



## Board of Trustees Legislative Committee

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### Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2024

San Bernardino Community College District, Boardroom Extension  
550 E. Hospitality Ln., Ste 200, San Bernardino, CA 92345

#### Members Present:

Trustee Frank Reyes  
Trustee Anne Viricel (via Zoom)

#### Members Absent:

Trustee Longville

#### Staff Present:

Angel Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor Government Relations & Strategic Communications  
Ynez Canela, Associate Director Legislative & Community Relations  
Heather Ford, Senior Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the Chancellor

### I. CALL TO ORDER & SELF INTRODUCTION

Trustee Frank Reyes called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

The San Bernardino Community College District Board Legislative Committee meeting is conducted pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953. Trustee Viricel is participating by zoom conference. In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, the teleconference location has been identified in the notice and agenda for this meeting.

Roll call, after which I would ask the trustees to recognize me in order to confirm certain matters for the record.

[ROLL CALL] Trustee Longville, Trustee Viricel, Trustee Reyes

Trustee Reyes requested that trustees on the teleconference respond to the following questions:

1. Can the trustees on the call hear me well? Trustee Viricel, yes
2. Were you able to hear our proceedings on this end up until now? Trustee Viricel, yes
3. Do you have a copy of the agenda for this meeting? Trustee Viricel, yes

All Board members present have indicated that they were able to hear all trustees clearly.

Trustee Reyes advised the Board members that any votes taken during the teleconference portion of this meeting must be taken by roll call.

Pursuant to Board Policy 2350, any person may speak to the Board of Trustees either on an agenda item or on other matters of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board and before any

board action is taken. Comments must be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker and 20 minutes on the same, or a substantially similar subject, unless a majority of the Board votes to extend the time limit. As a matter of policy, members of the Board may not discuss or respond to matters raised during public comment unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion or action in Open Session. If you have questions about access or if you require accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Chancellor's Office at (909) 388-6902 as far in advance of the Board meeting as possible.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. 2023-10-19 Board Legislative Committee Minutes**

Trustee Viricel moved to approve the 2023-10-19 Board Legislative Committee minutes. Trustee Reyes seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL Vote:       AYES: Viricel, Reyes  
                              NOES: None  
                              ABSENT: Longville  
                              ABSTENTIONS: None  
Motion Passed

**IV. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**A. 2024 Legislative Advocacy Priorities**

The 2024 legislative advocacy priorities, as presented, advance SBCCD's four districtwide goals and mission to, "Positively impact the lives and careers of our students, the well-being of their families, and the prosperity of our community through excellence in educational and training opportunities."

These priorities uphold the board's legislative principles as follows:

- Eliminating barriers to student access and success.
- Increasing public investment in community college students.
- Improving college affordability and basic needs support.
- Supporting local decision-making.
- Strengthening state and federal partnerships.
- Promoting civic engagement.

Approval of the 2024 legislative advocacy priorities will guide the Board Legislative Committee and SBCCD Chancellor's Office in engaging with government officials and diverse stakeholders to promote public policy solutions that support student achievement and economic mobility in the Inland Empire. Upon board adoption, this public policy platform will be presented to local, state, and federal policymakers during the 2024-25 legislative and budget-building cycle.

The legislative and budget priorities outlined below advance SBCCD's four districtwide goals and mission to, "Positively impact the lives and careers of our students, the well-being of their families, and the prosperity of our community through excellence in educational and training opportunities." SBCCD shall refer to these advocacy priorities when engaging with policymakers and key stakeholders during the 2024-25 legislative and budget-building cycle.

### **Goal 1: Eliminate Barriers to Student Access and Success**

- **Explore New Local Funding to Ensure Student Success at SBCCD.** SBCCD is dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality higher education and skills training, which are crucial for students' success in our region. While state funding remains vital for this mission, we will explore the potential for additional local funding sources. These funds could be used to assist students with various needs, such as affordable tuition, addressing housing and food insecurity, offering work experience opportunities, and supporting initiatives like "Books+." This program aims to provide students with free rental access to textbooks and essential course materials.

- **Expand and Simplify the State's Financial Aid System.** In 2022, the Governor and Legislature approved the Cal Grant Equity Framework to make it easier for low-income adults to go to college. This means that factors like a student's age, GPA, and how long it has been since they graduated from high school will not prevent them from getting financial aid. However, to make this happen, the state needs to invest in the implementation of the Cal Grant Equity Framework. SBCCD supports funding that will create more financial aid opportunities and a special Cal Grant 2 program just for community college students, so everyone can pursue their education.

- **Expand Access to CalFresh Food Assistance:** SBCCD supports local, state, and federal policies, initiatives, and funding that can increase students' access to food assistance under CalFresh. SBCCD supports efforts to increase student access to EBT benefits on campus, and a partnership with the County of San Bernardino to streamline the CalFresh application process for SBCCD students.

- **Support FAFSA Simplification and Expansion of Pell Grants:** SBCCD supports federal policies that reduce the complexity and eliminate student barriers to filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Additionally, SBCCD supports increased investments in the Pell Grant to make college more accessible and affordable for low-income students.

**Support the CCC's 2024-25 Systemwide Budget Request:** SBCCD supports \$711 million in ongoing and \$310 million in one-time resources to reach the systemwide Vision 2030. The requested investments focus on a students' full educational journey – from enrollment, persistence, and supports to student success and economic mobility.

- **Enhancing Dual Enrollment and Credit for Prior Learning:** SBCCD advocates for policies aimed at simplifying and expanding opportunities for high school students to earn college credits before graduation through dual/concurrent enrollment agreements between community colleges and K-12 institutions. Additionally, SBCCD supports initiatives that allow adult learners to receive college credits based on their relevant work experience. Furthermore, SBCCD is committed to efforts that ensure the seamless transfer of any "credit for prior learning" recognized by community colleges to University of California (UC) and California State University (Cal State) institutions.

## **Goal 2: Be a Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive and Anti-Racist Institution**

**Support Funding to Strengthen Equal Employment Opportunity Best Practices:** SBCCD supports ongoing funding to connect future hiring practices and procedures to statewide equity and diversity efforts, and help strengthen institutional capacity to close equity gaps and improve student outcomes.

- **Support Equitable Funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions:** SBCCD supports higher levels of federal investment in Title V, Part A and Title V, Part B of the Higher Education Act. Furthermore, SBCCD supports efforts to reduce administrative burdens on campuses and streamline the annual recertification process required for institutions to be recognized as Hispanic-Serving Institutions by the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Support Opportunities for All Students, Regardless of Immigration Status:** SBCCD supports state and federal policies to ensure all students have higher education, career training, and financial aid opportunities, regardless of immigration status.

## **Goal 3: Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues**

**Continue Investments in Affordable Student Housing:** SBCCD supports investments to build student residential housing for community college students experiencing housing insecurity. SBCCD supports ongoing funding to support colleges working with local, county, and student agencies to establish housing options for community college students.

- **Support Modernization of the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center:** As a member of the San Bernardino Emergency Regional Training Center Joint Powers Authority, SBCCD supports funding for new equipment and facility repairs to enhance firefighting and emergency response training.

## **Goal 4: Ensuring Fiscal Accountability/Sustainability**

**Protect Funding for Community Colleges Under Proposition 98:** Proposition 98, passed in 1988, mandates a minimum state funding level for K-12 schools and California community colleges. We urge policymakers to protect state funding for community colleges. Ensuring that community colleges receive their fair share of funding is essential to maintaining educational quality and accessibility.

- **Improve Student Centered Funding Formula Rates:** SBCCD supports state investment and policies to improve the Student Centered Funding Formula rates to advance the mission of SBCCD.

- **Improve State Funding Model for Part-Time Faculty Health Insurance Program:** SBCCD supports state policy changes aimed at enhancing the funding structure of the Part-Time Faculty Health Insurance Program in California, and advocates for a system where the state directly provides the necessary funding to community college districts instead of reimbursing them later. The Part-Time Faculty Health Insurance Program's current reimbursement model heavily burdens districts like SBCCD with substantial upfront costs before receiving state reimbursements. This creates financial uncertainty and makes it challenging for SBCCD to manage other significant financial commitments. To provide health benefits to all part-time faculty members, SBCCD would need an upfront expenditure of \$13.2 million, which exceeds the district's current capacity. Therefore, it is vital that the state adjusts the funding mechanism by providing upfront

funding to districts. This change would reduce financial uncertainty and enable SBCCD to enhance the educational experience for all.

- **Provide CalSTRS/CalPERS Relief:** SBCCD supports ongoing funding in non-Proposition 98 resources to “buy down” the employer contribution levels required by colleges/districts. Doing so will free up general fund revenues for other student-centered priorities.

- **Support Ongoing Funding for KVCR TV/FM:** SBCCD requests ongoing public investment to strengthen KVCR TV/FM’s long-term capacity to serve the Inland Empire with PBS and NPR educational content, local news, and diverse cultural programming.

Discussion: Trustee Viricel recommended advocating for fire training.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS/ ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

## VI. NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT

- A. The next meeting of the Board Legislative Committee  
February 8, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.  
San Bernardino Community College District  
Boardroom Extension  
550 E. Hospitality Lane, Suite 200  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

- B. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

*Heather Ford, Recorder, Office of the Chancellor*