CALL TO ORDER

A Board Study Session of the Solano Community College District Governing Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 1, 2012, in the Administration Building, Room 626, located at Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield, California 94534, by Board President Rosemary Thurston.

Board President Thurston announced that due to participation of Trustee McCaffrey in the meeting via teleconference, all votes would be considered by roll call vote.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the request of Board President Thurston, the Honorable Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of the city of Benicia, led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rosemary Thurston, President
Sarah E. Chapman, Vice President**
Denis Honeychurch, J.D.
Pam Keith
Phil McCaffrey* (participated via teleconference)
Catherine M. Ritch
A. Marie Young
Kayla Salazar, Student Trustee
Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D., Secretary

*Teleconference Location: Trustee McCaffrey - Fort Eustis, Virginia - SPOC Training Area

**Arrived after roll call.

Members Absent:

None
were willing to pass measures to benefit community colleges that offered opportunity, a story which is universal. She concluded by saying if we want to change facts and figures of high unemployment that this is the time to offer vital tools needed to prosper, and providing good experiences at this community college is a way to make people better citizens in our community and county.

Board President Thurston recognized Ms. Monica Brown, citizen, teacher in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, and parent of a SCC student. Ms. Brown expressed concern that if the Bond Election is passed and approved by the voters that we employ Solano County workers from our community—“not someone from Arizona.” Ms. Brown encouraged that the College employ local firms and include a project labor agreement in contracts, and also to make sure our facilities are built to last. Ms. Brown also encouraged the Board to work hard on this initiative, including walking precincts and participating in phone banks.

Board President Thurston stated additional requests to comment on Item 10.(c), Bond Election, would be heard later on the agenda, and thanked all those who came forward with their comments.

6. REPORTS (NO ACTION REQUIRED):

(a) Update by The Lew Edwards Group

Facilitated by Catherine Lew, President

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President, introduced Ms. Catherine Lew, President of The Lew Edwards Group (Consultant), who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the latest polling results relative to whether Solano Community College could be successful with a Bond initiative on the November ballot.

Ms. Lew began by stating that The Lew Edwards Group was successful in all June election measures attempted and remains undefeated in community college bonds attempted. Two-thirds of all school measures on the June ballot passed, and with the right proposals, voters are willing to protect and expand affordable local education.

Consultant recommendations are that a Solano Community College District bond of as much as $348M is potentially viable in November 2012. Overall support levels are consistent with support levels from November 2011. The Lew Group recommends that the Board consider proceeding with placing a measure on the November 2012 ballot.

Ms. Lew identified the methodology behind the recommendations given as well as their key findings as a result of their research.

A full and complete copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the Office of the Superintendent-President and the Office of the Vice President of Finance and Administration.
Human Resources

(b) Proposed New Job Descriptions – Operating Engineers/Stationary Engineers, Local 39
Theater Technician and Theater Production Technician

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President, presented the proposed new job descriptions for Operating Engineers/Stationary Engineers, Local 39 Theater Technician and Theater Production Technician. With the changes made in the Theater, it was determined that these two positions are needed to accommodate the theater operations. The job descriptions have been discussed with the Operating Engineers/Stationary Engineers, Local 39 constituent group. The funding schedule is part of the allocated $150K when the association with the SCTA was terminated.

Moved by Trustee Honeychurch and seconded by Trustee Keith to approve the new job descriptions for Operating Engineers/Stationary Engineers, Local 39 Theater Technician and Theater Production Technician as presented. The motion carried unanimously with the following roll call vote.

STUDENT TRUSTEE ADVISORY VOTE: Kayla Salazar concurred.
AYES: Trustee Honeychurch, Trustee McCaffrey, Trustee Ritch, Trustee Young, Trustee Keith, Vice President Chapman, and Board President Thurston
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Finance and Administration

(c) Bond Election

Board President Thurston recognized Mr. George Guynn, Jr., who requested to comment on Item 10.(c), Bond Election. As President of the Central County Citizens Taxpayers Group, Mr. Guynn stated that his group has their eyes on what we [SCC] are trying to do. He stated, “This is not the right time to go out for a bond.” We already have $124M from the past Bond initiative. It is very easy to redistribute someone else’s money and asked how the consultant was going to be paid. Mr. Guynn was clear in his opposition of the Board approving the Bond Election resolution.

Board President Thurston recognized Chief Vince Webster, President of the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association, who commented on how important it is to hire people as soon as possible upon completion of their education, which SCC does by providing the successful Fire Academy. “We are thrilled by the College’s commitment to expanding their Fire Training Facility that will assist area firefighters in learning vital skills and we, the County Fire Chiefs, hope the College will consider adding EMT and Paramedic Programs in the future.” Chief Webster stated the County Fire Chiefs in the audience were present to lend their support for continuing education and approval of the Bond Election.
Board President Thurston recognized Chief Jay Huyssoon, Cordelia Fire Protection District, who also requested to comment on Item 10.(c), Bond Election. Chief Huyssoon stated that the majority of students in the fire fighter program come from Solano Community College. There is not enough money available to put students through the association fire academy; therefore, the association relies heavily on Solano Community College and its Fire Academy program. Chief Huyssoon thanked SCC for what we do for students and the community.

Board President Thurston recognized Mr. Richard Giddens, a citizen and taxpayer from Suisun. Mr. Giddens stated that the state of California and government agencies once again have come to town begging for more money. Mr. Giddens believes the average citizens are thinking people and are going to see this. We have massively overspent taxpayer dollars. As a veteran and homeowner, “I don’t like bloated government,” he said. Mr. Giddens commented that California spends half of its budget on education. The schools and colleges need to seek productivity and efficiency gains instead of exercising on the basketball courts. Mr. Giddens stated that he didn’t think the schools could wager a bet on folks going along with this (propositions and resolutions with monetary attachments) in light of what has happened in the past, i.e., Prop 29. (smoking initiative). “Stop living in fantasy land and take a long hard look at our once golden state, which now has massive unemployment, riots in the streets, bankruptcies, and leadership woes.”

Board President Thurston recognized Ms. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry from the city of Winters, who requested to comment on Item 10.(c). Ms. Aguiar-Curry thanked Dr. Laguerre for his visits to Winters, stating for many years the city didn’t know of their affiliation with Solano Community College. Our association has opened the flood gates for opportunities for our students and residents and appreciates the relationship that now exists. The city of Winters is committed to helping with the bond initiative. Ms. Aguiar-Curry shared a story of a woman in the city who married young, did not graduate high school, but raised her three children who now are attending university. A recent visit by Dr. Lamb was encouragement for her to get her GED and is now enrolled at SCC. This is only one success story. The city of Winters wished the Board well in making this tough decision and extended their help however it is needed.

Board President Thurston recognized Mr. Lou Franchimon, representing the Napa-Solano Building Trades, who requested to comment on Item 10.(c). Mr. Franchimon stated a vote of the Building Trades Executive Council was to support the bond initiative 100%. Mr. Franchimon elaborated on recent meetings with Dr. Laguerre regarding working with the College to get curriculums established for training programs to move people from college into the work place. Passage of this bond would help with this planning.

Board President Thurston recognized Ms. Carol Larson, a Vallejo business owner, who requested to comment on Item 10.(c). Ms. Larsen stated that she is a small business owner, property owner, and participated in the Blue Ribbon Committee. As a result of lively and interesting discussions, she feels confident that the Bond measure is the right move for Solano Community College. In these tough economic times, Solano College is more important now than ever before. It is important to keep the College current with state of the art facilities and equipment in order to move students into the job market. Ms. Larson encouraged the Board to approve the Bond Election.
Board President Thurston recognized Mr. James Pierson, a medic and ambulance driver, who requested to comment on Item 10.(c). Mr. Pierson echoed what Chief Webster had to say, stating that Solano’s programs (EMT, nursing, and fire) are important in what we do in the community, and they need to stay viable, active, and expanded upon wherever possible.

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President, read a statement supporting the Bond Election.

“This is really a historic evening for the Solano Community College District. We are determined and committed to serving the diverse communities within our District and supporting the teachers and staff who implement our vision for quality, affordable education.

In today’s tough economy, this vision is more important than ever. The state deficit has caused years of state budget cuts to education and community colleges. In this fiscal year alone, Sacramento took $4.7 million from Solano College and is proposing to take another $2 million from us next year, an absolutely devastating reality. It is clear we can’t rely on Sacramento to fund some of the needs of this community’s college. That’s why it’s so important that we continue providing the affordable education and job training needs our communities are desperate to have.

Many of our College classrooms were built in the 1970’s—they don’t meet current earthquake safety standards or fire codes for college facilities built today. A potential bond measure will provide funding to repair campus facilities, address health and safety hazards, improve facility access for disabled students, and ensure that all buildings meet current earthquake and fire safety codes.

As the home of Travis AFB, our community is very proud of those who serve in our armed forces. Many local veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have been hit hard by the recession and are unemployed. We are committed to providing resources to expand job-placement programs and facilities to train and re-train local veterans as they re-enter the civilian workforce.

While it is true that we had a bond ten years ago, it brought us the Vallejo Center, the Vacaville Center, and the Student Services Building in Fairfield among other projects. It is a strong indication of the District’s ability to show results for the investments the taxpayers have made.

We promised the voters in 2002 that we will bring classes from Sonoma State University to Vallejo. Not only did we do that, the first class of these students graduated this year. That was a promise made and a promise kept. We have the will and the track record to keep our promise to the voters of Solano County and Winters.

I am extremely gratified at the overwhelming response and support that we’ve continued to receive from the community! More than 1,000 constituents were engaged in our effort, providing important input to our planning, which has taken more than a year to complete. Six of you have sat through numerous meetings and discussion sessions leading to this recommendation. We did our best to prepare you for this day. And I so value our business and workforce development partnerships with local employers who have pledged support.

Thank you to our faculty, staff, students, and the community, as well as the local media, who recognize our needs and have been so supportive.

I call on an overwhelming majority of the Board to place this measure on the ballot for the community’s consideration. The future of many generations of students is at stake.
The easy decision is to resist looking toward the future. You have so far steered this institution in the right direction with your prudent fiscal decisions. Your employees are eager to get to work to change the face of this College with the funds this bond would bring.”

Trustee Honeychurch stated that as the senior member of the Board and after 25 years of experience at the College that he can say this is the right thing to do to move the College forward and will support the resolution.

Trustee Ritch commented that she will be voting no on this item. She stated that she does everything she can to support the mission of Solano College, but is troubled by this measure. She thanked the staff and Bond Counsel, but stated her concerns are that she would have been more comfortable if the Educational Master Plan and Facilities Plan were approved. She is uncomfortable with the fact that the document stated the Board has reviewed and prioritized projects which have not been adequately identified. She is uncomfortable asking her family, friends, and neighbors to increase their property tax assessment when it is not specific how the money is going to be allocated. Trustee Ritch encouraged the Board to take a deep breath, work diligently to finalize the two documents, cost them out, and define specific needs.

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President, presented the recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve Resolution No. 12/13-01 ordering an election and establishing specifications of the election order.

Moved by Trustee Honeychurch and seconded by Trustee Keith to approve Resolution No. 12/13-01, as amended, ordering an election and establishing specifications of the election order. The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

STUDENT TRUSTEE ADVISORY VOTE: Kayla Salazar concurred.
AYES: Trustee McCaffrey, Trustee Young, Trustee Keith, Vice President Chapman, Trustee Honeychurch, and Board President Thurston
NOES: Trustee Ritch
ABSENT: None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION REQUIRED

Academic and Student Affairs

(a) Agreement Between Solano Community College District and the Permanente Medical Group

Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President, presented the Agreement between Solano Community College District and the Permanente Medical Group.

A collaborative agreement dated June 18, 2012 through December 31, 2012, between Solano Community College and The Permanente Medical Group, Inc., for use of facilities in support of the Healthy Hearts Cardiac Project and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals in order for Solano College