

**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 15, 2026



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
APRIL 15, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Coconino Community College District Governing Board was held in person and via Zoom at Coconino Community College, 2800 S. Lone Tree Road, Flagstaff, Arizona. Board Chair Joey Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

PRESENT: Mr. Joey Smith, Board Chair
Mr. Patrick Hurley, Board Vice Chair
Mr. Erik Eikenberry, Trustee (Zoom)
Ms. Patricia Garcia, Trustee
Dr. Nat White, Trustee

ABSENT: None

Also Present:

President Eric Heiser, Ms. Kirsten Mead, Dr. Adriana Flores-Church, Mr. Shane Pablo, Ms. Dianna Sanchez, Ms. Janel States, Dr. Sandra Tarbell, Dr. Jami Van Ess, Mr. Tony Williams, Ms. Cathleen Banier-Goff, Mr. Keith Becker, Mr. Ryan Bouwhuis, Ms. Alimah Damgaard, Dr. Mark Hartley, Ms. Kay Leum, Dr. Mark Maciha, Ms. Heather Nevius, Mr. Kurt Stull, Mr. Van Walker, Ms. Amelinda Webb, Mr. Brian Blue, Ms. Melissa Alexander (DLR Group), Ms. Betsy Lynch (DLR Group), Ms. Sue Gray (BWS) Ms. Erin Price (BWS), and Mr. Frank Slingerland (BWS).

The April 15, 2026 documents file contains reports, summaries, background materials, and other documents referenced in these minutes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Hurley moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee White seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Vice Chair Hurley, Trustee White, and Chair Smith voting in favor).

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Hurley moved to approve the consent agenda, and Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved unanimously (Trustee Eikenberry, Trustee Garcia, Vice Chair Hurley, Trustee White, and Chair Smith voting in favor).

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Janel States introduced Mr. Brian Blue, Foundation Board Chair.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There was no response.

CCC EXCELLENCE

A. All AZ Academic Team Awardee Recognition – President Heiser

President Heiser recognized Lindsey DeStefano and Ricardo Ramirez as CCC's All Arizona Academic Team honorees. He noted that both students would be recognized the following week in Phoenix and would each receive a scholarship award. The Board also received an update that CCC had been named one of the nation's "Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges" for the second consecutive year.

The Board discussed:

- Recognition of CCC's All Arizona Academic Team students
- The academic standards and application process associated with the honor
- CCC's national recognition as a promising workplace in community colleges

ACTION ITEMS

A. Purchasing Policy Update (Policy 202-00) – Chair Smith

The Board considered revisions to Policy 202-00: Purchasing following discussion during the earlier work session. Clarification was provided regarding the substantive additions to the policy, including language requiring purchasing procedures to comply with relevant federal and state laws and align, where applicable, with federal uniform guidance thresholds. Trustees also discussed whether "shall" or "may" was the appropriate wording related to delegation of purchasing authority and agreed to move forward with approval tied to the version presented in the work session, with legal clarification on that point.

The Board discussed:

- Revisions presented during the work session
- Clarification of added language related to federal and state compliance
- Legal review of the policy language
- Clarification regarding "shall" versus "may"

Board action:

A motion was made by Trustee Hurley and seconded by Trustee White to approve revisions to Policy 202-00 as presented in the work session, with legal clarification regarding the wording discussed by the Board.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously

B. Approval of Contract for Lone Tree Architect - DLR – Dr. Van Ess

The Board considered the design professional agreement with DLR Group for the Allied Health building at the Lone Tree Campus. Staff reviewed the fee and funding source and referenced the revised contract dated April 6, 2026. Trustees noted that the earlier work session discussion had provided the selected firm with useful feedback on the Board's priorities for the project.

The Board discussed:

- The DLR Group contract for Allied Health design services
- Contract fee and percentage
- Bond funding for the project
- Board priorities shared during the work session

Board action:

A motion was made by Trustee Hurley and seconded by Trustee Garcia to approve the revised contract submitted April 6, 2026, with DLR Group for the Allied Health building at the Lone Tree Campus in the amount of \$4,649,680.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously

C. Approval of Contract for Fourth Street Architect - BWS – Dr. Van Ess

The Board considered the design professional agreement with BWS Architects for the Fourth Street Campus reconstruction project. Staff reviewed the fee, percentage, and funding source and referenced the revised contract dated April 7.

The Board discussed:

- The BWS Architects contract for Fourth Street design services
- Contract fee and percentage
- Bond funding for the project

Board action:

A motion was made by Trustee Hurley and seconded by Trustee Garcia to approve the revised contract dated April 7, 2026 with BWS Architects for the Fourth Street Campus reconstruction project in the amount of \$3,005,970.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of New Building Visioning Statement – President Heiser

Removed (make sure to note this at the beginning) The Board will revisit at the June Board Retreat.

E. New and Retiring Programs – Dr. Tarbell

Dr. Tarbell presented six new degree and certificate programs and two program deletions for Board approval. The discussion focused on program viability, workforce outcomes, alignment with institutional priorities, and the importance of removing inactive programs from the catalog. Trustees also discussed delivery methods, prior learning assessment, and the need for flexibility for working students.

The Board discussed:

- Proposed new degree and certificate programs
- Deletion of inactive programs
- Program review and accreditation expectations
- Workforce outcomes and alignment with institutional priorities
- Flexibility for students, including online access and prior learning assessment

Board action:

A motion was made by Trustee Hurley and seconded by Trustee White to approve the new and retiring programs as presented.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

F. ESI Contract Renewal – Dr. Flores-Church

The Board reviewed the annual renewal of the phased retirement services agreement with ESI. Staff explained that the agreement is required under College procedure and allows the

College to use retirees in hard-to-fill or workforce shortage positions for a limited time. The Board was informed that the new agreement maintains the same rate as the prior year.

The Board discussed:

- Annual renewal of the ESI agreement
- Use of phased retirement services for hard-to-fill positions
- Separation from ASRS and third-party contractor status
- Continuation of the same rate as the previous year

Board action:

A motion was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hurley to approve the ESI retirement service agreement renewal.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Board Reports

- Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT) - Trustee Eikenberry**
Next AACCT will be on April 22-23, 2026, in Mesa, AZ.
- Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) – Trustee Garcia**
Trustee Garcia reported on the recent ACCT Pacific Region meeting and noted discussion regarding services and support provided by ACCT.
- Foundation Board – Trustee White**
Trustee White provided a Foundation Board update, including progress toward finalizing a campaign theme and case statement, and encouraged participation in the upcoming Palette to Palate event.
- Alliance – President Heiser**
President Heiser provided the Alliance report, which included discussion of possible November ballot measures, regional tax and bond activity, and concerns among local agencies regarding the recent establishment of ICE office space in Flagstaff.

B. Budget Status Report Through March 2026 – Dr. Van Ess

Dr. Van Ess presented the third-quarter budget status report. She reviewed all funds and general fund performance through March 2026, noting that revenues were tracking ahead in part because property tax revenues had been received, while expenditures remained generally on target. She also highlighted the use of working cash for restricted funds and noted major activity in the unexpended plant fund.

The Board discussed:

- Third-quarter budget status through March 2026
- Revenue and expenditure trends across all funds
- General fund performance
- Property tax collections
- Restricted fund cash flow and capital expenditures

C. Spring Enrollment (FTSE) – Mr. Williams

Vice President Williams presented the spring enrollment report, noting that overall FTSE was up 2.86% and spring FTSE was up 4.83%. He reported that enrollment patterns appear to be stabilizing post-COVID, while dual enrollment continues to grow significantly. He also shared that Pell participation has increased substantially, improving student access and affordability.

The Board discussed:

- Spring enrollment and FTSE trends
- Stabilization of enrollment patterns post-COVID
- Significant growth in dual enrollment
- Demographic changes affecting higher education
- Increased Pell participation and student affordability

D. President’s Report – President Heiser

President Heiser reported on recent national meetings, federal and state budget discussions, and advocacy concerns related to proposed cuts to higher education support programs, including Pell, Perkins, and TRIO. He also shared that CCC will be prominently featured in an upcoming documentary connected to the Lowe’s Foundation’s support for skilled trades education. The Board also viewed the trailer for the documentary and received the latest Comet Chronicles campus update.

The Board discussed:

- National and federal higher education advocacy issues
- State budget status
- Proposed federal cuts affecting student support programs
- CCC’s participation in a national documentary on skilled trades
- Recent campus highlights and events featured in Comet Chronicles

President Heiser recognized Mr. Williams for the immense improvement in the college’s Pell rates, a testament to his leadership. Additionally, the growth in dual enrollment is exceptional and has a positive impact on the community.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

- The new construction visioning statement will be discussed at the Board Retreat.

ADJOURNMENT

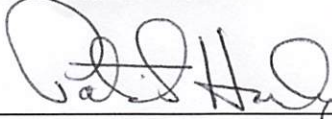
The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Ms. Kirsten Mead
Board Recorder

ATTEST and APPROVED:



Mr. Patrick Hurley
Vice Chair of the Board



Mr. Joey Smith
Board Chair