

Victor Valley Community College District
Special Meeting Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
APPROVED MINUTES

1. OPENING SESSION

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 5:05

Dennis Henderson was reached by phone at 5:02

1.2 ROLL CALL

Members present

Joseph W Brady, John Pinkerton, Brandon A Wood, Jennifer Tarpley

Dennis Henderson by phone

1.3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Executive Assistant of the Foundation, Kirsten Acosta, led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ACTION AGENDA

2.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Eichman spoke on agenda Item 2.2: Adoption of Resolution No. 20-05 and the potential relief for students who have been affected by the COVID-19 situation.

2.2 Adoption of Resolution No. 20-05 Regarding COVID-19

It was MSC (Henderson/Wood, 5-0) to adopt Resolution No. 20-05 to:

1. Determine that the circumstances described in the Resolution herein constitute an emergency condition; for purposes of, but not limited to, section 20654 of the Public Contract Code; and
2. Authorize the Superintendent/President and/or his designee to take any and all actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, and the health and safety of the students and staff at the District, including, but not limited to: the relocation of students and staff, provision of alternative educational program and operational options including, without limitation, temporarily transitioning courses, instruction and other operations to an online and/or telecommuting environment and mode of operation, provide and/or direct the leave of absence to employees due to quarantine or recently returning from level 3 countries or sick from COVID19 or illness with similar symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) or cohabitants of any individuals pursuant to Education Code sections 87765 and 88199, directing faculty and staff to serve as disaster service workers pursuant to Government Code 3100, and/or make alterations, repairs or improvements to school property, services and programs.

Discussion: Trustee Brady read the resolution aloud.

Trustee Wood commented that he hoped a lot of people were watching the meeting online, and that he doesn't blame anyone who didn't want to be here. The Board have been in constant contact with President Walden to discuss the current issues, and asked that everyone trust that they are trying to make the best decisions. He continued by saying that none of us knows what the best course of action is at this time, and we won't know weeks or months from now whether we did too much or too little. Dr. Walden is receiving hundreds of emails and every single person has an opinion of what the college should be doing, but there is not one solution that encompasses what should be done. No one person has the answers. The only way we will know is in retrospect. Trustee Wood asked that people give Dr. Walden a break and know that he is doing everything in his power to do what is best for the students, staff and faculty. Trustee Wood completed his comments by stating how proud he is to be a part of this institution, and asked that we commit to working together, propping each other up and focusing on getting through this. Lastly, he wanted people to know that, for what's it worth, Dr. Walden has been at work very late every night and over the weekends, proving that he cares and is trying to do the best that he can.

Trustee Tarpley said she agrees with Trustee Wood, and believes that educating students through online courses will not be an issue. Faculty are getting trained, and she believes they will do a phenomenal job.

Trustee Pinkerton commented that when he spoke with Dr. Walden he reassured him that he was speaking with people who have more information than he, and is consulting with a variety of sources. There is safety in the counsel of many, and Dr. Walden has been spending the last several days doing this. Trustee Pinkerton commented that we have never seen anything like this - there is no precedence, and information is changing quickly, so there are a lot of things we are trying to figure out. Trustee Pinkerton completed his comments stating that he feels confident that when we look back on this crisis, we will have handled it in the best way possible.

Trustee Henderson commented that we are erring on the side of caution and reminded the group about H1N1 when many people were infected and died, but there was no closure and nobody reacted the way they are acting now.

Dr. Walden commented that the resolution is giving a lot of authority to the President, but the state has already weighed in on this, and they have already given the authority to act in the face of this emergency. This resolution is being formally adopted to give the Board a chance to speak on the issue and to present a solidarity to the community. Dr. Walden continued his comments stating the important point to know is that he never makes any major decisions by himself. He commented that we have a fantastic group of people he is working with, including the unions, signing MOUs and working together with no issues. He reported that the Crisis Leadership Team is meeting regularly, finalizing a plan of action for various scenarios. It is important to know that he isn't sitting in the office and making decisions alone. He is on the phone with the Superintendents of the K12s,

state leadership, Chancellors and CEOs across the state, with multiple upcoming meetings scheduled. Dr. Walden is keeping the Board informed and hears what they have to say.

Trustee Brady stated that the impassioned comments by all the Trustees are right on. He thanked the Trustees and the Dr. Walden's wife for her understanding of the importance of the time it takes to deal with these issues. He continued by stating he would rather be a part of overreacting and being on the safe side, and hopes this will pass very soon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dennis Henderson, Joseph W Brady, John Pinkerton, Brandon A Wood, Jennifer Tarpley

3. ADJOURNMENT

3.1 Adjourn the March 17, 2020 Board of Trustees Special Meeting

There being no further business to come before the Governing Board, it was MSC (Wood/Henderson, 5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dennis Henderson, Joseph W Brady, John Pinkerton, Brandon A Wood, Jennifer Tarpley