



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

Board meeting of April 2, 2012

SOME HEADLINES

Trustees approved or reviewed:

- A resolution supporting a local school district bond measure
- The purchase of new computers
- New hires and a retirement
- An agreement that will cut electricity costs

INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

Support for school bond measure: The board unanimously approved a resolution endorsing Measure H on the June 5 ballot, a \$220 million bond measure for the Cupertino Union School District. **Ben Liao**, a member of the Cupertino district's Board of Education, told trustees the bond proceeds would be used for such things as fixing leaky school roofs; upgrading earthquake safety; removing potentially hazardous materials; keeping schools clean and well maintained; updating science labs and educational technology; and renovating, acquiring, building and equipping new facilities.

Foundation report: Trustee **Pearl Cheng** reported on a recent Foothill-De Anza Foundation board meeting. She noted that board member **Kathleen Santora** is leading the foundation's strategic planning committee. She said the foundation has submitted a number of grants proposals and is moving forward with plans for recruiting new board members. She noted that a mailer was sent to 30,000 households to help build the foundation's donor base and was well received.

Lower power costs: Trustees approved an agreement to lock in favorable rates for 2013-14 and 2014-15 with the Community College League of California's Electricity Consortium. The rates would be 23% lower in 2013-14 and 15% lower in 2014-15 than the district is currently paying, for an estimated savings of \$190,000 and \$120,000, respectively.

Purchase of computers: The board authorized the purchase of Apple and Dell computers, which are the district standard, through the Western States Contracting Alliance, a 15-state purchasing consortium. The computers, estimated to cost approximately \$1.3 million, are replacement machines for faculty and staff at both colleges and De Anza College campus labs. The computers are being purchased with Measure C bond funds.

HUMAN RESOURCES & PERSONNEL

New hires: Trustees approved the employment of three Foothill College instructors – **Zach Cembellin** in Physical Sciences, Mathematics & Engineering; **Eric Kuehnl** in Fine

Arts & Communications; and **Stephanie Wong** in Business & Social Sciences, all starting Sept. 20 – and ratified the employment of **Kimani Smith** as a grounds gardener at De Anza College.

Retirements: The board approved the retirement of **John Swensson**, a De Anza Language Arts instructor, effective June 29 under the Article 19 emeritus program.

REPORTS & HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public comments: Peralta Community College District Student Trustee **Rich Copenhagen** complimented the district's students on their high level of community engagement. He commented on the example set by De Anza Student Trustee **Emily Kinner**, calling her one of the most influential student leaders in California.

Staff comments: De Anza Academic Senate President **Karen Chow** spoke about resolutions originating at De Anza College that are being put forward for the spring plenary of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. One supports a bill by Assembly member **Paul Fong**, a former Foothill-De Anza trustee, that proposes to fund the infrastructure required to carry out recommendations of the Student Success Task Force. She said another, co-authored by De Anza's **Rich Schroeder** and **Paul Setziol**, offers a critique of the Legislative Analyst's Office's recommendation to cut intercollegiate athletics as a cost savings for community colleges.

Presidents' comments: Foothill College President **Judy Miner** reported on the first advisory board meeting of the college's Science Learning Institute and thanked PSME instructor **Bob Cormia** for showcasing some of Foothill's most innovative programs for the advisors. She commented on several recent international visitors to Foothill, including a former Chilean education minister who is interested in establishing a community college system and, in a separate visit, representatives of Meridian International, a business, arts and technology college in the Philippines, along with Philippine consular officials and government representatives. That meeting resulted from an introduction by former Foothill dean **Gertrude Gregorio**, who is establishing an education center in her hometown in the Philippines in honor of her mother. President Miner said she believes there are opportunities for Foothill to partner with Meridian.

De Anza Vice President **Christina Espinosa-Pieb**, representing President **Brian Murphy**, read an appreciative email from a former student to graphics design instructor **Bill Nagel**, written upon learning of his retirement plans. The former student, who is now a graphic designer for KTVU-TV newscasts, praised Mr. Nagel's teaching and called him "an awesome, inspiring instructor." At a time of budget cuts, it's good to be reminded of the importance of the work we do and the affects we can have on the lives of students, Vice President Espinosa-Pieb said.

Trustee comments: Board President **Joan Barram** noted that Chancellor **Linda Thor** was absent because she was participating in a two-day leadership institute for a dozen invited community college CEOs sponsored by the Community College League of California.

President Barram reported on attending a regional economic summit, hosted by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Marvell Technology Group, along with Trustees **Betsy Bechtel** and Kinner, Chancellor Thor and **John Mummert**, Foothill's vice president of workforce development. She expressed pride in Student Trustee Kinner, who spoke out at the event urging community members to invest in education and suggesting that one way to do that is by offering student internships.

Student Trustee Kinner reported that she was among students who joined Assembly Speaker **John Perez** at a meeting with the Sacramento Bee editorial board to speak in support of Perez's legislation, AB 1501, the Middle Class Scholarship Act. She also said she plans to testify in Sacramento in support of Senate President Pro Tem **Darryl Steinberg**'s legislation, SB 1052 and SB 1053, to advance the use of open educational resources in California's public colleges and universities. She reported that a group of De Anza students met with Under Secretary of Education **Martha Kanter** during her recent visit to the campus.

Foothill Student Trustee **Stephanie McGee** reported that student government elections will get under way when students return for the spring quarter, with voting scheduled in May. She said she plans to participate in two upcoming CalWORKS workshops, one on how to use the program effectively and the other a regional session in Monterey for which she will serve on a panel.

Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** reported that she had just returned from visiting the nation's capital with a delegation from Silicon Valley to discuss topics including the Dream Act, deportation policies and immigration reform. She said the delegation, which included the granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, met with staff members from Homeland Security and the White House as well as members of Congress. A longtime advocate of the Dream Act, Trustee Casas Frier took the lead on that topic during the visits. At a White House event honoring Cesar Chavez, she said she met President Obama and shook his hand. She noted that the trip was taken without the use of district funds.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, May 7 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/. 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 after their approval at a subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at bartindalebecky@fhda.edu or (650) 949-6107 with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.