

## APPROVED MINUTES

### COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
Sierra Vista Campus  
Governing Board Room – 301  
4:00 p.m.

Members of the public who wished to attend the meeting via video conference joined at <https://cochise.zoom.us/j/93565114177>.

#### 1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

##### 1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

##### **Board Members Present:**

Mr. David DiPeso  
Mr. Mark Farr  
Mr. Don Hudgins  
Mr. Steve Leeder  
Ms. Stephanie Money

##### 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Hudgins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### 1.03 Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Perey informed the Governing Board that item 3.02 was removed from the agenda and moved to the March meeting, and that an updated agreement for item 2.03 was provided to the board members. With that, the agenda stands as published.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Farr seconded the motion to approve the agenda with modifications. With no further discussion, all Governing Board members approved, with members Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

##### 1.04 Recognition of Cochise College's Women's Soccer Team and Coach Santos Rangel

The Governing Board recognized the Women's Soccer Team for their outstanding season. Coach Rangel commended the athletes for their dedication, noting that they consistently pushed themselves, demonstrated exceptional teamwork, and worked hard both on and off the field. He highlighted that the team achieved the highest collective GPA in the history of Cochise College. Coach Rangel expressed his pride in the team's accomplishments and remarked that coaching them has been a truly rewarding experience.

Mr. Hudgins recessed the meeting at 4:06 p.m. for a brief team celebration and resumed the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

## **1.05 Governing Board Organization/Orientation for 2026**

### **1.05.1 Election of Board Chair**

Mr. Hudgins opened the floor for nominations for Governing Board Chair. Mr. DiPeso nominated, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to elect Mr. Don Hudgins as Board Chair for 2026. No other nominations were made, and there was no further discussion. The Board approved, with members Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money voting aye, and Mr. Hudgins abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **1.05.2 Election of Board Secretary**

Mr. Hudgins opened the floor for nominations for Governing Board Secretary. Mr. Farr nominated, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to elect Ms. Money as Board Secretary for 2026. No other nominations were made, and there was no further discussion. The Board approved, with members Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, and Mr. Leeder voting aye, and Ms. Money abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **1.05.3 Appointment of Governing Board Representatives and Alternate Representatives to Board Committees and Associations.**

Mr. Hudgins reappointed Mr. Leeder as the representative of the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees and appointed himself as the alternate representative.

Mr. Hudgins also appointed Mr. Farr and Mr. DiPeso as representatives on the Investment Committee.

### **1.05.4 Open Meeting Law**

A Cochise County Representative will provide an Open Meeting Law presentation to the Governing Board; highlights include:

History:

- Arizona's Open Meeting Law was enacted to end decision-making behind closed doors by multi-member public bodies.
- Prior to the law, governing bodies could deliberate privately and take only formal votes in public, undermining transparency.
- The Legislature responded by requiring that deliberations- not just the final vote- occur in public.

Core Rules:

- All meetings of a quorum of a public body to discuss, deliberate, propose, or decide public business must be open to the public and properly noticed.
- Applies to formal meetings, informal gatherings, emails, texts, and serial communications that collectively involve a quorum
  - A quorum is three members.

Key Judicial Interpretations:

- Arizona courts have emphasized that the law applies when future action is reasonably foreseeable, even if no final vote occurs
- The law is designed to prevent public bodies from deciding first and voting later in public.

- Applies broadly to meetings of a quorum at social events.
- Minutes must be taken and posted.
- Action items must be made public through agendas posted in advance, using general language.
  - Members cannot deviate from the agenda items.

Executive Sessions Explained:

- Opportunities for members to seek legal advice in a closed-door setting
  - Personnel actions
  - Salaries and Benefits
  - General legal advice on agenda items
  - School safety, operations, plans, and programs
  - Litigation
  - Real property leases and transactions
  - Critical safety infrastructure
- During Executive Session
  - Discussion or consultation of properly noticed topics only
  - Members cannot take votes in executive session
    - Must exit the executive session and then take votes that fully reference the actions discussed during the executive session
    - Minutes shall be required, but kept confidential.

Call to the Public:

- Public comment on any item within the Board's jurisdiction is allowed with a reasonable, uniform time requirement
- May require the public to indicate their desire to speak before the start of the meeting
- May maintain decorum
- Members cannot discuss unnoticed legal issues during the open call.

Violations:

- The board's actions taken in violation of the Open Meeting Law are void and null.
- Ratification is allowed at a future meeting, but that does not negate future sanctions or litigation.
- Arizona Attorney General or County Attorney investigation
  - Subpoena power, take oaths to obtain information
- Severe penalties:
  - Removal from the Board
  - Civil money penalties
  - Reasonable attorney's fees and costs in litigation

## **1.06 Citizen's In-person Interim**

There were no in-person requests to address the Governing Board.

## **1.07 Standing Reports**

### **1.07.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)**

Mr. Leeder, Arizona Association of Community College Trustees Representative, did not have a report as there were no new updates.

### **1.07.2 Senate**

A written December 2025 Senate report was submitted in the board meeting packet for review and acceptance.

### **1.07.3 Student Government Association**

No Student Government Association report was provided as students were on winter break.

### **1.07.4 College President**

Dr. Perey began his report by expressing appreciation for staff efforts in preparing for the spring semester. The beginning of a semester always brings renewed focus, energy, and momentum.

#### **Legislative Update:**

- The 2026 session opened with early activity, fiscal uncertainty, and divided government.
- The Legislature must address the FY 2027 state budget amid a projected deficit exacerbated by federal tax law changes.
- Governor Hobbs proposes partial compliance with federal tax regulations, while legislative leadership supports full compliance.
- Over 200 bills were pre-filed, including recurring topics such as firearms on campus and public records. Community colleges will continue advocating for sustained funding.
- Congress faces a narrow majority, unresolved budget negotiations, and the implementation of 2025 higher education policies.
- The current federal budget resolution expires January 30, and the college will monitor developments. No impact is anticipated on the current college budget year.

#### **Facilities Update:**

##### **District:**

- Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) – The Gordian Group
  - Meeting scheduled for Friday (1/16) to review the additional updates that were requested during the last review
  - Deliverable phase date TBD, dependent on review outcomes

##### **Douglas Campus:**

- City of Douglas Wellsite
  - IGA and Waterline Easement reviewed and approved
  - Geotechnical evaluation completed
  - Wellsite development expected to start in March
- Welcome Center Turnabout/Parking Lot A Improvements
  - Xeriscaping project punch list items to be finished week of 5 January
  - Flagpole footer/sleeve installation plan for week of 12 January
  - Flagpole to be set in place the week of 19 January
- AdultEd (400) Renovation/Drainage Improvements
  - Roof demolition completed

- Garland roof proposal delayed due to holiday staffing shortage; waiting on subcontractor to complete documentation
- Interior build back to commence once the roof and exterior entrances are completed.
- Drainage improvement project approved.
- Contractor pre-construction meeting planned to finalize work schedule to minimize instructional impact.
- Rodeo Ground Trailer Demolition
  - Completed
- General Classrooms (700) Renovation
  - Conference Room and Offices completed
  - Conference Table on order
  - Classroom Drop Ceiling materials on order
  - ECD: 30 January

#### Sierra Vista Campus

- Campus Services Building (2600)
  - Technology Services and Facilities staff have started the relocation
  - Open House held on Thursday, January 8

#### Downtown Center

- Flight/Police Cruiser Simulators
  - Helicopter flight simulator delivery date is tentatively scheduled for spring break.

#### Initiatives:

- Allied Health hosted the third law-enforcement phlebotomy training.
- FAA Part 107 drone training scheduled for February.
- New training is being developed to meet Arizona pest control certification requirements.
- MOS program registrations increased to 353 in December (from 222 last year).
- Cochise College awarded a \$1.87M U.S. Department of Education Special Projects Grant (FHPSI) to support a four-year "AI-Powered Success" initiative focused on faculty development, institutional capacity, K-12/industry partnerships, and workforce micro-credentials.

#### General Comments:

#### Community Engagements:

- Dec 11 – Chaplain's Breakfast
- Dec 16 – Holiday Luncheon on the Douglas Campus @ 11:30
- Dec 17 – Holiday Luncheon on the Sierra Vista Campus @ 11:30
- Dec 19 – ADOT Statewide Listening Tour in Douglas @1 pm
- Jan 8 – Campus Services Building Open House (2600)
- Jan 9 – Guest speaker for DECA Competition
- Jan 12 – Met with Margaret Hepburn, Legacy Foundation
- Jan 13-14 – Welcome Back Breakfast

#### Upcoming Activities

- Jan 19 – MLK Holiday, College closed
- Jan 21-22 – AC4 Meeting in Phoenix

- Jan 28-30 – Cochise Combined Trust Meeting in Tubac
- Feb 7-11 – ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.

#### Questions/Comments

Mr. Hudgins congratulated the college on its tremendous work in obtaining the grant.

#### **1.07.5 Monthly Financial Report – December 2025**

The Financial Report for December 2025 was presented and accepted as submitted.

#### **1.07.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report**

The January 2026 Academic Progress Report included Strategic Vision data.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS \***

### **2.01 Consent Agenda \***

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Allison Adams, Division Assistant – First Responders Academy, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.2 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Judy Jones, Small Business Advisor, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.3 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Arthur Morris, Testing Services Specialist, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.4 \* Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Jose Rodriguez Santana, Testing Services Specialist, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.5 \* Curriculum
- 2.01.6 \* Acceptance of Minutes for December 9, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. With no further discussions, the Governing Board unanimously approved, with members Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **\*\*\* Introduction of New Employees \*\*\***

Mr. Wick Lewis, Executive Director of Human Resources, introduced Douglas Simmons, Instructor of Nursing; Armando Romero, Academic Advisor; Erin Ross, Career Services Coordinator; Judy Jones, Small Business Advisor – SBDC; and Renee Irlmeier, Instructor of Nursing.

### **2.02 Career and Technical Education Month Proclamation**

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve and proclaim February 2026 as Career and Technical Education Month.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Farr seconded a motion to approve and proclaim February 2026 as Career and Technical Education Month. There was no further discussion. The Governing Board unanimously approved with members, Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **2.03 Water Line Easement – Douglas Campus – City of Douglas**

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion authorizing the College President or designee to sign the utility easement agreement for the City of Douglas. The agreement for approval was slightly modified from the posted agreement to include updates clarifying responsibilities, conditions, and protections for both parties, recommended by the county attorney and agreed upon by the college and the City of Douglas.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion authorizing the College President or designee to sign the utility easement for the City of Douglas. There was no further discussion. The Governing Board unanimously approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **2.04 Intergovernmental Agreement – Arizona Department of Education – Adult Ed Workforce Development**

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion approving the IGA with the Arizona Department of Education to provide adult education and access to workforce development opportunities.

Mr. Leeder questioned whether the change would affect the flow of funds through the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR). Dr. Perey clarified that this change does not affect that process. ABOR does not oversee funds related specifically to adult education, including those connected to new parameters for adult education programs and adult-education pathways that support workforce development.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Farr seconded a motion to approve the IGA with the Arizona Department of Education to provide adult education and access to workforce development opportunities. The Governing Board unanimously approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3. INFORMATION ITEMS**

## **INFORMATION**

### **3.01 Communications**

- The college received no new communications for the January meeting.

### **3.02 Cochise College Foundation Report**

The item was pulled from the agenda.

### **3.03 Marketing Report**

Robyn Martin, Assistant Dean, Marketing, Communications & Advancement, provided a Marketing report; highlights include:

Team:

- Media & Communications Manager/PIO – Sharrina Cook-General
- Digital Media Marketing Coordinator – Donna Brown
- Graphic Designer/Photographer – Dani Foti
- Web Administrator – Daniel Gordon
- Multimedia Content Specialist – James Roth

- 2 Student Content Creator
- 5 Student Interns

2025 Top Initiatives:

- Enrollment – Apply/Register
- Academic Programs
- HLC Reaccreditation
- Dr. Perey's Presidency and Investiture
- Events
- Workforce Development
- Military Programs
- Willcox & Benson Centers
- Early College

Marketing Update Channels:

- Paid Digital Marketing
  - Static Display Ads
  - Google Keywords
  - Online Video Ads
  - Paid Social Media Ads
- Paid Social Media
  - Total Impressions: 1,583,813
  - Household Reach: 204,539
  - Video Views: 27,046
  - Engagement: 28,509
- Targeted Display & Video
  - Total Impressions: 2,041,238
  - Household Reach: 473,661
- Social Media/Video
  - Facebook: 9,300 followers
  - Instagram: 3,383 followers
  - LinkedIn: 25,099 followers
  - YouTube: 133 subscribers
    - 53% increase in video content
    - 10% increase in YouTube subscribers
- Earned Media:
  - Media coverage is picked up by external media sources due to press releases, the website news page, and the college's social media channels.
    - 54 stories covered by external media sources
    - Congressman Juan Ciscomani shared that we were the #1 community college in AZ by smartasset.com on the House Floor

Campaigns/Projects:

- Launched fully redesigned Cochise.edu and home page redesign for my.cochise.edu
- Promoted 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- College Math Prep Courses
- Early College Summer Camps
- Bachelor's Degrees
- Cochise Red Hot
- Creating Futures

Publications:

- Cochise County Economic Quick Facts
- Year in Review
- Your Guide to Getting Started – Spring and Fall
- Continuing Education & Workforce Development – Spring, Summer, and Fall
- Accolade

2026 Planning:

- HLC Accreditation Visit
- Supporting the 2025-2028 Strategic Enrollment Plan
  - Integrating Anthology CRM capabilities into future marketing strategies
- Supporting Dr. Perey's new strategic planning
- Full production commercial to use on streaming

Questions/Comments:

Dr. Perey inquired whether the college had previously utilized movie theater advertising. Mrs. Martin noted that this method had been effective in the past; however, with the introduction of seat reservation systems, most advertisements now play before audiences are seated, reducing their cost-effectiveness. She also reported that two of the college's advertisements recently premiered during a UFC event, providing significant exposure to a large sports-viewing audience.

### **3.04 Community Engagement Report**

Dr. Jenn Wantz, Executive Dean of Community Engagement, provided a written update in the board packet for review and acceptance.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Leeder noted that the dedication to civic engagement is outstanding. Dr. Perey commented that Dr. Wantz truly has a concentrated focus on being a part of the community.

### **3.05 Policies for First Reading – Policy 632 – Family Medical Leave and Policy 644 – Performance Evaluation.**

Policies 632 - Family Medical Leave with minor revisions related to language consistency and regulation compliance, and Policy 644 – Performance Evaluation with cleanup and consistency in language, as well as the incorporation of two substantive changes. One of these is incorporating peers' and direct reports' input into the evaluation process. The second is the revision of the probationary faculty section to include the new faculty academy. Both policies are presented as first reads.

## **4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Hudgins turned the time over to Governing Board members to provide comments/share information.

- Mr. Leeder
  - Thanked everyone, stated that the college continues to excel across the board, and wished them luck in the new year.

- Mr. DiPeso
  - Wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed his excitement for continuing to be number one in Arizona. He stated how proud he is of that accomplishment and can't wait to see what the new year holds.
- Mr. Hudgins
  - Thanked everyone for their dedication and stated he looks forward to seeing what 2026 brings.
- Mr. Farr
  - Continues to be impressed by the college, the people, and the impact the institution has on people's lives.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

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Ms. Stephanie Money, Secretary of the Governing Board