

# San Jacinto College District Board Workshop

## June 2, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met for a Board Workshop at 4:45 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2025, in Room 201 of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

### MINUTES

	<b>Board Workshop Attendees:</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson, Erica Davis Rouse, Dan Mims, John Moon, Jr., Salvador Serrano Jr., Keith Sinor (absent), Larry Wilson <b>Chancellor:</b> Brenda Hellyer <b>Other:</b> Christian Bionat, Amanda Fenwick, Carin Hutchins, Sandra Ramirez, Mandi Reiland
	<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Discussion/Information</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Call the Meeting to Order</b>	Chair Mims called the workshop to order at 4:48 p.m.
<b>II.</b>	<b>Roll Call of Board Members</b>	Chair Mims conducted a roll call of the Board members:  Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson Erica Davis Rouse, Assistant Secretary Dan Mims, Chair John Moon, Jr., Vice Chair Salvado Serrano Jr. Keith Sinor, Secretary (absent) Larry Wilson
<b>III.</b>	<b>Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act</b>	It was determined after the time of posting that a closed session was not needed.  a. Legal Matters - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law. It was determined after the time of posting that a consultation with an attorney was not needed.  b. Personnel Matters - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Reconvene in Open Meeting</b>	A closed session was posted on the agenda, but it was determined after the time of posting that a closed session

		is not needed so reconvening to open meeting was not needed.
<b>V.</b>	<b>Review Strategic Plan for 2025-2030</b>	<p>Brenda Hellyer reviewed the proposed strategic plan for 2025-2030, entitled BOLD 2030, and an action item requesting approval was included in the Board book.</p> <p>Brenda explained that this was reviewed multiple times with the Board as the plan was developed. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been working to incorporate feedback from the Board and the College community.</p> <p>Attachments were provided, including the values which remain unchanged. The vision statement was revised based on feedback from community members and business partners. The new vision statement emphasizes educational excellence, economic growth, and social mobility through innovation and responsiveness.</p> <p>Brenda said that the various versions of the mission statement were longer and broader and after a lot of discussion the final recommended mission statement is, "We change lives through education, community engagement, and partnerships."</p> <p>The strategic goals were reviewed and aligned with feedback received. The four strategic goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break barriers to life-changing opportunities</li> <li>• Optimize services, systems, and instructional programs</li> <li>• Leverage partnerships to create innovative programs and promote success</li> <li>• Demonstrate a culture of belonging and excellence</li> </ul> <p>Three strategies were developed to support each of these goals. Specific actions are being developed by the SLT and their teams to address these goals.</p> <p>The Board members were supportive of the information as presented.</p>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Update on Enrollment - Summer and Fall 2025</b>	<p>Carin provided an update on summer enrollment which showed a 6.5 percent increase in headcount and an 8.3 percent increase in contact hours compared to the previous year.</p> <p>Brenda added that the largest increase is attributable at this point to continuing students.</p>

		<p>Carin explained that Fall enrollment numbers are promising but will likely change as the semester approaches.</p> <p>The group discussed dual credit enrollment and transfer student numbers, with an emphasis on continuing student retention.</p>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Update on Board Election</b>	<p>Carin provided an update on the Board election and upcoming runoff election. The cost estimate for the runoff election was discussed, with an initial estimate of \$700,000. The final cost will depend on the number of voting sites and entities participating with Harris County.</p> <p>Details about the runoff election process, timeline, and associated costs were provided and reviewed.</p> <p>Carin reviewed early voting and election day logistics, including the number of voting sites.</p> <p>Brenda added that the Board will need to canvass the results of the runoff election on June 17, 2025, and a quorum of the Board present onsite is needed.</p>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Review Arbitrage Rebate Liability and Investment Policy Change</b>	<p>Brenda explained that the Finance Committee reviewed the arbitrage rebate liability and investment policy a few weeks ago. Carin has been working on the investment policy, adding a section to address one of the referenced items recommended by the College’s investment advisor.</p> <p>Carin reviewed the arbitrage component and investment recommendations. She explained that arbitrage in the context of tax-exempt bonds refers to the practice of borrowing at tax-exempt lower interest rates and investing the proceeds in higher-yielding investments.</p> <p>She explained that positive arbitrage occurs when investment yields are higher than bond yields. The College has not previously experienced this as far as she is aware. The average bond yield is 2.21 percent, while the investment pool corporate overnight plus fund is earning 4.47 percent. The College is required to prepare an arbitrage rebate report every five years as long as any of the bond proceeds are still outstanding.</p> <p>The liabilities associated with the 2021 issue are \$563,000, and the 2022 series are \$2.6 million. PFM Asset Management recommended investing in State and Local Government Series (SLGS) to minimize the liability. Carin agrees with this recommendation and SLGS are earning approximately 3.31 percent interest.</p> <p>No Board action is required to invest in SLGS, as they are allowable under the Public Funds Investment Act.</p>

		<p>The plan is for agreements with PFM Asset Management and the safekeeping bank, US Bank, to be signed by the Chancellor.</p> <p>Brenda explained the proposed change to the investment policy was added on page five under the obligations of U.S. governments.</p> <p>Carin and her team will continue to review and sign agreements to move forward with this investment option.</p> <p>The Board members present were comfortable as presented.</p>
<p><b>IX.</b></p>	<p><b>Review Legislative Update and Advocacy Efforts</b></p> <p><b>A. Executive Order GA 48</b></p> <p><b>B. Governor's Letter on Tuition Freeze</b></p>	<p>Brenda explained that Christian, Sandra, and Carin will be providing updates on legislation and advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Christian explained that the session was marked by political complexity, compressed timelines, and significant shifts in education policy. Despite challenges, progress was made in securing new investments, passing cleanup bills, and securing direct appropriations.</p> <p>He provided federal updates on the White House, the Department of Education, Congress, and San Jacinto College engagement. The House reconciliation bill rewrites student aid rules, limiting Pell grants to students taking 15 hours or more. The Promise program requires students to take 12 hours a semester, and adjustments may be needed if the bill passes. The expansion of Pell to short-term credentials is supported, but the bundle of restrictions could hurt the base funding. Risk sharing would penalize colleges for student loan non-repayment. Christian said that conversations with senators are ongoing to address these changes.</p> <p>He added that a \$12 million community-funded project request was submitted to support the College's biomanufacturing workforce. We are working with our delegation to keep this moving.</p> <p>The Department of Education closure is in the president's budget but requires congressional action. We are not sure of the impact if this moves forward.</p> <p>Brenda added that the College's National Science Foundation Louis Stokes grant was terminated, impacting minority recruitment into STEM programs. This was an important program for the College for recruitment.</p>

		<p>Christian reviewed information on the State legislative session which saw more than 9000 bills filed, with 1200 passing. Christian said that key legislative priorities included securing \$90 million in community state supplemental funds, transfer flexibility, and \$10 million for the College’s Center for Biotechnology. The Cybersecurity funding request did not get approved.</p> <p>The following bills were reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SB 37 impacts higher education governance, requiring boards to review general education curriculum every five years and approve key hires; It also requires restructuring Faculty Senates.</li><li>• SB 530 provides accreditation flexibility, allowing institutions to choose regional accrediting agencies.</li><li>• SB 1786 redefines the formula and modernizes transfer measurement.</li><li>• SB 1191 addresses GPA parity between dual credit and advanced placement.</li><li>• HB 121 adds a community college representative to the Texas School Safety Center board.</li><li>• SB 2615 limits remote work for higher education employees with specific exemptions.</li><li>• SB 1173 raises the procurement threshold to \$100,000.</li></ul> <p>We are waiting for final Governor vetoes as well as guidance on these bills.</p> <p>Sandra reviewed Executive Order GA 48, which mandates restrictions on institutional and employee activities involving foreign adversaries. The current list of foreign adversaries includes six countries. Contractors and suppliers must certify compliance with the Executive Order. Employees must disclose gifts from foreign adversaries and business travel to these countries is prohibited. Personal travel to foreign adversaries must be disclosed and debriefed upon return. Employees with access to critical infrastructure must have specific job descriptions and undergo background checks. Reports on foreign gifts and contract disclosures must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Participation in foreign recruitment programs by foreign adversary nations is prohibited. Next steps include testing the system for the travel disclosure form, updating job descriptions, consulting with outside legal counsel, assigning training, and certifying compliance by August 1st.</p>
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<b>X.</b>	<b>General Discussion of Meeting Items</b>  <b>a. Additional Purchasing Support Documents</b>	Brenda reviewed the pending delegation of authority summary provided on the additional purchasing support document. The delinquent tax attorney contract was discussed, with a recommendation to finalize the contract by June 30th. The group discussed the evaluation process. The Board will vote on the contract at the special board meeting on June 17th.  The Board discussed the process for dual credit enrollment for homeschool students. Also, the promise program action item was reviewed, with a recommendation to move \$100,000 from the Aspen Prize finalist funds to the Promise Program.
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Update on May Commencement Concerns with NRG</b>	Brenda reviewed issues with commencement, including changes made by NRG and the impact on students and families. A letter from the College's purchasing department to NRG was provided to the Board for review. The group discussed their concerns with this recent commencement ceremony. Brenda explained that the leadership will meet to address communications and process improvements for future commencements.
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Review of Calendar</b>	Brenda reviewed the calendar and asked the Board members to let Mandi Reiland know if they would like to attend any events.  Upcoming events and meetings were reviewed, including the Bachelor of Applied Science in Education celebration, State of the Precinct luncheon, strategic budget retreat, and Biotechnology Center grand opening. The State of the College event will be held on October 16th, and Winter Commencement will be on December 12th at Grace Church.
<b>XIII.</b>	<b>Overview of Marketing and Advertising Efforts</b>	Amanda provided an update on marketing and advertising efforts, including digital advertising, direct mail, earned media, email, print advertising, social media, television, and the website. The top-performing platforms were Meta

		and Google, with high-performing campaigns for veterans, general branding, and careers that pay. The next steps include evaluating tactics, expanding adult marketing, and developing a new ad campaign.
<b>XIV.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	Chair Mims adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.