

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Sierra Vista Campus
Governing Board Room – 301
4:00 p.m.**

Members of the public who wished to attend the meeting via video conference joined at <https://cochise.zoom.us/j/94614577877>.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. Steve Leeder
Ms. Stephanie Money

Board Members Absent:

Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Mark Farr

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Hudgins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The administration requested that the agenda be approved, replacing agenda item 2.02 – Placeholder – Graduation Technician. The administration is requesting the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the hiring of Ms. Vivian Lambert-Knight. With no further modifications, the agenda was approved.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to approve the Agenda, replacing agenda item 2.02 – Placeholder – Graduation Technician, approving the hiring of Ms. Vivian Lambert-Knight. With no further discussion. The Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1.04 Citizen's In-Person Interim

There were no requests to address the board.

1.05 Standing Reports

1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees

No AACCT Report was provided; there were no new updates since the last meeting.

1.05.2 Senate

No Senate report was provided as there was no May meeting.

1.05.3 Student Government Association

No Student Government Association Report was provided as students are on summer leave.

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey presented the President's Report and reported that, as the College begins the summer session, Cochise College remains actively engaged in serving students through summer coursework, workforce training, clinical experiences, and community partnerships across the district.

Arizona Legislative Update:

- Reported that the Arizona Legislature has returned to session and continues budget negotiations.
- Advised that a final budget agreement is anticipated in the near future.
- Noted that remaining negotiations are focused on education funding and policy issues, including matters related to data centers.
- Stated that the College will continue monitoring legislative developments.

Federal Legislative Update:

- Reported that the House Appropriations Committee has released its FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.
 - Highlighted proposed funding increases for:
 - Pell Grants
 - Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (SCCTG)
 - Registered Apprenticeship programs
 - Perkins Career and Technical Education programs
 - TRIO programs
 - GEAR UP programs
- Identified areas of concern for community colleges, including:
 - Proposed elimination of Adult Basic Education funding
 - Approximately 26% reduction in Federal Work-Study funding
 - Proposed reduction of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Noted that it is Important to understand that the bill must advance through the full house appropriations process before it is considered by the House as a whole.
- Noted that the U.S. Senate is has not started develop its own bills and that the Senate tends to be more bipartisan.
- Dr. Perey stated that the college will continue to advocate.

- Noted that the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) will also continue to advocate.

Facilities Update:

Dr. Perey provided updates on major facilities projects across the district.

Douglas Campus:

City of Douglas Well Project:

- The City of Douglas well project has reached a significant milestone with the installation of the surface casing. Drilling equipment and materials have been staged, and drilling operations are expected to begin this week. This project remains an important component of the College's long-term infrastructure strategy, with water service to the campus anticipated in Spring 2028.

Building 400 Renovation:

- Renovation of Building 400 continues to progress. Roofing work was delayed a bit but should be done end of June. Interior construction is scheduled to begin in early July. Project completion remains on track for late July.

Building 900 Roof Replacement:

- Preparations for the Building 900 roof replacement have been completed, with materials and equipment now onsite. Installation of the upper roof is happening now, with project completion anticipated by the end of September.

Huachuca Hall Apartment Renovation:

- Renovation of Huachuca Hall apartments continues with demolition and abatement activities now complete. Infrastructure improvements, including replacement of under-slab sanitary lines, are underway. Reconstruction is expected to begin in mid-June, with project completion anticipated during the fall semester.

Sierra Vista Campus:

Campus Services Building (Building 2600):

- Remodeling of office and conference room spaces within the Campus Services Building continues and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Initiatives:

Higher Learning Commission Reaffirmation:

- On May 15, Cochise College received official reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. Dr. Perey thank Dr. Brown and all those involved across the institution who contributed to this successful outcome.

Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPCO) Partnership:

- Cochise College has entered into two proposed partnership agreements with Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPCO) to support workforce development initiatives in the regional energy sector.

- Energy Industry Scholarship Program: AEPCO has committed to providing \$100,000 annually for 10 years (totaling \$1 million) to support scholarships for students pursuing trade-related coursework and certifications aligned with careers in the energy industry and skilled trades. The program will include collaboration with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).
- Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship Program: AEPCO has also committed to supporting the development of an IBEW-affiliated pre-apprenticeship program at Cochise College. The agreement provides an initial \$50,000 startup investment followed by \$20,000 annually for five years, representing a total investment of \$150,000.

Building Naming:

- On June 16, 9:00 am Cochise College will formally recognize the extraordinary generosity and lasting impact of Anne Marie Stephens by naming the Science Building on the Douglas Campus in her honor.

Strategic Planning:

- The College is beginning preparations for its next strategic planning cycle.

Workforce Development Update:

- Cochise College will host the Western States Sheriffs' Association Leadership Academy June 22–26, 2026, on the Sierra Vista Campus. This executive-level leadership program will bring together 20 law enforcement leaders representing nine western states. This will prepare the next generation of sheriffs and came about through the strong support of Sheriff Dannel's.
- On June 1, Cochise College launched its annual Summer Camp Program. This year's offering includes 15 camps serving 254 students across a variety of academic, technical, and enrichment areas. In addition, the College partnered with the Arizona Cyber Initiative to host a Cyber Bootcamp for 20 students. These programs support our mission and help to create a pipeline to the college.
- Cochise college is holding a nursing/allied health career camp along with fire science in Douglas this week at the Douglas Fire Station and the week of June 15th at the Downtown Center.
- Anticipate having 14 paramedics graduate on July 23rd, this is the largest graduating cohort in at least eight years.

Commencement 2026:

- On May 15, Cochise College celebrated another successful commencement season awarding 1,191 associate degrees, 25 bachelor's degrees, and more than 800 certificates.

Community Engagements:

- May 13 & 14 – Provost Candidate interviews
- May 13 – Adult Education Recognition @ 7 PM
- May 14 – Nurses Pinning @ 7 PM
- May 15 – President's Reception & Commencement
- May 20 & 21 – AC4 Meeting
- May 25 – Memorial Day – College Closed
- May 28 – Police Academy Graduation @ 2 pm
- May 28 – Annual Leave (Dr. Davis - Covering)
- June 3 – Foundation Meeting

- June 4 – Met with Margaret Hepburn – Legacy Foundation re: Parking for their new event center – overflow parking
- June 9 – Meeting with Greg Volker (City of Benson) – area to build new fire station and inquiring about area near Benson center

Upcoming Events

- June 11 – ACCLA Graduation in Phx. (Quint and Cara), AC4 and aspen group
- June 16 – Ribbon Cutting – Douglas Campus Science Building Renaming – Ann Stephen (Viticulture Program) @ 9AM
- June 15-20 – College National Rodeo Finals (Dr. Davis attending)
- June 17 – 22 – Annual Leave
- June 18 – College Closed – Observance of Juneteenth
- June 24 – July 6 – Annual Leave
- July 8 – Sheriff's Assist Team Awards Luncheon @ 11AM
- July 14 – Board Meeting (Zoom ONLY via Consent Agenda Items)
- July 17 – July 21 – Mountain States Annual Conference
- Aug 10 – Convocation – Douglas Campus all day
- Aug 11 – Next Regular Board Meeting at the Benson Center

Questions/Comments

1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – May 2026

The Financial Report for May 2026 was presented and accepted as submitted.

1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report

The Governing Board reviewed the June Academic Progress Report regarding Student Success.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Anne Bennett, Office Assistant, Willcox Center*)
- 2.01.2 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Madeleine Ostin, Administration Building Assistant, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.3 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Aztlin Vertrees, Small Business Advisor, SBDC, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.4 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Alesha Mart, Student Pathways System Manager, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.5 * Exempt Staff; Promotion (*Harim Manzanares is being promoted from Senior Accounts Receivable Technician to Assistant Bursar, districtwide, based on the Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.6 * Executive Staff; Appointment (*Dr. Sheena Brown, Provost, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.7 * Faculty; Appointment (*Lauren Pierce, Instructor of Biology, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.8 * Faculty; Appointment (*Jamie Williams, Instructor of Welding Technology, Sierra Vista Campus*)

- 2.01.9 * Exempt Staff; Resignation (*Jennifer Angell, Technology Project Manager, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.10 * Exempt Staff; Resignation (*Ana Arredondo, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.11 * Non-Exempt Staff; Separation (*Armond Walker, Facility Services Technician, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.12 * Exempt Staff; Retirement (*Denise Hoyos, Executive Director of the Foundation, Douglas Campus*)
- 2.01.13 * Change October 2026 Board Meeting Date
- 2.01.14 * IGA Renewal – Cochise Technology District Concurrent credit classes
- 2.01.15 * IGA Renewal – Concurrent Enrollment - School District
- 2.01.16 * IGA Renewal – School Districts for dual enrollment courses
- 2.01.17 * Acceptance of Minutes for May 12, 2026 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Leeder moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with no further discussion. The Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder, all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

***Introductions of new employees ***

Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, introduced Kia Mullins, Executive Assistant to the President and Governing Board; Madeleine Ostin, Administration Building Assistant; and Mike Gaspar, Assistant Dean of Business, Career, and Technical Education.

2.02 Placeholder – Graduation Technician

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the hiring of Ms. Vivian Lambert-Knight Graduation Technician, Sierra Vista Campus.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving the hiring of Ms. Vivian Lambert-Knight as a Graduation Technician. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.03 Sierra Vista Campus Student Union Roof Restoration Project

The administration requested that the Governing Board approve a proposal from Garland/DBS, Inc. to restore the Sierra Vista Campus Student Union roofs. Administration reported that the existing TPO roofing system, installed in 2009, has deteriorated due to heat and UV exposure. Based on an infrared moisture survey, restoration using a silicone coating system was determined to be the most cost-effective option while the roof remains structurally sound.

The proposal, provided through the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (MICPA), totals \$371,148 and includes applicable warranties. The project is anticipated to begin if approved on June 16, 2026, with an estimated duration of two weeks. Funding will be provided through deferred maintenance and fund balance.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion approving the proposal from Garland/DBS, Inc. to restore the Sierra Vista Campus Student Union Roof at a price of \$380,097. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.04 Appointment of Chief Fiscal Officer

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to designate Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, as the Cochise County Community College District's chief fiscal officer.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving the request to designate Dr. Wendy Davis, Executive Vice President for Administration, as the Cochise County Community College District's chief fiscal officer. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.05 Governing Board Policy 213 – Conflict of Interest Second Read

Governing Board Policy 213 – Conflict of Interest was presented during the May 12, 2026, board meeting as a first read, and with no changes requested, the policy is now brought forward for a second read and approval.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving the revised Governing Board Policy 213 – Conflict of Interest. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with members Don Hudgins, Stephanie Money, and Steve Leeder, all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

3.01 Communications

Dean Cullen Scarborough received an email from the Governor's Workforce Arizona Council recognizing the Cochise College LPN to Professional Nurse-AAS, Nursing-AAS, Practical Nursing-certification, and nursing assistant (CNA)-certificate programs as a 2026 Arizona High-Impact Training (HIT) program. This designation recognizes the college's program for achieving outcomes that exceed expectations for WIOA Title I-B Adult participant success and career placement, as measured by the 2025 evaluation conducted by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

3.02 Strategic Wellness Initiative Report

Loren Gladwill, Director of Student Success/TIX Coordinator, provided a presentation on the Cochise College Strategic Wellness Initiative; highlights include:

Access to Wellness and Mental Health Services

- Mental Health Support
 - Expanded counseling services to both Douglas and Sierra Vista campuses
 - 838+ Counseling appointments between Fall 2022 and Spring 2026
 - Mental Health Apps (META then BetterMynd) to support virtual access-
accessibility
 - Weekly Wellness Wednesdays with Chiricahua Community Health
 - Free wellness Screenings, vaccinations, and benefit enrollment assistance – Currently paused due to staffing issues with Chiricahua
- Behavioral Intervention and Student Support
 - Creation of C.A.R.E.S. (Behavioral Intervention Team)
 - Supported over 1000 students between Fall 2022 and Spring 2026

- Implemented suicide prevention, threat assessment, and de-escalation training
- Expanded trauma-informed student support practices
- Impact
 - Increased access to mental health resources
 - Faster intervention for students in crisis
 - Stronger support network for student persistence and success

Meeting Basic Needs and Removing Barrier

- Food Security
 - Over 78,000 food items distributed between Fall 2022 and Spring 2026
 - Secured grants totaling over \$47,000
 - Serves approx. 150-200 individuals/month
- Basic Needs Support
 - Free feminine hygiene products across the entire district
 - SNAP and AHCCCS enrollment assistance
 - Safety and wellness resources are readily available to students
- Community Partnerships
 - Chiricahua Community Health
 - Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona
 - Pio Decimo Center
 - Walmart of Douglas
 - Cruz Farms
- Impact
 - Reduced barriers to student success
 - Increased resource accessibility
 - Strengthened community support network

Building a Culture of Wellness

- Campus Engagement
 - Wellness Fairs each spring since 2023, 4 total
 - Wellness awareness campaigns on both campuses
 - Alcohol and drug awareness education through Vector Solutions
- Institutional Growth
 - Established Director of Student Success position
 - Increased cross-departmental collaboration
 - Expanded wellness programming to both students and employees
- Key Lessons Learned
 - Students engage when outreach is proactive
 - Community partnerships are essential
 - Student feedback is overwhelmingly positive and helpful
 - Centralized leadership improves coordination and outcomes
- Looking Ahead

- Grow Wellness Week Programming
- Expand Sierra Vista pantry operations
- Ensure continued mental health access
- Working with Institutional Research to develop an assessment tool
- Summer program to analyze student persistence and retention rates

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Leeder inquired to about the size and structure of the Behavioral Intervention Team:

- The team is structured in alignment with the NABITA (National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment) model, which recommends a team size of no more than 10 members
- Currently, the team consists of 9 members, though membership may vary throughout the semester.
- The team is composed of director-level staff or below to allow for appropriate escalation when needed and to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Mr. Leeder inquired whether the college collaborates with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

- Collaboration has been limited, there have been past efforts, particularly in 2022 and 2023 when NAMI was more active.
- Recently, outreach to NAMI has resumed due to a new on-campus representative. There is interest in expanding collaboration as availability allows.

3.03 Strategic Plan Roadmap

Janelle Simpson, Acting Dean of Academic Affairs, provided a presentation on the 2027-2030 Cochise College Strategic Plan Roadmap; highlights include:

Planning Framework:

- The 2027-2030 strategic plan will serve as a living, focused plan designed to guide instructional priorities while adapting to changing student, community, and workforce needs.
- The Educational Master Plan (EMP) and Facilities Master Plan (FMP) will be developed in alignment with those priorities.

The Planning Journey:

The planning process has 8 phases:

- Phase 1: Framing and Preparing/ June – August 2026
 - Focuses on preparing the institution for the planning process
 - Launch Campus Kickoff at Convocation
 - Identify Strategic Think Tank Team: Establish a cross-functional Strategic Think Tank Team to help guide the process and support engagement across the institution.
 - Establish the planning structures for the EMP and FMP so that alignment can begin early in the process.
 - The primary outcomes of this phase are a clear planning charge and a shared understanding of the process and expectations.
- Phase 2: Environmental Scan & Engagement/ September – October 2026
 - Centers on institutional analysis and stakeholder engagement.

- Validate enrollment, completion, budget, and workforce data while also reviewing HLC findings and other institutional performance indicators.
 - Conduct engagement activities with students, faculty, staff, industry partners, and community stakeholders to better understand institutional strengths, challenges, and future opportunities.
 - Collect baseline information for the EMP/FMP, including space utilization, program demand, and facilities condition data.
 - The outcomes of this phase will include an Environmental Scan Summary and identification of key themes, strategic tensions, and institutional challenges.
- Phase 3: Strategic Areas & Initiatives/ November 2026 - January 2027
 - The college will begin defining the core priorities that will shape the Strategic Plan.
 - The intent is to identify three to four focused strategic areas or initiatives that will guide institutional efforts over the next three years.
 - Develop measurable goals and success indicators to support accountability and progress tracking.
 - Conduct alignment discussions to ensure the proposed priorities fit institutional capacity, mission, and future direction.
 - By the end of this phase, we expect to have finalized the major strategic areas along with draft goals and outcome measures.
- Phase 4: Strategy Development and EMP/FMP Launch/ February-March 2027
 - Attention shifts from identifying priorities to developing implementation strategies.
 - For each strategic area, we will identify several actionable strategies and assign executive ownership to support accountability and long-term follow-through.
 - This phase also marks the formal launch of development work for the EMP and FMP.
 - The EMP will focus on academic programming, delivery models, and student pathways, while the FMP will focus on aligning physical space and future capital priorities with institutional needs.
- Phase 5: Drafting and Integrated Review/ April – May 2027
 - Focuses on drafting and reviewing the Strategic Plan.
 - At this stage, the plan will be compiled into a near-final document and shared for campus and community review.
 - The purpose of this review process is to ensure the plan is clear, aligned, realistic, and reflective of institutional input gathered throughout the process.
 - Work on the EMP/FMP will also continue during this period to maintain alignment across all planning efforts.
 - By the end of this phase, we anticipate having a near-final Strategic Plan and a concise executive summary prepared for broader communication.
- Phase 6 & 7: Finalization & Launch/ May-August 2027
 - The final development stages focus on refinement, approval, and implementation preparation.

- Phase 6, feedback will be incorporated, planning documents will be finalized, and funds will be allocated to strategic areas within the 27-28 budget.
- The Strategic Plan will be presented to the Governing Board for formal approval.
- Phase 7 focuses on implementation and public launch. The plan will officially launch on July 1, aligning with the start of the fiscal year, followed by broader communication during Convocation and other college events.
- Phase 8: Continuous Review & Renewal/ 2027-2030
 - The final phase reflects the college's commitment to continuous improvement and ongoing assessment.
 - Annual progress reviews will be conducted in coordination with budget development and institutional planning cycles.
 - Dashboards and scorecards will be used to monitor progress and measure outcomes tied to strategic goals.
 - A midpoint review during the second year will allow the institution to make adjustments if priorities or external conditions change.
 - At the conclusion of the three-year cycle, the college will complete a full evaluation and begin preparation for the next planning cycle.
 - The overall outcome is intended to be a focused, adaptable strategic plan that remains aligned with academic priorities, facilities planning, and institutional resources.
- The Planning Journey:
 - This roadmap outlines a collaborative and structured process for development of the college's next Strategic Plan.
 - The approach emphasizes focused priorities, measurable outcomes, broad engagement, and alignment across strategic, academic, facilities, and budget planning.
 - The goal is to create a practical and actionable framework that supports institutional decision-making and long-term sustainability.
 - We will continue to provide updates as the planning process moves forward.

Questions/Comments

Dr. Perey reported that during the current strategic planning cycle, the College will not revise its mission, vision, or values, as they remain focused, viable, and aligned with institutional priorities, with reconsideration anticipated in the next strategic cycle around 2030. He further discussed the FMP, noting that the timelines presented reflect current expectations but may be adjusted as needed to remain responsive to evolving information and institutional needs. Dr. Perey stated that the College plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to engage a firm to assist with data collection and planning efforts, which may influence the overall timeline. He emphasized the importance of alignment across institutional planning processes to support budgeting decisions and ensure long-term institutional sustainability. He expressed appreciation to Janelle Simpson and her team for their work in developing the framework, noting that updates will continue to be provided to the Governing Board and opportunities for Board engagement will be incorporated throughout the process.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Hudgins turned the time over to Governing Board members to provide comments/share information.

Mr. Leeder commended the continued excellence demonstrated across the College, noting consistent high performance month after month, and highlighted the success of the three recent commencement ceremonies, describing them as outstanding and well-executed, while expressing appreciation to Dr. Wantz and the Commencement Committee for their exceptional work; he also expressed strong approval of the College's budget development, recognizing the efforts of Dr. Davis and the team, and noted that the College was able to maintain a balanced budget, avoid increasing general tuition, provide employee pay increases, absorb anticipated reductions in state funding, and refrain from raising the tax levy, characterizing these accomplishments as remarkable and encouraging the Cochise College team to continue their efforts.

Mr. Hudgins thanked retiring Crystal Wheeler for her service to the College and welcomed Kia Mullins to Cochise College.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kia Mullins, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Ms. Stephanie Money, Secretary of the Governing Board