations ✓ Local community engagement continues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HACU in Washington D.C. (April 21-22, 2026) ✓ Local community engagement continues

- 2026 Legislative & Board Priorities – AVC Rodriguez presented. Every advocacy meeting and grant proposal this year has been aligned with those strategic priorities—especially affordability, economic mobility, and community partnerships. And to make progress on these goals, we’ve built relationships across party lines—because students and jobs aren’t partisan.

C. Strategic Plan/Goals 2028-2035 – tabled for a future meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Board: Board Business Meeting

February 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

SBCCD Boardroom

550 E. Hospitality Ln. Suite 200

San Bernardino, CA 92407

The Board of Trustees adjourned at 6: 34 p.m.

The Board of Trustees approved the January 22, 2026, minutes on February 12, 2026.

 Dr. Cherina Betters, Clerk
 SBCCD Board of Trustees


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