

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES  
September 3, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Solano Community College District Governing Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, in the Administration Building, Room 626, Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield, California 94534-3197, by Board President Phil McCaffrey.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the request of Board President McCaffrey, Student Trustee Brannen led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Phil McCaffrey, President  
A. C. "Tony" Ubalde, Jr., Rel.D., Vice President  
James M. Claffey  
Pam Keith  
Stephen Murphy, J.D.  
A. Marie Young  
David R. Brannen, Student Trustee  
Gerald F. Fisher, Secretary

Members Absent:

Denis Honeychurch, J.D.

Others Present:

Ross Beck, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Communications  
Mazie L. Brewington, Vice President, Administrative and Business Services  
Richard Christensen, Ed.D., Director, Human Resources  
Jay Field, Vice President, Technology and Learning Resources  
Robin L. Steinback, Ph.D., Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Lisa J. Waits, Ed.D., Vice President, Student Services  
Judy Spencer, Executive Coordinator, Superintendent/President and Governing Board

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Keith and seconded by Trustee Young for approval of the Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Board President McCaffrey recognized Ms. Diane White, History Instructor, who requested to comment on an incident at the Vacaville Center involving a female student.

Ms. White reported to the Board about an incident that occurred in the morning on Thursday, August 28, at the Vacaville Center, which once again, she said, illustrates the impact of insufficient security on our campuses. Ms. White stated that one of her younger students was followed to campus while in her vehicle by an older male student, who also attends classes at Vacaville, and upon arrival to campus approached her car and began to verbally assault her and pounded on the car window. Needless to say, she was too terrified to get out of her car. She looked around the parking lot and saw no one—and especially no police. She called her mother and her mother told her to call the Vacaville Police, which she did. In short, she was escorted into the building, but was too terrified to go to class, and as a result missed some important instruction. I am very thankful she was not harmed. She stayed until after class to explain to me why she was absent, and while still shaking from the experience, advised she was considering dropping her classes because she was too afraid to go to school. Ms. White stated she convinced her student that she should stay in the class, and offered to help her get caught up on the missed instruction. Ms. White reported that she told her student to begin sitting as close to her as possible in the classroom so that she could make sure everything possible would be done to assure her safety and make her feel like she is not being stalked.

Ms. White commended the staff at the Vacaville Center who were incredibly kind to her student and acted in a very professional manner.

“Our faculty and students deserve better than this,” Ms. White said. She stated further that students should never have their educational experiences interfered with or their safety threatened because the District doesn’t make their safety a high priority. All this would entail, she said, would be to increase entry-level salaries for police officers to attract more qualified people to the institution, and making sure we have in our budgets funds for additional police officers at the Centers. Ms. White concluded that she does not think she should be placed in a position of being a bodyguard for her students.

Board President McCaffrey thanked Ms. White for her comments.

Trustee Keith responded how concerned she is about this situation, affirming that Instructor White should not have to place herself in the position of being a bodyguard.

Superintendent/President Fisher commented that in the business plans for both Centers is the placement of additional police officers. During the past year, significant attempts have been made to fill these positions. There have been retirements, officers who have left the force, with several interviews held, but we haven’t been able to attract the kind of officer that will stay long term. Also, salary rates are not competitive enough to attract experienced individuals. We are also competing with police departments throughout the county. While we have failed to fill the positions, we have not failed to attempt to recruit for these positions.

Trustee Young asked if there is a police officer assigned to the Vacaville Center, and President Fisher responded by stating there are no police officers assigned permanently at either Center.

Trustee Murphy expressed his opinion that there is more involved than just the placement of officers, and that the overall layout and planning of the campuses is a concern. He relayed an experience his wife had at Sacramento City College involving a ten-minute walk to her car where she did not feel safe. The physical layout of our Centers, without proper security, may in itself discourage women students from attending classes, he said.

Instructor White interjected that she appreciated Trustee Murphy's comments, and that physical layout and building locations are important considerations for security, but that it is her understanding that our population to officer ratio is woefully under standard and that this is her real concern. Ms. White stated it is her understanding that we have two officers and should have many more to cover the entire student population. Salaries are not competitive--if we are going to attract officers, we need to be competitive.

Student Trustee Brannen expressed dismay that student government is only hearing about this incident now. The students had no idea this incident took place, which speaks to the climate of miscommunication and lack of communication, which bothers students as a whole. Mr. Brannen suggested in the short term that the District look at contracting with the municipal police departments or perhaps the Sheriff's Department for police services. If our ratios are as low as they appear to be, then the District needs to fix this situation now.

Board President McCaffrey asked Superintendent/President Fisher if it would be possible to get information from the cities of Vacaville and Vallejo to see what it would cost for additional security services. Mr. Fisher reminded Mr. McCaffrey that there are union ramifications involved with this request and we would have to work through this process.

Vice President Ubalde stated he has encouraged officers in the past to apply for our open positions, and again expressed his interest in supporting students, faculty and staff and their safety.

Trustee Young asked where security cameras are located, and President Fisher stated there is a security camera located at the Vallejo Center, one outside the Vacaville Center, and one was located in the interior of the former location of the Bookstore. When the District standard for security cameras is completed, assessments will be made for Building 400 and the Student Union Building, as well as other locations on the main campus.

Trustee Claffey asked what the authorized staffing is for our police department and where we are now. Vice President Brewington responded by stating that the District is authorized to staff eight officers and one Chief of Police; currently we have one Chief, two officers that are full time and two officers that are part time. We have a parking enforcement officer who provides backup in some security areas and two police aides who work with the department. The department is in the process of recruiting additional aides and expects to hire another part-time officer in the next couple of weeks. Trustee Claffey asked Vice President Brewington if the

District is grossly understaffed, and Vice President Brewington responded by stating that we are not at the level of staffing the District desires, and that there are other contributing factors other than salary.

Student Trustee Brannen commented that he is fully cognizant of what is involved in dealing with the labor issues, but that this is an emergency situation that needs to be dealt with now. He said, “This is a do the right thing now,” issue.

Trustee Keith, with noted concern, and with consensus from the Board members, asked Superintendent/President to make this issue a priority and to prepare a comprehensive report that addresses what the authorized police officer staffing levels are, what our current staffing levels are, the ratio of police officers to students, faculty and staff; what immediate options are available to provide security at Vallejo, Vacaville and the Fairfield campuses, especially at night in Vallejo and Vacaville; along with what competitive salary rates are necessary to attract experienced and knowledgeable individuals, and what is planned for the overall layout of the Vacaville Center relative to physical safety, as soon as possible. President Fisher stated this information would be available to the Trustees by the next Board meeting, which is scheduled September 17, 2008.

Board President McCaffrey thanked Ms. White for her comments.

Board President McCaffrey recognized CTA President, Tom Grube, who requested to speak on the current negotiations and mandated cost reimbursements. Before making his comments, he expressed his appreciation to the Board’s attention in addressing safety issues. Mr. Grube made the following comments:

“On another note, it appears that the Governing Board is taking a second look at the outrageous increase in legal fees that occurred in the last five years. I’m sure at some point somebody sang the “Mandated Cost” song telling you that a significant portion of the legal fees will be reimbursed by the state. Look at the budget, your Vice President of Finance does not expect to see any of these mandated costs returned to the College this year.

Though the budget sets aside part of the reserve and attaches an earmark for future debt payments, the money we are expecting back from the state is not showing up as an asset. How sure are we that we are getting these expenses reimbursed? If we are not confident we’re getting reimbursed, maybe we should avoid spending this money. If we are sure the money will be reimbursed, it should show up as an asset on our financial statements.

Perhaps the Zampi Firm can wait for further payments from the District until we get reimbursed from the state for these mandated costs. I’m sure they’ll tell you that they can’t wait because they have employees to pay--and so does the College.

As I’m sure you are all aware, two of the three bargaining units which represent employees of the College have been working without a contract for 14 months. I’ve expressed this frustration to you publicly at Governing Board meetings and also expressed our frustration to many of you privately or in other forums. When we’ve had private conversations, we’ve all been careful to not have conversations that would cross the line into negotiating the contract in our private conversations. Additionally, it is not appropriate for me to bargain the contract with

the Governing Board in public. The unions each have a negotiating team and the District has its Chief Negotiator, and it is their job to negotiate the contract.

The Educational Employment Relations Act requires that the parties negotiate in good faith. One element of good faith negotiating is sending representatives to the table who are truly authorized to actually negotiate. One of the things that has unnecessarily delayed bargaining is that your team reports to us that it must continually come back to you for permission to even discuss exceeding the meager offers it initiates at the table. If your team is not truly authorized to have those discussions with us, then it is the District's legal obligation to send individuals to the table who are authorized to do so.

Tonight, I want to remind you once more, we need to settle last year's contract. Please give your Chief Negotiator the authority and latitude to bargain on your behalf. Progress is slowed when he needs to wait for the next meeting to offer a nickel more than he was directed to offer. Progress is slowed if he needs to call each and every Governing Board member to get unanimous consent on every minute point in a possible tentative agreement. Progress could be slowed when every negotiating session needs to include a lawyer to sit next to Dr. Christensen while he tells us, "The Governing Board has authorized me to offer you..."

Your Chief negotiator should be directed to find a way to reach a reasonable settlement. We are long past the point where we should continue inching slowly toward an agreement. We've been doing that for 14 months.

Don't punish the College's employees if your Budget Director can't produce accurate numbers in a timely manner. Don't punish the College's employees if money was squandered on lawyers, consultants, and backhoes--and now a reasonable salary offer would put the District into the red for a year. You've built the reserve up to more than double the 5% target by keeping our wages among the lowest in the state for years--saving for a rainy day. If the reserve gets a small reduction because of this 'rainy day', in part caused by irresponsible spending, don't punish the College's employees.

Empower and direct your Chief Negotiator to do his job- settle this contract."

Board President McCaffrey thanked Mr. Grube for his comments.

Trustee Claffey asked Instructor Grube about his intent and implication of a statement in an e-mail dated August 27 to him and two other Board members, and stated that he felt it was inflammatory and threatened physical violence by usage of the word bloodbath, especially by a faculty member. Mr. Grube said that he expected a former English teacher to understand the concept of a figure of speech and to be able to see from the content that the message was clearly not a threat of physical violence. Mr. Grube asked Trustee Claffey to read the sentence in context. The sentence in question was identified as follows: "Look at the potential bloodbath that will occur if a VP again wants to try to misuse the Accreditation Report to precondition negotiations." Mr. Grube went on to say that in the context of the entire paragraph, it was used as a figure of speech to describe a situation where some use the Accreditation Report to bash the unions and precondition bargaining, then the unions respond by adding statements to the report that make the Administration look bad, and the end result is an Accreditation Report where we all look bad.

Mr. Grube indicated he apologized to Trustee Claffey in another e-mail, and again publicly in the Board meeting by stating that he would never, has never, threatened physical violence, and

that it has never been his intent. He stated that he hopes Mr. Claffey will accept the explanation and that he doesn't feel physically threatened by the comment.

Board President McCaffrey thanked Mr. Grube for his comments.

6. REPORTS (NO ACTION REQUIRED):

(a) Associated Students of Solano College (ASSC)

ASSC President Lillian Nelson reported that:

--at a productive retreat Saturday, August 30, 2008, the ASSC thoroughly reviewed the Brown Act, Shared Governance, and Parliamentary Procedures to promote effective meeting protocols. Ideas for fall activities were explored.

--Solano Daze is scheduled for the week of September 15-19. ASSC usually holds a bar-be-que during Solano Daze, but may have to postpone it to a later date when the newly renovated ASSC workroom pantry has a refrigerator. Club Promo Day is slated for Wednesday, September 17. Forty club applications have been taken out this semester. With the upcoming November elections, both the Democratic and Republican Clubs are being resurrected.

--the ASSC is supporting voter registration on the campus by helping to man a voter registration table in the cafeteria. ASSC is also exploring the possibility of hosting a voter education forum on the quad featuring student and faculty speakers.

--the ASSC is grateful to the College for being allowed to use the Board Room for its meetings while the students' meeting space is being renovated.

(b) Academic Senate

Academic Senate President Jeff Lamb reported that:

--since the last Board of Trustees Meeting, the Academic Senate has not formally met and much of his time has been spent on issues related to the Accreditation Mid-term Report, the Basic Skills Initiative Committee, Learning Communities, meetings with academic Deans, and the agenda for upcoming Senate meetings.

Accreditation

--the Accreditation Mid-term Report has gone through a second draft process and has been viewed by the Executive Council (E.C.) for comment. The E.C. was charged with correcting the document. Erin Farmer, the current report editor, has mentioned that submissions are still coming in and that there are areas that need more input. In essence, the document is in flux, but is on its way to completion.

Last semester the Senate created an Accreditation Committee. While the charge and composition of the committee has not yet been established, it is clear that the process of producing the

Accreditation Report needs the Senate's attention. President Fisher wisely urged President Kropp and the Senate to pursue a faculty-driven model with at least one faculty member for each Accreditation Standard on this committee. Dean Redfield commented in the recent joint meeting of the Academic Senate and Division Deans that we spend so much time "defending" ourselves that we don't have the chance to sing our own praises. My discussions with State Academic Senate representatives confirm the need for a strong faculty voice in the accreditation process. Accreditation should NOT sneak up on us. We can and should be prepared for the six-year review cycle. As a result of participating in the process of producing the Accreditation Mid-term Report, I am committed to making the production of the next report more effective.

#### Basic Skills Initiative

--in order to familiarize himself more with the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) that he attended its first meeting of the semester. Highlights included: a restructuring of the proposal and approval process for items from each area, a stronger connection between data, proposals and funding, and establishing consistent meeting times. Additionally, the different BSI coordinator terms have expired. These positions will be advertised this semester and filled before the spring semester. Most of the members of this committee attended a BSI conference over the summer and have come back energized for the new year.

#### Learning Communities

--he met with Brad Paschal, the Learning Communities (L.C.) Coordinator, to follow up on a conversation we began during the Flex Cal at the beginning of the semester. Brad and other members of the L.C. group participated in a conference as well this summer and have come back to reinvigorate Learning Communities at Solano College. Part of his plan may include the formation of a Learning Communities Subcommittee of the Academic Senate.

#### Miscellaneous

--he met with the new Dean of Health Occupations, Maire Morinec, and hopes to meet with Dean Bob Johnson from the Career Technical Education and Dean John Urrutia from Business and Computer Science. Dr. Lamb stated his goal is to familiarize himself with the Deans and their divisions and to foster open communication between the Deans and Senate.

Trustee Young asked for clarification of which draft of the Accreditation Report is online. Vice President Steinback responded by indicating the most current draft is #3.

#### (c) Superintendent

Superintendent Gerald F. Fisher reported that:

--with the budget stalemate still in full swing, the Fiscal Services staff is working proactively with the County Office of Education and the Auditor-Controller, participating in a conference call tomorrow discussing TRANS and exploring other available short-term (30-90 days) funding options. We are currently monitoring vendor batches for payment and prioritizing by paying fixed costs such as utilities, small business owners, and new vendors. We fully expect to make payroll at the end of September. We remain hopeful that the budget will be signed shortly and things will be fine. Superintendent/President Fisher provided the Trustees with the state budget update (#15), provided by the Community College League of California.

--he reported a few weeks ago on the *Peruvian Journey* presentation and open house for the renovation of Building 1800A, which is taking place this Saturday, September 6, 2008, between 2:00-5:00 p.m. Please join your colleagues and campus community as they celebrate with photographs and enjoy the newly renovated photography facilities.

--the campus community is invited to a Peace Vigil and Forum to reflect on the tragic death of Fairfield City Councilman Matt Garcia, Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in the Solano Theater, Building 1200. In a show of support for his family, friends, members of the Fairfield City Council and community, who have all been touched by the senseless killing of Councilmember Garcia, Solano College is joining with the Solano County Office of Education, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, and other school districts in Solano County in flying the United States flag at half-staff until sunset on Friday, September 5, 2008.

--Solano College is hosting its annual College and University Day on Thursday, September 11, 2008. The event is free and open to the general public. High school students and parents are invited to come and meet with more than forty (40) representatives of University California (U.C.), California State University (CSU), and private college campuses. Questions about admissions requirements, as well as questions regarding campus life will be answered by the official representatives of their respective four-year institutions. Zafer Sun, Solano's Employment Development Officer and Event Coordinator, has reported, "This is the largest event of its kind in Solano County and a great opportunity for students and parents to get first-hand information from public and private universities about programs, fees, financial aid, scholarships, housing, and more. Participants in the past have found this to be a very informative and helpful event for their success in college." There are two sessions being held for this event. The morning session will run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and an evening session will run from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Both sessions will take place in the new Student Services Building 400.

--the Solano College Theatre and Solano Youth Theatre have been nominated for a total of 88 Arty and Elly awards for the 2007/2008 theatre season, including Best Overall Youth Production for both *High School Musical* and *Guys And Dolls*; Outstanding Comedy for *The Comedy of Errors*; Outstanding Drama for both *Intimate Apparel* and *The Shadow Box*, and Outstanding Musical for both *Smokey Joe's Café* and *A Year With Frog & Toad*. Congratulations were extended to Chris Guptil, Director of Theatre Operations, and his fine staff for these accomplishments.

--he provided the recruitment and selection process information update as of today.

Trustee Young reported that Dr. Karen McCord will be the guest speaker for the Ethnic Studies Program on Thursday, September 4, 2008, beginning at 11:00 a.m., in the Board room, speaking on *Why You Need to Vote*.

- *Bond Update*

Stan Dobbs, Independent Contractor in the Maintenance and Operations Department, reported on the Kitchell CEM Measure G Program as follows:



Web Page

--the Measure G Web site is being completely updated to reflect all of the changes over the past few months. It will be updated every quarter to reflect current and ongoing changes.

Building 1400

--we are now entering into phase II of this project, and the overall building is expected to be completed by the end of December.

Building 1700

--the Building 1700 project is getting near completion. The District can expect to take occupancy at the end or middle of October. Bleachers are in and the flooring is being completed; wall coverings and carpet are being installed. Many of the finishing touches are being worked on. The outside landscaping is looking very nice. Building 1700 B is scheduled for completion in December.

Vacaville Project

--the Vacaville Project is scheduled to kick off in approximately two weeks with the necessary pre-construction meetings, submittals, etc. We met with the city of Vacaville yesterday trying to wrap up a number of outstanding issues, which should take about 4-6 weeks.

Boiler Project

--the second boiler was installed this past week. The project should be completed in approximately one month.

Chiller Project

--the project is still in DSA. The goal is to bid the project in one to two months.

Building 400

--the Building 400 work is underway with a number of repairs, as well as concerns expressed by the faculty and staff.

Vallejo Center

--the weed abatement is coming along well at the Vallejo Center.

Athletic Fields

--the fields are approximately 60% complete. The practice goal posts are going up and the sod installation will follow. Field work continues on all phases of project. Completion is expected in a couple of months.

Solar Project

-we are now examining a solar project and should the project look economically viable, we hope to bring this to the Board at a future meeting.

Other Projects

--in the design/review stage are Buildings 100, 600, 1200, and 1300.

Dr. Ubalde asked for clarification of PCO 86 in construction change order No. 6 for Alten Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$4,900. It was determined that the location of the mirrors in Rooms 1704 and 1705 were not located per the plans. The contractor was directed to remove the existing mirrors and provide new mirrors on the correct wall locations. When the mirrors were pulled from the wall, it was discovered that they were installed with mastic, which damaged the wall finish and caused the mirrors to break. Abatement issues were also discovered at the same time. Negotiations are being held with the architect to determine if we can be given credit for this error and omission.

Trustee Murphy asked how the interactions are going with Roebbelen Contracting. Mr. Dobbs responded by saying currently Roebbelen is not part of the discussion that are centered around Phase 1 that addresses traffic, and Phase 2 that addresses environmental concerns, which are off-site issues. Thus far, Kitchell CEM has found their preliminary interactions with Roebbelen Contracting to be very cooperative.

Board President McCaffrey asked if fire trucks will be able to enter the circular drive. Fire Chief Preciado responded by saying that the Vacaville Fire Department is satisfied with the plans.

Trustee Murphy commented that since the Center is very near a retirement community that access to the Center by busses and van services needs to be part of the overall design.

7. CONSENT AGENDA – ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent/President

- (a) Minutes for the Meeting of August 20, 2008

Human Resources

- (b) Employment 2007-08; Employment – 2008-09

Administrative and Business Services

- (c) Warrant Listings
- (d) Construction Change Order No. 6 Approval for Alten Construction, Inc. – Bid No. 08-003
- (e) Construction Change Order No. 6 Approval for J.W. and Sons, Inc. – Bid No. 08-001
- (f) Construction Change Order No. 1 Approval for Valley Crest Landscape Development, Inc. – Bid No. 08-005

Academic Affairs

- (g) Renewal of Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Grant Agreement with System Office

Moved by Trustee Ubalde and seconded by Trustee Young for approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

9. NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent/President

(a) The K-16 Bridge Program Contract Between Solano Community College District and Lewis Center for Educational Research

Superintendent/President Gerald F. Fisher presented The K-16 Bridge Program contract between Solano Community College District and Lewis Center for Educational Research for a one-time set up fee of \$25,000, to be funded through the Solano Community College Educational Foundation. In addition, the College will pay Lewis Center \$25,000 each year for the term of the agreement. The first year of the contract is funded through categorical funds.

Superintendent/President Fisher reported that the K-12 District Superintendents are meeting September 26, 2008, to develop a memorandum of understanding for implementation of The K-16 Bridge Program in spring 2009.

Moved by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Murphy to approve the K-16 Bridge Program contract between the Solano Community College District and Lewis Center for Educational Research for a one-time set up fee of \$25,000 and \$25,000 each year for the term of the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Ubalde asked what form of evaluation is in place to determine the success of the program. Superintendent/President commented that the numbers have been tracked for quite some time; therefore, we would be looking for those numbers to be increased as a result of this effort. The Bridge Coordinators will be working with our Coordinator at the College with regular updates and meetings scheduled to evaluate how the program is progressing. The goal is to see increases immediately (fall 2009), but in reality, we are looking at two years down the road for significant changes in our enrollments.

Administrative and Business Services

(b) Amendment to Agreement with Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz (KMD) Architecture for the Vacaville Center

Lester Young, Kitchell CEM, presented additional design services with Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz (KMD) Architecture for the Vacaville Center Project. These additional services are owner

and agency requested changes and total \$22,111.65. The project description includes Information Technology design services not previously included in the architect's agreement and additional bidding phase services due to the re-bidding of the project.

Moved by Trustee Murphy and seconded by Trustee Ubalde to approve the amendment to agreement with Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz (KMD) Architecture for the Vacaville Center for additional services totaling \$22,111.65. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 10. INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION REQUIRED

##### (a) Vacaville Center Public Safety Training Facility

Superintendent/President Fisher introduced Fire Chief Brian Preciado from the Vacaville Fire Department, who in turn introduced Frank Drayton, Division Chief; Joel Brick, Division Chief; and Jeff Ringelman, retired Division Chief. At the direction of the Board to open negotiations with the City of Vacaville Fire Department, President Fisher advised he has been meeting with Chief Preciado, Dean Bob Johnson, and Instructor Roy Pike relative to the establishment of a Vacaville Center Public Safety Training Facility.

Superintendent/President Fisher gave an update on discussions with the City of Vacaville Fire Department and our Fire Technology Program Partnership.

In 1974, Solano College's first full-time Fire Science Instructor was hired to coordinate the program. In 1979 the program name was changed from Fire Science to Fire Technology. The aggregate total of Firefighter Academy I graduates grew from 87 in the early 1980's to 2,600 in the summer of 2008. Areas served by the Solano Community College Fire Technology program include: Solano, Napa, Southern Yolo Counties, and the fire entities within these counties.

Other Solano Community College program specific facts include accreditation by the State of California Office of State Fire Marshal. The full-service Fire Technology Program includes: A.S. Degree in Fire technology and Certificates of Achievement in Hazardous Substance and Waste-Handling technician, Fire fighter Skills Certification, Hazmat Worker, Pre-Fire Technician, and Wildland Fire Technology.

Superintendent/President Fisher emphasized the need to establish a permanent home for our Fire Technology Program and identified some of the facilities we have used in the past for hands-on drills, i.e., CMF State Prison Grounds (long-term interagency agreement); Napa State Hospital grounds and classrooms; Cordelia Fire District grounds and auditorium, and Vallejo Fire Department Drill Tower, to name a few. Facilities we currently use include: Dixon Fire Department, Travis AFB Live Fire Boxes, Eucalyptus Grove behind Building 1000 on the Fairfield campus, and vacated buildings on Mare Island for forcible entry and search and rescue. It was noted that students must use their own transportation to and from these facilities.

A desirable objective, which is critical, but not currently available, is one facility on Solano College property, dedicated to Fire Technology and its target incumbent firefighters within Solano Community College's service area.

Superintendent/President Fisher reported that projections are for an estimated 85% or more turnover rate in the next five years with age 50 requirements. CALFIRE has been forced to open up heretofore department only promotions to other fire agencies and are currently concerned that they may not have enough apparatus engineers to operate their fire engines. The USDA Forest is experiencing very similar shortages in trained personnel.

One of the two Forest Service incident commanders of the 30-Mile Fire where four firefighters were killed has been sentenced to six years in prison for criminal negligence, and this first of a kind ruling has caused an immediate resignation and voluntary demotion of many of the Forest Service's initial attack incident commanders and fire crew supervisors. Many openings in these positions has forced the Forest Service to un-staff many of its fire engines due to lack of experienced supervisors. There are many supervisor jobs currently open in the Forest Service.

In November 2006, the city of Vacaville retained the services of Interact Business Group (IBG) to develop a business plan for the Public Safety Training Center (PSTC). Within the business plan, it is recommended that the build out of the PSTC be conducted in three phases: Phase 1 – a multifaceted structure burn building/drill tower; Phase 2 – add an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), and Phase 3 – add the main administration building that will permanently house classrooms, instructor offices, and administrative offices.

The major tasks of the Interact Business Group were to survey potential users of the PSTC and determine the amount of land needed for the facility. IBG identified the Solano Community College site located within Vacaville as a prime location for the PSTC, as the College has a need for such a center for their Firefighter I Academy students.

Superintendent/President Fisher stated that talks began with representatives of the College and the city of Vacaville prior to his arrival to the President's Office. Since that time it has been determined that both parties can greatly benefit and support one another in this venture. The College has identified potential land for the training center on site, and a map of this location was shared with the Trustees. The city of Vacaville will provide the funding for Phase of the PSTC and the College will provide the land valued at or close to the same amount of Phase 1 construction costs. Both parties would like to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize a partnership in the maintenance and operation of the PSTC. This MOU will also identify the process by which potential outside users will train at the PSTC that would be cost neutral. The MOU will clearly define SCC and the city of Vacaville as equal co-owners of the PSTC.

Vice President Ubalde inquired about scheduling and Chief Preciado responded that a program will be identified that will improve access to the Center. Vice President Ubalde also inquired about the opportunity for continuing education for Veterans. Instructor Roy Pike responded by stating that through Distance Education we will be able to increase what we offer now. We also have greater resources to pay for consultants and trainers that can go to the site and train Veterans from Solano County. It has been recognized that it is difficult for firefighters to take formal classes that take them away from their assignments.

Trustee Murphy inquired if there have been discussions held about expanding our Fire Science Program and what concerns there may be from faculty or the community that would affect expansion of the program. Mr. Pike stated with the baby boomer generation, we are looking at mass retirements, and it is recognized that we will need to expand from both the College and the community. This program will help address the turnover rate that is expected in the next five years and keep the department's training constant. Chief Preciado stated that the department needs a pool of resources from the Fire Academy, and the department sees this opportunity as an added resource for future fire fighters.

Board President McCaffrey thanked Superintendent/President Fisher for his comprehensive report, and those who have worked diligently in planning for the facility. There was consensus from the Board for the Superintendent/President to move forward with a memorandum of understanding with the city of Vacaville.

(b) Selection of Community Members for Superintendent/President Search Advisory Committee

Phil McCaffrey, Chair of the Board Presidential Search Subcommittee, requested Board members to recommend names of community members from Trustee Areas 1 & 2 (North County) and Trustee Areas 3 & 4 (South County) for consideration and selection, to be included as participants on the Superintendent/President Search Advisory Committee. Candidates were asked to submit a brief résumé to their respective area Governing Board representative for consideration and recommendation by the Governing Board. President McCaffrey asked that résumés be submitted to Dr. Richard Christensen no later than September 17, 2008, and stated that the Board Presidential Search Subcommittee will meet in the near future in order to make their recommendations to the Board.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board President McCaffrey announced that CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children is presenting an *Evening in Tuscany—A Masked Affair*, Saturday, September 13, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Nut Tree Theme Park, benefiting the children of CASA. The cost for dinner and entertainment is \$75 per person. For tickets or more information, Ann Short may be contacted in the Community Services Office.

Superintendent/President Fisher distributed to the Board Members instructions for accessing the Solano College Intranet via <http://scc-intranet.solano.edu>. Vice President Field commented that either upper case or lower case will allow access to the Web site.

Board President McCaffrey reminded the Trustees to turn in their *How Do We Rate Checklist* to Judy Spencer before the end of the meeting.

Trustee Murphy commented that since December 2006 there have only been two 4-3 votes. In both of those votes, he said, I was on the losing end, but am glad we do not have a fixed Board majority. In each of the 4-3 votes, the majority was different. That is a break from the past, when the Board was often divided along consistent lines. I am proud that this Board has rejected the bifurcation that characterized it in the past. Superintendent/President Fisher has created this

stability within the Board. Trustee Murphy stated how pleased he is that the Board minutes are searchable on the Solano College Web site.

## 12. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Trustee Young reported that she attended the following community events:

### August 2008

**21** – North Vallejo health Collaborative (NVHC) meeting, along with other community partners. The history of NVHC and updates were stated. The Student-Based Health Center, which will be located at the Widenmann Elementary School site in Vallejo, is scheduled to be completed on January 10, 2009. Trustee Young stated she is a member of the NVHC Steering Committee and has volunteered to assist as needed at the site as time permits.

**26** – Trustee Young, along with Trustee Keith, were honored at the American Association of University Women “Benicia-Vallejo Women’s Equality Day” Celebration. They received, along with other elected females in Solano County, from the California State Legislature a Certificate of Recognition, which was signed by Assembly Member Noreen Evans and Senator Pat Wiggins.

### September 2008

**01** – Trustee Young, together with Vice President Ubalde, attended the Napa/Solano Central Labor Council Labor Day Breakfast where recognition was extended to them as SCCD Board Members. The breakfast was held at the Ironworkers Hall in Benicia.

Vice President Ubalde reported that he attended the following community events:

### August 2008

**26** - American Association of University Women “Benicia-Vallejo Women’s Equality Day” Celebration.

**28** – Celebration of Life for “Doc” Hollister at the Vallejo Elks Club. Dr. Ubalde stated he spoke and extended condolences on behalf of the Board.

### September 2008

**01** – Attended the Napa/Solano Central Labor Council Labor Day Breakfast.

**02** – Attended a family memorial service for departed Fairfield City Councilmember Matt Garcia. Reverend Ubalde stated that he offered a brief prayer and extended condolences on behalf of the College family.

Instructor Tom Grube requested an additional moment with the Board relative to the prior discussion of the e-mail referring to the word bloodbath, and stated that this action reminded him that he shouldn’t type in anger and was thankful only three individuals were recipients of the e-mail in question. Mr. Grube thanked the Board for the unorthodox granting of time to once again offer an apology to those concerned.

Board President McCaffrey recessed the regular meeting at 8:41 p.m.

13. CLOSED SESSION

- (a) Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
(Gerald F. Fisher, Superintendent/President)

Board President McCaffrey called the Closed Session to order at 8:55 p.m., and adjourned the Closed Session at 9:25 p.m.

14. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Board President McCaffrey reconvened the regular meeting at 9:26 p.m.

15. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Board President McCaffrey reported that the Board discussed the Public Employee Performance Evaluation for Superintendent/President Gerald F. Fisher and reported, with sadness, that Superintendent/President Fisher resigned his position with a thirty-day notice, effective October 3, 2008.

Moved by Trustee Murphy and seconded by Trustee Claffey to accept Superintendent/President's resignation to retire under Section 7 of his contract. The motion carried unanimously with the roll call vote as follows:

AYES – Trustee Murphy, Vice President Ubalde, Trustee Young, Trustee Claffey, Trustee Keith, and Board President McCaffrey  
NOES – None  
ABSENT – Trustee Honeychurch

Superintendent/President Gerald Fisher announced to the audience that the Board asked him to serve in the capacity as Superintendent/President almost two years ago. He stated that objectives were outlined at that time and good progress has been made over this period of time with lots of changes and challenges along the way. With the establishment of the calendar for the Presidential Search, Mr. Fisher stated it is the desire of his family and himself to move on with their plans for retirement. President Fisher expressed appreciation to the District for the time served.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m., *in memory of Fairfield City Councilmember Matt Garcia.*

GFF:js

BOARD MINUTES.09.03.08.FINAL



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PHIL McCAFFREY, PRESIDENT

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
GERALD F. FISHER, SECRETARY