



Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2026

Board Members: Komal Ahmed, Laurie Brandt, Roy Dietz, Cynthia Grande, Heath Gregory, Karla Harness Brown, Janan Johnson, Victoria Lozzi, Laurie Love, Brooke Matson, Laurie McCarthy, McKenzie Neely-Wright, Tamara Ritchey Powers, Richard Rede, Daniel Shrader, Ben Steinberger, Brenda Thames, Paul Wafer, Mark Waronek

Absent: Ralph Felix, David Liaw, Katherine Maschler, Darcie McClelland, Charlie Mitchell, Jason Nishiyama, Rob Van Lingen, Clay Zachry

Staff: Andrea Sala, Kate Choi, Nancy Tonner, Heidi Wang

Recorder: Richard Rede

President Laurie Love called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

1) Approve Consent Agenda:

Mark Waronek made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. McKenzie Neely-Wright seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Laurie Love

1) President's Remarks

- None.

2) ECC Foundation Grant Request: Summer Internships

Jason Barquero, Dean of Workforce Readiness and Dr. Carla Camacho, Career Services Specialist, were asked to speak to the board again regarding the Intern South Bay program. It is an 8-week paid summer internship where employers are matched with students. Budget cuts are likely to impact the program. Currently, it can support 15 students. Student demand is higher, and the goal is to have it support 30-35 students. Employers do not have to pay. These employers include small businesses and public sector employers. They placed 17 students last summer. They want to expand to biotech and STEM employers. Two students were hired part time at their respective employers after the program finished. 100% of our students completed the project. The College has a three-year Block Grant that will provide \$45k for the program and they are requesting \$65k from the Foundation as a maximum to allow for 35 students. For a

college of our size, the program could provide even more opportunities for students to find internships.

Mark Waronek made a motion to fund up to \$65K to fund the ECC Internship Program. Janan Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

II. BOARD GOVERNANCE

Tamara Ritchey Powers – Currently working on policy reviews.

III. FINANCIALS

Clay Zachry – Financials approved in Consent Agenda.

IV. OPERATIONS

Laure Brandt

1) Scholarship Update

- The 2026-67 Scholarship Application closed with over 1,600 qualified applicants and it's now time to review and rank each application.
- Each application is reviewed and ranked by two individuals.
- Each Board member is asked to read and rank 30 applications, which should take approximately four to six hours.
- The review process will start on February 6th and you will have two weeks to complete.
- Nancy Tonner will email instructions on February 5th.
- Sala showed an application online and demonstrated the reading and ranking procedure.

V. ECC STUDENT REPORT

Charlie Mitchell – Unable to attend meeting

VI. ECC PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dr. Brenda Thames

- Winter session enrollment is up by 3%. It's a good sign.
- For spring session, fraudulent enrollment is down.
- Arson fire update: The Chemistry building should be up and running in 6-8 weeks and the bookstore is back in business.
- For fall, we are increasing our education plan with program maps to help students see where they are currently and where they need to be in order to complete their education or transfer.
- There will also be a focus on literacy in the workplace which will help productivity.
- Hired a Vice President of Administrative Services, Jessie Wang.
- Hired Executive Director of Facilities, Tae Kim.
- There will be a modified graduation ceremony. Last year, the venue was at capacity and the ceremony took 3 hours. It will now take place over two days, Wednesday June 10 and Thursday June 11.
- There was a burglary at the Business Development Center in Hawthorne. Copper was stolen and it was the second incident. It may not be feasible to keep that center open.
- Student funding formula not fully funded.
- State budget providing 2.5% COLA this year.
- On campus, deferred maintenance will begin to be addressed. Projects such as roofing will start soon.

- MyLoc Dinh, new member of the ECCCD Board of Trustees, started last month.
- Very close to having a Boys and Girls Club on campus.

VII. STAFF REPORT

Andrea Sala/Heidi Wang

1) ECC Basketball Gym Naming Opportunity

- There is a proposal to rename the basketball gym in honor of former ECC Coach George Stanich. His influence on his former players is immense. It extended beyond the court and he taught character, pride, ethics and .

Laurie Brandt made a motion to approve requesting the proposal to name the basketball gym in honor of George Stanich be forwarded to the ECCCD Board of Trustees. Richard Rede seconded. Motion approved.

2) ECC Bond Update

- Slow moving process. No vote yet. Currently participating in community outreach presentations to inform our District about ECC priorities.

3) 2026 Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards Dinner – March 6, 2026

- Continuing to market and promote the dinner and have received several sponsorships (Honda, LA Co. Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Office, Continental Development, Northrop Grumman, Torrance Refining, AALRR, Boys & Girls Club of LA Harbor, Skechers, Graystone Consulting, Green Hills Memorial Park, CSUDH, Marcil Family Foundation) and table purchases (Bill Kim, Torrance Memorial, Torrance Kiwanis, South Bay Workforce Investment Board, City of Torrance, Murakawa Communications).
- Invitations have been sent out, and ads are running in local newspapers.

VIII. DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 5:42 pm.