APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD RETREAT

Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Board Retreat
9:00 a.m.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:
Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Mark Farr
Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. Steve Leeder
Ms. Stephanie Money

Dr. Perey began the meeting, noting that no action would be taken during the retreat, and reviewed the Guiding Statements:

- Mission – "Cochise College provides inclusive and accessible educational opportunities that support social responsibility, community engagement, meaningful careers, and lifelong learning."
- Vision – "Cochise College is a leading and responsive college which transforms and empowers our community by fostering collaborative relationships and providing innovative educational pathways."

1.2 Introduction

1.02.1 – Activity: Shaping a Shared Future Through Stewardship
The Governing Board members were given two questions to consider and provide responses to, reflecting on their aspirations for the College and what they believe will matter most in the years ahead.

Themes Identified:

- Workforce development and economic impact.
- Expansion of agricultural and animal science programs.
- Strengthening partnerships with Fort Huachuca and local industries.
- Flexibility and responsiveness to changing educational and political landscapes.
- Growth in law enforcement and border-related programs.
- Emphasis on soft skills and critical thinking in the curriculum.

A discussion was led based on the themes identified in the activity. Highlights include:

- Fort Huachuca Partnerships: Opportunities for training and employment alignment.
- Apprenticeships & Internships: Interest in integrating paid internships and apprenticeships into the curriculum.
- Marketing & Accessibility: Need for clearer program marketing and easier enrollment pathways.

- Technology & Trades: Balancing traditional trades with emerging technologies.
- Online vs. In-Person Learning: Recognition of the value of hands-on learning, especially in trades.
- Soft Skills & Critical Thinking: Importance of embedding these into all programs.

1.3 Board Stewardship

1.3.1 Self-assessment Form Review

Dr. Perey read through the assessment form and confirmed understanding of the process. There were no requests to edit the form. In January 2026, the self-assessment will be sent and collected by the board chair.

1.3.2 Code of Conduct Policy Review

Dr. Perey read Board Policy 204 – Board Code of Conduct for confirmation of understanding; no requests to change the policy were received.

1.4 Board and President Strategic Alignment

1.4.1 Mid-year Check with the President

Dr. Perey requested a candid conversation about what is working well and what needs to be addressed regarding the role of the president in supporting the board.

- Board expressed satisfaction with the President's leadership and alignment with college goals.
- Communication from the President and team was deemed timely and informative.
- Continued focus requested on:
  - Workforce development
  - Community engagement
  - Financial stewardship
  - Security and facilities planning

1.4.2 President's Evaluation Process Overview

Dr. Perey reviewed the presidential evaluation process. The form will be sent to the board in January in preparation for the February president's evaluation during an executive session.

Recess: at 10:09 A.M. reconvened at 10:16 A.M.

1.5 Budget Development Process and Overview

Dr. Davis noted that Anthology is in the process of filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy; not sure what that means to Cochise College; Ellucian has made a bid to purchase Anthology.

Dr. Davis presented the FY27 Budget Development Schedule (Major Dates)

- September 1- State Aid Request submitted to Governor's Office
- November 18 – FY27 Course Fees to Governing Board
- December-February – Budget Managers reviewing needs and submitting requests
- January-February – Governing Board Budget Retreat (date TBD)
- February 10 – EVPA receives Preliminary Property Tax report
- March 4 – Leadership Budget Retreat
- March 10 – FY27 Tuition and Miscellaneous Fees to Governing Board
- April 14 – Preliminary Budget presented to Governing Board

- May 12 – TNT Hearing (if needed) can go up to 6%
- June 9 – FY27 Budget Hearing and Approval

A brief discussion was held between board members and administration, outlining the internal budget process. This process begins with a base forward budget formula, followed by departmental and budget managers reviewing and submitting requests that align with the college's mission and strategic priorities. Dr. Perey noted that the main focus for this budget season will be maintaining current funding, with an emphasis on workforce development, dual enrollment, and continued nursing expansion.

1.6 Logistics for Board Meetings

1.6.1 Changing some second Tuesday meetings to adjust to spring break and other major conferences
Following a brief discussion and with no concerns raised, the draft 2026 Governing Board meeting schedule will reflect two months when meetings will not be held on the second Tuesday of the month. The proposed schedule will be presented to the board for action at the October 14, 2025, meeting.

1.6.2 Meeting Start Time
Dr. Perey led a brief discussion regarding the start time of board meetings. With no issues expressed, the proposed schedule, noting the meeting start time of 4:00 p.m., will be brought before the board for action during the October 14, 2025, meeting.

1.6.3 The 2026 Draft Governing Board meeting dates and location schedule will be presented for review and approval during the October 14, 2025, Board meeting.

1.7 Future Board Development

Dr. Perey led a discussion regarding possible board development opportunities and meeting topics:

Suggestions included:

- Security updates and training
- Attendance at college sports events for engagement
- New trustee training opportunities
- Continued professional development through ACCT and other organizations

2. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

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Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board