



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Emily Kinner • Stephanie McGee

### Board meetings of Feb. 6 and Feb. 8, 2012

#### SOME HEADLINES

##### Trustees approved or reviewed:

- A contract extension for the chancellor
- A key step in acquiring land for the education center
- An annual progress report on the Measure C bond program
- A new policy on international travel
- New hires and professional development leaves
- A contract for De Anza stadium and track improvements

#### REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Board President **Joan Barram** reported that the board met in closed session after its study session on January 23 to evaluate the performance of Chancellor **Linda Thor**. She noted that all five trustees unanimously expressed support for the chancellor and concluded she is doing an excellent job. The board discussed increasing Chancellor Thor's salary in recognition of her excellent performance and the fact that the chancellor's position does not have a salary schedule that includes step increases, as do all other employee groups. At the chancellor's request, the board did not increase her salary or benefits, but "unanimously and enthusiastically" extended her contract for one year, to June 30, 2014. Trustee **Pearl Cheng** commented that trustees had conducted a comprehensive review of the chancellor and expressed the board's appreciation for her service at a particularly challenging time.

#### FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT

Trustee **Bruce Swenson** reported that the terms of several foundation board members are expiring and that Executive Director Sheryl Alexander is reviewing prospective new board members. During a recent foundation board meeting at the Krause Center for Innovation, he said he learned that more than 14,000 teachers have benefitted from Krause Center classes and programs since the KCI opened at Foothill College in 2000. While the district funds part of its operations, he said, 72 percent of the KCI's support comes from private donations.

#### INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

**Onizuka education center:** Chancellor Thor reported that the U.S. Department of Education has conditionally approved the district's application to acquire 9.56 acres to establish an education center at the Onizuka Air Force Station in Sunnyvale. This would be accomplished at no cost to the district through the public benefit conveyance process. To move the process forward, the board approved a resolution required by the Department of Education that sets timelines for development, permissible uses for the

site and potential financial penalties estimated at \$40,000 to \$50,000 per month if the education center isn't operational within three years of the property's transfer to Foothill-De Anza.

**Charles Allen**, the district's executive director of facilities, operations and construction management, reported that the Department of Education is not amenable to any alterations to the language in a standard resolution that has been accepted by applicants across the country. However, he said, the department's representative offered assurances and examples of cases in which penalties were not assessed when delays or other mitigating circumstances were beyond an applicant's control. Director Allen said he expects to receive findings from the U.S. Air Force soon that are needed for the transfer, and expects the district will have title to the Onizuka property by June.

Responding to a question about potential risks from Trustee Swenson, attorney **John Shupe**, the district's general counsel, recommended obtaining a title report on the property since the district will receive only a quit claim deed from the Air Force, not a grant deed or fee simple title. As to whether an agreement has been formalized with West Valley-Mission Community College District that supports Foothill-De Anza relocating its education center from Palo Alto to Onizuka, Foothill President **Judy Miner** said talks are continuing with Mission College about how the two campuses can work together at Onizuka for mutual benefit.

Chancellor Thor noted that a kickoff meeting with the Leonakis design firm had already taken place to get a start on pre-design work. In a subsequent action, the board approved initiation of a lease-leaseback approach to construction of the Onizuka education center. This process is designed to avoid costly litigation over change orders arising from conflicts, ambiguities and omissions in contract documents.

**Non-resident tuition:** The board approved a \$3 increase in the rate for non-resident students, bringing the cost to \$138 per unit for 2012-13.

**Legislative principles for 2012:** Trustees approved state and federal legislative principles for 2012 to guide advocacy activities throughout the year. The principles include such positions as opposing further funding cuts to community colleges; supporting revenue enhancements to close the state budget gap; and lowering the vote threshold for approval of community college parcel taxes from 66 percent to 55 percent. One item was added since the last meeting at the recommendation of Trustee **Laura Casas Frier**: Support solutions to the escalating costs of health benefits.

**Policy on international travel:** The board approved revisions to Board Policy 4176 so that the chancellor must approve in advance employees' work-related international travel, whether it is funded from the General Fund or another source. The one exception is that advance approval is not required for staff members employed by the Office of International Students and the campus abroad programs.

**Measure C bond committee annual report:** Palo Alto resident **Dudley Anderson**, chairman of the Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, presented the board with the committee's annual report on the progress of the Measure C bond program. The report concludes that bond funds spent in 2010-11 were expended in accordance with state constitutional provisions and ballot language that district voters approved in 2006.

After studying plans, reviewing expenditures and touring projects since joining the committee in 2010, Mr. Anderson told the board that the results he has seen are impressive. "It's money well spent," he said. He added that the bond program has

resulted in “significant technical upgrades to facilities along with upgrades to infrastructure that bode well for the community and the district’s future.”

Mr. Anderson complimented the district for its financial practices, and noted that annual financial and performance audits of the Measure C bond program disclosed no instances of non-compliance. He particularly thanked Charles Allen and his team, as well as district support staff, for professionalism in working with the committee. He also expressed appreciation for the work of his fellow committee members. Board members accepted the annual report and thanked Mr. Anderson and other community members for their volunteer service on the committee. The full annual report is posted here:

<http://www.measurec.fhda.edu/CitizensOversightCommittee/AnnualReports/tabid/993/Default.aspx>

**General obligation bond refunding:** Vice Chancellor of Business Services **Kevin McElroy** reported on plans to refund \$76.4 million of the district’s general obligation bonds to take advantage of significantly lower interest rates, similar to refinancing a home mortgage when interest rates fall. Under current market conditions the refunding could reduce debt service costs by about \$600,000 annually through 2030, reducing costs for district taxpayers. There would be no direct cost to the district to do the refunding. If interest rates remain favorable, Vice Chancellor McElroy said he would seek the board’s approval in March to proceed with the bond refunding.

**De Anza stadium and track improvements:** At a special board meeting on Feb. 8, trustees approved the award of a \$5.39 million contract to O.C. Jones & Sons for renovation of De Anza’s sports stadium and supporting infrastructure. It was the lowest bid among the three contractors who bid on the project. New facilities will include a rubberized running track, scoreboard, natural grass for track & field events, synthetic turf for football and soccer, home bleachers, a press box and renovation of restrooms to make them more accessible to people with disabilities. The infrastructure improvements will include pathway lighting, sound system and electrical improvements.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES & PERSONNEL**

**New hires:** Trustees ratified the hiring of two new employees at De Anza, **Cathleen Monsell** as administrative assistant in Counseling & Matriculation and **Joshua Soliz** as secretary in the High Tech Center Training Unit.

**Retirement:** The board ratified the retirement of **Rose Myers** from the position of vice president of student development.

**Extended assignment:** The board ratified the extension through June 30 of **Denise Swett**’s assignment as acting vice president of student development at Foothill.

**Professional development leaves:** Trustees approved professional development leaves for the following faculty at Foothill, **Vivian Cohen, Samuel Connell, Tess Hansen, Scott Lankford, Gene Scattini, Davida Vance-Lee** and **William Ziegenhorn**; and for the following faculty at De Anza, **Catie Cadge-Moore, Dave Denny, David Gray, Suzanne Helfman, George Mitchell, Loraine Moen, William Nagel, Isaiah Nengo, Kathryn Plum, Alan Simes, Sukhjit Singh** and **Kristin Skager**.

**Professional growth awards:** The board approved professional growth awards for **Erin Ortiz**, a student activities specialist at Foothill, and **Mary Washington**, division administrative assistant in Physical Sciences Mathematics and Engineering at De Anza.

## REPORTS & HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

**Student comments:** De Anza Associated Students President **Arvind Ravichandran** invited trustees to attend the general assembly of Occupy De Anza for Education, held every Tuesday at 5 p.m. Students are camping out on campus Tuesday nights to call attention to the importance of education and civic engagement and to gear up for the March in March. De Anza student **Anita Adams**, co-chair of the Women's History Month program, reported on a group she is starting at De Anza to support women on campus and engage in activism on women's issues.

**Staff comments:** De Anza Academic Senate President **Karen Chow** reported that two individuals from De Anza are being honored by the California Community College Physical Educators. The group has named instructor and head women's tennis coach **Coleen Lee-Wheat** an educator of the year and Fitness Center Coordinator **C.J. Jones** as a staff member of the year. President Chow invited board members to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Partners in Learning conference March 2 at De Anza. ACE President **Blanche Monary** asked for the board's support in following a process that was used the last time positions were eliminated. Opening vacant positions first to employees affected by layoff resulted in placements for a number of people who otherwise would have lost jobs, she said.

**Chancellor's comments:** Chancellor Thor said she was pleased to announce that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges had reaffirmed the accreditation of both Foothill and De Anza colleges. She joined the board in congratulating faculty and staff who were involved in the accreditation process. She reported on a recent briefing the chancellor's cabinet received at Cisco, including presentations on trends and new technologies in education. She thanked Student Trustees **Stephanie McGee** from Foothill and **Emily Kinner** from De Anza for sharing their personal stories at a recent meeting of the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley Class XXIII hosted at Foothill College.

Chancellor Thor noted that President Miner has been reappointed to the American Council on Education's Committee on Inclusion and that she has been reappointed for a two-year term to ACE's Commission on Lifelong Learning. She reported that alumnus and former Board of Trustees member **Dolly Sandoval** has been named Citizen of the Year by the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce and will be honored March 24.

**Presidents' comments:** Presidents Miner and **Brian Murphy** briefly reviewed ACCJC's recommendations for Foothill and De Anza, respectively. President Murphy passed around a copy of an Education Life supplement in the Feb. 5 New York Times that featured a full-page ad congratulating the American Democracy Project on its 10-year anniversary and celebrating the launch of the Democracy Commitment and De Anza's role in it. He reported that a specialized accrediting team recently visited the campus for the medical laboratory technology program.

President Murphy called on **Marisa Spatafore**, De Anza's director of marketing, communications and development, to speak about events co-sponsored by the college and Silicon Valley Reads in conjunction with the exploration of two books, "The Muslim Next Door" and "The Butterfly Mosque". The events include a Muslim art exhibit at the Euphrat Museum of Art through March 17; a conversation with author Willow Wilson on March 1 in the Visual and Performing Arts Center; and a conversation with the authors of both books on the theme "Muslim and American: Two Perspectives" led by President Murphy on March 3 at Cupertino Community Hall. A listing of all Silicon Valley Reads

events featuring De Anza participants can be found at:

<http://www.deanza.edu/news/2012svr.html>

**Trustee comments:** Student Trustee McGee reported on preparations by the Associated Students of Foothill College for the March in March in Sacramento. De Anza Student Trustee Kinner reported on attending a recent legislative conference in Sacramento with Trustees Barram, **Betsy Bechtel** and Casas Frier, and participating in subsequent meetings with local legislators. She said that in her capacity as president of the California Community College Association of Student Trustees, she plans to take part in a panel discussion of the Student Success Task Force at the annual March advocacy and policy conference of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges.

Trustee Casas Frier also commented on making legislative visits and noted that the governor's proposed cuts to CalWORKs and child care programs would make it harder for low-income students to attend college. Both she and Trustee Bechtel spoke about the importance to community colleges of voters supporting the governor's proposed November ballot initiative to temporarily increase taxes to benefit education.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, March 5 at 6 p.m. in the district Board Room. Agendas generally are posted 72 hours in advance at: [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/board/agenda/](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/agenda/). Please check the agenda to verify time and location of the meeting.

*Board Highlights* is designed to communicate board meeting news to faculty and staff across the district. This publication is not the official minutes. The official minutes are available at [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/board/minutes](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes) after their approval at a subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at [bartindalebecky@fhda.edu](mailto:bartindalebecky@fhda.edu) or (650) 949-6107 with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.