



## **Board Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025**

**Board Members:** Komal Ahmed, Laurie Brandt, Roy Dietz, Heath Gregory, Karla Harness Brown, Victoria Lozzi, Laurie Love, Katherine Maschler, Brooke Matson, Laurie McCarthy, Darcie McClelland, McKenzie Neely-Wright, Jason Nishiyama, Tamara Ritchey Powers, Richard Rede, Daniel Shrader, Ben Steinberger, Brenda Thames, Rob Van Lingen, Paul Wafer, Clay Zachry

**Absent:** Ralph Felix, Cynthia Grande, Janan Johnson, David Liaw, Charlie Mitchell, Mark Waronek,

**Staff:** Kate Choi, Nancy Tonner, Heidi Wang

**Absent:** Andrea Sala

**Recorder:** Richard Rede

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President Laurie Love called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1) Approve Consent Agenda:

*Paul Wafer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Laurie Brandt seconded. Motion passed.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

### **NON-CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Laurie Love

1) President's Remarks

- Love thanked all who attended the State of the College Luncheon and encouraged all members to attend the upcoming Holiday Party on December 17.

2) ECC Foundation Mini Grant: Summer Internships

- Jason Barquero, Dean of Workforce Readiness and Dr. Carla Camacho, Career Services Specialist, came to discuss the plan for getting students paid internships. This allows for the students to also learn valuable skills that will be helpful in their careers. It also teaches networking and most importantly, gets students to see if the field of internship is truly where they would like to make a career of. 17 current students completed the 8-week program. They are looking to continue and expand the program.

## **II. BOARD GOVERNANCE**

Tamara Ritchey Powers - Nothing to report at this time.

## **III. FINANCIALS**

Clay Zachry/McKenzie Neely-Wright

### **1) 2025 Audit Review**

- Neely-Wright introduced Ben Leavitt from the Foundation's accounting firm CWDL, who reviewed our Audit Report. We were given an Unmodified Opinion, which is the highest level of confidence that the ECC Foundation is fairly presented in all material respects and complies with applicable financial reporting framework in the US.

## **IV. OPERATIONS**

Laure Brandt

### **1) Scholarship Update**

- Copies of student thank you letters were sent to all donors. Sala read a nice email from one of our donors regarding her appreciation of the letters from her students.
- The 2026-27 scholarship application will close on December 21.

## **V. ECC STUDENT REPORT**

Charlie Mitchell – Unable to attend meeting

## **VI. ECC PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Dr. Brenda Thames

### **1) Big Picture: California's Enrollment Future is... Shrinking, Then Maybe Stabilizing**

- Statewide population growth has flattened
- Pandemic recovery is uneven, and the traditional 18–24-year-old market is shrinking.
- Growth opportunities exist primarily in adult learners, upskilling, and re-engagement strategies.
- Adult learners are the primary growth market
- Flexible learning models will drive competitiveness
- Rebundled certificates, stackable pathways, and industry-aligned credentials increase value and accelerate completion.
- Enhanced student support systems are mandatory

### **2) ECCCD Bond 2026**

- The State of California has allocated \$29 million for the Music Building remodel that requires a match from ECC. The ECCCD Board of Trustees is considering a Bond in 2026 to enable the match as well as other facility needs on campus.
- The Trustees have hired a company to study the viability of a bond for the 2026 ballot. The study will gauge interest and present findings in the spring.

## **VII. STAFF REPORT**

Andrea Sala/Heidi Wang

### **1) Fall Newsletter**

- Completed and sent out early November.

### **2) ECC Foundation Logo**

- Sala unveiled the new Foundation logo, which creates unity with the College's branding.

3) Retiree Luncheon

- Approximately 90 retirees attended to reconnect with past coworkers. President Thames presented an overview of the college and Sala presented an overview of the Foundation.

4) Giving Tuesday Campaign – December 2, 2025

- Heidi Wang reported there are two chances to win very good Rams tickets for Giving Tuesday. For each donation in increments of \$50, donors receive a chance to win.

5) 2026 Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards Dinner – March 6, 2026

- Continuing to market and promote the dinner and have received several sponsorships (Honda, Continental Development, Northrop Grumman) and table purchases (Bill Kim, Boys & Girls Club, Torrance Memorial, Torrance Kiwanis). Invitations will be sent out in early January, and ads will run in local newspapers.

6) Mary Haag Estate Gift

- Estate has been settled and \$866K will be coming to ECC.

## **VIII. DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:57 pm.**