



## Victor Valley Community College District SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: July 31, 2008

Place: Board Room, Victor Valley College  
18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395

Format: Workshop/Roundtable Discussion

Purpose: To provide bond information to the Victor Valley Community College Board of Trustees  
To create an environment which encourages community, student and staff input  
To explain the bond proposal and answer questions

### CALL TO ORDER

5 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Victor Valley Community College District met in Open Session on July 31, 2008 in the Board Room of the Administration building. Mr. Nelson, Board President called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**TRUSTEE ROLL CALL:** Present: Donald Nelson, Board President; Angela Valles, Vice President; Joe Range, Trustee; Bettye Underhill, Trustee

Absent: Dennis Henderson, Clerk

**MANAGEMENT PRESENT:** Dr. Robert Silverman, Superintendent/President, Christopher O'Hearn, Bill Greulich, Victoria Hindes, Virginia Moran, and Annette McComas (Recorder)

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mary Pringle led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Update and provide clarification of putting the bond on the ballot.

#### I. Introduction/Overview - Bob Silverman VVCC

Dr. Silverman welcomed everyone and provided an overview of where the college is going and some of the reasons for it. This is an opportunity to provide logic for a bond proposal which would be clear to everyone. This would be an opportunity for the citizens to be able to take a positive step forward. Challenges that all Community Colleges are facing is that the State of California made certain distinctions in new policies. Over the last years, the State would be pay for buildings and maintenance. Their percentage in contributions towards buildings and maintenance has declined over the years.

A bond campaign was conducted two years ago and lost by less than 2%. State budget cuts cannot be controlled in what they are doing on the operational or capital side, so we have to work for the future and build on what we know. The last bond was a little high and so this time around it has been reduced significantly to recognize the community's need. This time around, the need will be clearer on what we are doing and how we are doing it.

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Dennis Henderson, Donald Nelson, Joe Range, Bettye Underhill, Angela Valles, ASB Member

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Most importantly is training the workforce for the future. This bond is a 10-20 year project and symbolizes the investment in the community for a trained workforce. There is a future need for need for trained workers.

Dr. Silverman introduced Dr. John Husing Economics and Politics, Advisor to the County Board of Supervisors, and specializing in the inland empire economy, growth and economic development.

**II. Economy, growth, and economic development: A context for the Bond--John Husing Ph.D., Economics and Politics, Advisor to the County Board of Supervisors**

Dr. Husing reported that the high desert has a need for adult workforce education if it is going to be a prosperous area. He pointed out that there is no such thing as a poor well educated community. In 2006, 54% of the adults 25 and over living in the high desert have not had a single college class. There are a large number of people migrating to the high desert rather quickly in the last decade. The high desert is the newest, most important, fast growing community of Southern California with over 400,000 people living up here. The community college has a vital role in providing an education to train the adult workforce. When companies consider an area one of the things they want to know is there a trained labor force or if there isn't can they get one rapidly done by the institutions in the area. The institution being referred to would be Victor Valley College. When thinking about the types of jobs to consider, but are not available in the high desert yet, they would be logistics, distribution, and transportation. This institution has to be set-up to be able to deal with the economic shift once it happens. Significant job training needs that stand out immediately is in the health care and public safety field. One other area that grows along with population is food service and hospitality because there are a lot of companies that need trained workers within them. These are the type of areas only a community college working with the high school system drawing students directly into its workforce training programs can do. This is the single most important community colleges do.

**III. K-16 Education Perspective: Dr. Ralph Baker, Superintendent, Victor Elementary School District**

Dr. Baker reported that the growth K-12 will continue. Preliminary projections looking at 5 years could be as high as 8%. Facts are known that for students to make it to a middle income, a minimum of two years of further education is needed beyond high school. A foundation was established in Victor Elementary that each student would graduate from a public high school and they will pay for the first two years at Victor Valley College. Partnerships with Victor Valley College are being considered in the Allied Health and Technology field. Dr. Baker recommended that as a board a strong 5-0 vote should be considered for a successful bond. To create that preferred vision of the future, the board will need to be a united team to really sell the need to community.

**IV. Retire past funding for campus improvements—Mary Pringle**

Ms. Pringle addressed the retiring of past funding for campus improvements. Since the 1990's there has been reduced funding in building and scheduled maintenance projects. The trend is that there is a shift of responsibility from the state level down to the local levels to oversee the maintenance of our buildings. A list of the projects that were completed with the lease revenue bonds were presented. Some of the items on the list were not eligible for state funding and other state funded projects were only partially state funded. There were needs that could not wait for a bond election. Victor Valley College as many other

community colleges in the state, chose to address those needs by issuing Certificates of Participation with the belief that this would serve as a bridge loan until we could pass a GO bond and have the retirement of these lease obligations included in that bond. It should be noted that these funds, over \$53M, were held by a bank/trustee to ensure that we were spending the money wisely. During the time of spending these funds there was total fiscal accountability both by the district and by the Trustee. Colleges throughout the state, as well as Victor Valley College, believe that the general operating budget of the district should be spent on classroom instruction and not facility projects. Many colleges throughout the state included the retirement of their lease obligation bonds in their GO bond. If we were to pass the bond, we would look at being able to retire our existing COPs in April of 2009 and fiscal year 2008/09 we would be looking at savings to our general fund of \$750,000. These are funds that could come back to the classroom needs where really belong. When the college first opened there was a bond for approximately \$2M, which is the only bond that we have actually gone out for except for the attempt in 2006.

**V. Fire, Paramedic, Police & Public Safety Training Center – Art Bishop**

Deputy Fire Chief Bishop thanked the staff of Victor Valley College that have done a tremendous job to help put this entire public safety center concept together to present tonight. It has been his goal and need to open a regional training center. The majority of the firefighters and EMTs on the line fighting fires are not from California. There is a desperate need in California to fight fires that we are having to import firefighters and paramedics from outside the state to handle the situation that is going on today in the state. The idea is that the Apple Valley Direct Protection has 13 acres of property in Apple Valley that is being considered for the training center. There is no regional training center of this magnitude in this county, Riverside County, or Orange County. Classes with programs that will be accredited at the state and hopefully national level will be conducted at this training center. It is critical to get this issue on the ballot in November.

**VI. Workforce Development Center – Ginger Ontiveros & Steven Lantsberger, City of Hesperia**

Ms. Ontiveros reported on the need of a Workforce Development Center.

Mr. Lantsberger reported on the growth in the high desert and expressed the City of Hesperia's interest in building a workforce development center.

**VII. College Improvements – Steve Garcia**

Mr. Garcia presented on the importance of a local bond and what effect it might have on the existing infrastructure.

**VIII. Summary**

Dr. Silverman summarized that the board will be presented with a resolution next week which will allow the college to put the bond on the ballot.


**IX. Issues**

Dr. Silverman pointed out that there will be full accountability if this bond is successful. That accountability will include a bond oversight committee which ensures we are purchasing what the public voted has voted for. The membership of the committee is open at the moment and we are looking for individuals who would like to serve on it. It is important to create revenue streams to offset operational costs. Issues include the need of affordable education and training dedicated to providing the personnel to ensure public safety, the need to be able to build a building that will be a base for a simulation lab or training in a close proximity of a hospital, and addressing the needs of a growing community.

**X. General Discussion / Public Comments**

Dr. Silverman opened the meeting up for general discussion and the following individuals made comments: Carol Yule, Art Bishop, Christina Zambrano, Robert Sewell, and Robert Gray

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

  
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Donald Nelson, President

9-9-08  
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Date Approved