**BOARD REPORT**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2016**

**Educational Services Center Board Room**

**770 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90017**

**Election of Board Officers**

This was the annual organizational meeting of the 2016-17 academic year and the election of officers was the first item on the agenda. President Svonkin called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm; all Board members were present at roll call except for Trustee Pearlman, who arrived a few minutes later. Svonkin quickly proceeded to nominate Trustee Mike Eng for Board President. Eng thanked Svonkin and respectfully declined, citing his desire to focus on student success. Trustee Sydney Kamlager-Dove then nominated Scott Svonkin for an unprecedented third term as Board President and Svonkin gleefully accepted. Trustee Andra Hoffman was clearly unhappy with Svonkin’s nomination and argued that having the same president for three consecutive years set a bad precedent and did not give other trustees opportunities for leadership experience. She added that others had been interested in running for the position and asked that Svonkin step down. Hoffman argued it was a conflict of interest for Svonkin to try to lead the Board while running for another political office and stated she would vote against him. Visibly upset, Svonkin objected to Hoffman’s comments and repeatedly interrupted her. He replied that running for office would not interfere with his ability to do his job, vowing not to miss any meetings and to stay until the end of his term. There were no other nominations for Board President and Svonkin was elected in a split vote (5 yes, 1 no (Hoffman) and one absent (Pearlman)). Svonkin thanked his fellow trustees for his reelection.

Svonkin then opened nominations for the position of Board Vice President and Eng nominated Trustee Kamlager-Dove. Hoffman expressed her support for the nomination, stating it had been a long time since a woman had been a Board officer. There were no other nominations for the position and Kamlager-Dove was elected unanimously.

Trustees Eng and Kamlager-Dove then presented a motion to create a Second Vice President position for 2016-17. Hoffman questioned why the Board needed this position and argued against it. Legal Counsel Kevin Jetter and Svonkin replied to Hoffman’s comments, citing past precedent and listing several possible roles for a second vice president. The Board approved the creation of a second vice president position in a split decision (5 yes, Hoffman no, Pearlman abstained). Eng then nominated Mike Fong for the position and Pearlman nominated herself. Fong was elected as Second Vice President in another split vote; Pearlman voted for herself, and Hoffman declined to vote for either candidate, given her opposition to the creation of the position itself.

**Public Address**

Mark Toomes, a City College employee, addressed the Board regarding a recommendation for disciplinary action against him (HRD2). James Kidd, from SEIU Local 99 spoke on behalf of Mr. Toomes.

**Svonkin recessed the Board to Closed Session until 6 pm.**

The Board reconvened at 6:26 pm. Svonkin announced that several agenda items had been withdrawn, most notably a resolution to approve a $67 million construction budget for Valley’s College Academic and Cultural Center Project (FPD2), in addition to a couple of personnel actions. The Board then approved the minutes of its June 8 and June 22 meetings.

**Reports from Representatives of Employee Organizations**

Mercy Yanez introduced herself as the new President of the Teamsters Association (former Teamsters President Luis Dorado accepted a Vice President position at Harbor). Incoming ASO President Barbara Lombrano from Pierce stated she looked forward to working with others to rectify problems with food service at the colleges. AFT President Joanne Waddell congratulated the newly elected Board officers.

**Announcements from College Presidents**

* **City:** President Renee Martinez reported that City’s newspaper Collegian won first place for “Best College Newspaper” at the 58th Annual Southern California Journalism competition, besting UCLA and USC. Photographer Gegham Khekoyan also won an award for a photograph commemorating the Armenian Genocide.
* **Harbor:** President Otto Lee announced the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port of Los Angeles and California State University, Dominguez Hills to outline pathways for students to pursue careers at the Port. There will be a signing ceremony for the MOU in early August.
* **Mission:** President Monte Perez invited Board members to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Student Health Center at Mission on July 26th.
* **West:** Sprague reported that on July 9th West held the first big data conference, with over 1200 visitors and companies such as Google and Microsoft, as well as many new employers from the Silicon Beach area.

**Public Agenda Requests**

**David Pennoyer**,President of International Youth Fellowship (IYF), announced their 2016 World Camp would be held in August in Ontario, CA. **Kristi Hong** presented a short video promoting the upcoming IYF World Camp. **Joe Cox**, an Alcohol and Drug Counselor, asked for the investigation of a professor he accused of sexually harassing him and giving him a failing grade. **Lamont Jackson** spoke about the findings of the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) at Southwest, which was placed on warning. He cited Southwest’s lack of shared governance, budget deficit, inadequate library collection, and retaliation against students for speaking out. **Helen Hong**, Executive Director of First Place for Youth, a provider of transitional housing for foster youth, spoke in favor of a Resolution to Develop a Comprehensive Needs Assessment of LACCD Students (BT7). At the conclusion of the public address session, Svonkin asked to adjourn the Board meeting in memory of all recent shooting victims.

**Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

**Facilities Master Planning and Oversight:** Trustee Moreno reported that the FMPOC met on June 22 to discuss a report on the facilities needs overview of the District and the scope of the proposed facilities bond measure. Several construction projects were approved, including the Cesar Chavez Modernization Project at City, Culinary Arts Building at Trade, Technology Learning Center at West, and Central Energy Plant at Mission. The Valley Academic and Cultural Center was also approved in a 2 to 1 vote. Svonkin, as sole dissenter, stated that he did not like the price of the final proposal. The Committee also discussed the Disaster Preparedness Program for the aftermath of an earthquake. The Committee will meet again to make a recommendation on the amount of the facilities bond. Moreno stressed the need to consider the burden on taxpayers, spend the money wisely, and afford the operation of additional buildings. Svonkin thanked Moreno for his service to determine the needs of the colleges based on their facilities and educational plans.

**Budget and Finance**: Trustee Kamlager-Dove reported that the committee met on June 22. They discussed reports on the 2015-16 projected ending balances, summer 2016 enrollment, procurement audits, and the Student Information System (SIS) modernization project.

**Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success:** Trustee Fong reported the Committee met on June 22. They heard a presentation on the LACCD’s Year 2 goals, previewed the 2016 Student Success Scorecard, and received updates on accreditation and the WorkSource Center colocation.

**Legislative and Public Affairs:** Trustee Hoffman reported that the Committee met on June 22 and received updates on the state budget and legislation by Dale Shimaski and Mark MacDonald. They also heard a presentation by AFT President Wadell and Armida Ornelas in support of AB2155, designed to incentivize full time faculty to participate in the Adult Education Program and provide STRS service credit for faculty that teach noncredit courses.

**Student Affairs Committee:** Student Trustee Alexa Victoriano reported they are working on projects to increase student voter engagement. They discussed student trustee election reform and the lack of adequate food services at several of the colleges. They are working on a food services resolution and would like to know the results of the recent food services survey. At the next meeting on August 5th, Chancellor Rodriguez will report on the process to seek out food service providers.

Deputy Chancellor Barrera reported the District was in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for food service vendors. Pearlman stated the Board had not approved a districtwide RFP, adding that individual colleges should be able to choose. Moreno agreed with Pearlman, adding that the facilities were different and the Board had not vetted this. Svonkin tried to stop the discussion, stating it was not legal to discuss an item that had not been agendized. Trustee Moreno asked to add the item to the agenda, Svonkin refused stating there had to be a report in order to do so. This in turn led Pearlman to ask for clarification on the process to agendize an item.

**Board Recommendations**

The Board then proceeded to approve several of its recommendations including one to honor retiring employees (BT1), authorize conference attendance for Board members (BT2), select Trustee Eng to represent the District on two L.A. County committees (BT4), support Proposition 55, the “Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016, support Assembly Bill 2155 (BT5), Service Credit for Noncredit Career Development College Preparation (BT6), and develop a comprehensive needs assessment of LACCD students (BT7). A resolution to recognize Scott Svonkin for his two terms as Board President (BT8) was approved in a split vote after pointed comments by Trustee Pearlman. Pearlman stated it was unacceptable and inappropriate that Svonkin would not step down as Board President and that the opportunity to lead the Board should rotate. She added that Svonkin’s rudeness and disrespect were unacceptable and she could not commend someone who did not engage all the trustees.

**Committee of the Whole: Addressing Academic and Facilities Needs at LACCD**

Committee Chair Eng recalled that L.A. County voters passed three general obligation bonds that infused $5.7 Billion into improving the LACCD’s facilities. The current program is over 80% complete; once finished, 300 buildings will have been built or improved. Jim O’Reilly LACCD’s Chief Facilities Executive gave a presentation titled “Facilities Needs Overview.” He discussed the needs of the nine different colleges and options for bond measures totaling $5.5 $4.0, and $2.5 Billion. John Fairbank, who shared the results of a survey on voter reaction to assess whether the bond measure was viable, followed him. His firm interviewed 500 randomly selected voters via telephone in July and polled proposals for $4, $3.3 and $2.5 Billion bond measures. All bond proposals were supported by over 70% of the respondents. In the District voting area 55% of voters are renters, while 45% are homeowners. There was a discussion about possible voter fatigue and the impact of the large number of measures on the November 2016 ballot. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session. Eng announced the Board would hold a special meeting on July 20 to vote on the bond measure. Svonkin added the measure would require five affirmative votes in order to be approved.

**Update on 2016 Accreditation**

Vice Chancellor Ryan Cornner summarized the results of the March 2016 accreditation visits, which were recently made public. The colleges worked on their reports for two years and over 100 colleagues served on visiting teams. Eight of the nine colleges had their accreditation reaffirmed, which is a great outcome (eight colleges had received sanctions since 2009). Harbor, Valley and West received no recommendations to meet the accreditation standards. East, Mission, Pierce and Trade received 2-4 recommendations to meet the standards. City received two recommendations to meet the standards and will have a follow-up visit. Southwest received several recommendations to meet the standards and was placed on warning; they will have a follow-up visit in 18 months. The District also had several recommendations to meet the standards and will have a follow-up report and visit. Recommendations to meet standards must be addressed in 18 months; recommendations for improvement can be addressed in the midterm reports.

Cornner also summarized the many commendations received by the colleges (e.g.: City’s Collegian newspaper, East’s role as the social, cultural center of the community, Harbor’s CHAMPS program, Mission’s commitment to student success, Pierce’s innovation and commitment to student success, as well as resource planning, Southwest’s student leaders, Trade’s PACTS pathways, Valley’s programmatic inclusion and empowerment, and West’s use of technology). Most colleges were also commended for their facilities. Trustee Moreno expressed concern over the 18-month follow-up reports, which were not common before. Cornner replied that the new process appears that to be that any recommendation to meet standards automatically requires a follow-up report in 18 months. Due to the District’s recommendations, all nine colleges will have to submit an 18-month follow up report. Additionally Southwest, City, and the District Office will have follow-up visits. All colleges will have to submit midterm reports. The next comprehensive ACCJC evaluations and visits will take place in seven years (2023).

**Consent Calendar**

The trustees then proceeded to discuss the consent calendar. Svonkin noted once again that the resolution for Valley’s Academic and Cultural Center (FPD2) and two personnel actions had been withdrawn. Moreno and Pearlman questioned various expenditures for consultants, facilitators, advertising, and guest speakers. Pearlman stated she would like to see a policy change on paying for keynote commencement speakers because there were many accomplished people in Southern California who would be honored to speak for free at graduation. She also argued against segregated commencement ceremonies, arguing they should be all inclusive. Moreno asked to vote separately on a service agreement totaling $50,000 for a consultant to support the LACCD in the implementation of the L.A. College Promise (BSD1, item L). Moreno also questioned why Pinner Construction Company was getting so many contracts (FPD1, item IX). Svonkin objected to several expenditures to hold events at hotels, stating they could have been held at the colleges. He recommended the Board leadership work with Chancellor Rodriguez to develop guidelines for holding events at outside facilities. After the discussion, all consent calendar items were approved.

**Recommendations for the Chancellor**

The Board approved several recommendations from Chancellor Rodriguez including the appointment of student Bryant Woodert to the District’s Citizen Oversight Committee (CH1), adoption of the 2015-16 spending plan of the Education Protection Act (Proposition 30), and 2015-16 budget adjustments and use of contingency reserve (BF3). LACCD Comptroller Gordon addressed questions on the use of contingency reserve funds to cover City’s revenue reduction and enrollment declines. Svonkin objected to taking money from other colleges to pay for City’s deficit. The Chief Financial Officer attempted to explain that this money would come from the contingency reserve, as was the District policy. Chancellor Rodriguez noticed the 2016-17 Board meeting locations. Svonkin announced that the next Board meeting would be held on July 20. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm in memory of all recent shooting victims.

***Report submitted by DAS 1st Vice President Angela Echeverri***