



Klamath Community College Board of Education
7390 South Sixth Street * Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:00 PM

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeCrans called the regular meeting of the Klamath Community College Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Raymond Holliday; Kate Marquez; Dave Jensen; and Kenneth DeCrans. A quorum was confirmed.

Members Absent: Misty Buckley and Rejeana Jackson.

Staff Present: Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, President; Jamie Jennings, Vice President; Gail Schull, Vice President; Denise Reid, Vice President; Joshua Guest, Executive Director; Shannon Childs, Secretary to the Board; and Peter Lawson, staff.

Guests: Sara Pietka and Reynold Roeder.

II. SHOWCASE

Dr. Gutierrez invited VP Jennings to introduce Mark Griffith to present on Well-Drilling. Director Griffith presented a PowerPoint that included a program overview and workforce initiative. Additional topics presented were industry need, program vision, development timeline, grants/funding, industry partnerships, curriculum, staffing/program infrastructure, and future impact.

The expectation is to stay within a 100-mile radius of KCC when drilling wells. Director Griffith shared that Klamath Pump may be a partner in the future when expanding on the pumps and servicing. There are currently 4-5 well-drilling companies in Klamath Falls. KCC has a screening and vetting process, which is helpful when students are going out for employment, as they have been screened, scored, and tested for the program. Students are going out as prime applicants. KCC is focusing on domestic wells. The rig is also equipped for geothermal. They may get more experience working on the job with other employers. There is a goal to have 200 students in the program in two years.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board Minutes (Regular Meeting February 24, 2026)
- B. Personnel Action
- C. Administrative Reports
- D. Appropriated Objects (Financials)
- E. Enrollment Dashboard

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.

Motion by: Dave Jensen

Second by: Raymond Holliday

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Action: Raymond Holliday, yay; Kate Marquez, yay; Dave Jensen, yay; Kenneth DeCrans, yay.

Motion passed. Unanimous approval.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Motion by: Dave Jensen

Second by: Raymond Holliday

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Action: Raymond Holliday, yay; Kate Marquez, yay; Dave Jensen, yay; Kenneth DeCrans, yay.

Motion passed. Unanimous approval

V. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. Dr. Gutierrez shared that Rep Reschke informed him that the \$2M for local aviation did not go through legislation; however, it will be going back. Pureflight Aviation and the local economy are looking forward to the possibilities.
- b. VP Reid gave an update on the Childcare Learning Center progress. KCC is at the 90% bid set for Cosmetology. The process will be posted on Thursday, March 19th. On April 2nd there will be a pre-bid meeting. The final addenda and questions close on April 23. Bids are closed on April 30 at 3:00 pm. This should be reported to the Board in May.
- c. Dr. Gutierrez has been asked to be on the search committee for the Superintendent position at Klamath County School District. He accepted.

VI. ASKCC STUDENT REPORT

- a. The Food Pantry has packed 36 food bags in one month.
- b. The last First Year Experience was held for the term.
- c. Fuels for Finals was last week.
- d. New Student Orientation is coming up this week.

VII. STATE REPORT

- a. Trustee Marquez shared that there were no cuts to the Community College support fund at end of the legislative session.
- b. This Thursday at noon is an OCCA lunch and learn, which will be in partnership with the Ford Family Foundation.
- c. The All Oregon Academic Team Luncheon will be on Friday, April 17, 2026.
- d. Trustee Marquez discussed a student being on the Board as a non-voting member. It was reflected as a positive experience. It was discussed that it is in the KCC policy to have a student representative. The student is a non-voting member; however, they have a voice at the table and have the option to attend retreats.

VIII. FOUNDATION REPORT

- a. Director Lawson shared that long-time contributors Howard Johnson Family and Kathleen Walker Henderson were recently honored for cumulative contributions over \$20K.
- b. Logistics are being finalized for the April 24th Alumni event.
- c. The Kick-Off date for the Childcare Learning Center is being finalized with the President's Office.
- d. The Foundation will be welcoming leadership from People's Bank on campus on Wednesday, March 18th.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Public Participation (Public comment 3 minutes per person)

- None.

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X. INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEMS

A. New Market Tax Credit Application – Action Item

Dr. Gutierrez highlighted what was being presented and asked Director Lawson to introduce the guest presenters. Sara Pietka and Reynold Roeder, with NW-Based Collective Growth Strategies, joined Director Lawson to present. A PowerPoint was reviewed that included the new markets tax credits (NMTC) program overview, which shared what the program is, what kinds of projects qualify, and how to determine eligibility. The NMTC net benefits were reviewed, and how the net benefit materializes. The NMTC closing process map was reviewed. Key complexities were addressed, such as eligibility beyond site location, Qualified Active Low-Income Community Business structuring requirements, and reporting during the compliance period. Information was provided on how the leveraged structure works.

Chase, US Bank, Wells Fargo, and Capital One were shared as examples of investors. It was shared that there was a project in 2019 with Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) that was successful. Dr. Gutierrez shared that SWOCC was a supporter of this system.

Chair DeCrans asked VP Reid if she felt this was the right thing to do and a positive direction for the school. VP Reid shared that she felt it was.

Motion: To approve the New Market Tax Credit funding structure as a strategic funding source for the Childcare Learning Center in order to maximize external investment, reduce reliance on institutional funds, and strengthen long-term financial sustainability.

Motion by: Raymond Holliday

Second by: Dave Jensen

Discussion: It was discussed when this may come back to the Board for the next final steps. Ms. Pietka shared the hope would be around September.

Public Comment: None.

Action: Raymond Holliday, yay; Kate Marquez, yay; Dave Jensen, yay; Kenneth DeCrans, yay.

Motion passed. Unanimous approval.

Chair DeCrans called a 5-minute recess at 7:25 pm.

XI. RECESS REGULAR MEETING

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d))

Executive session convened at 7:33 pm.

An executive session was called under ORS 192.660(2)(d), which allows the Board to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Raymond Holliday, Kate Marquez, Kenneth DeCrans, Dave Jensen, Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, Denise Reid, and Shannon Childs were present for the executive session.

There was an update on labor negotiations.

XIII. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Chair DeCrans reconvened the meeting at 8:00 pm.

XIV. BOARD DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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A. Board Discussion

i. Board Comment

- Trustee Jensen inquired about the International Event on campus. Dr. Gutierrez apologized for the invite not going out to the Board.
- Trustee Jensen shared he has had three people ask him why the well-drilling program is taking so long. It was good news to hear that it will be up this fall.
- Dr. Gutierrez shared that KCC is missing funding from the federal government for the Childcare Center, and that the federal senators are trying to work on this. Dr. Gutierrez shared that he was disappointed in Congressman Bentz. There has been a lot of work, and he believes that the Congressman is not putting enough emphasis on the needs at KCC. There was a Board discussion on Congressman Bentz and the perception that he is not prioritizing the community. Dr. Gutierrez expressed that he would be ready to fly to meet with the undersecretary if needed, again expressing the feeling of a lack of priorities. KCC is still working on getting the \$5M that was promised to KCC.
- Chair DeCrans shared that he has applied for the Zone 7 position, as his family has been house hunting and has not found a house in his Zone. He will be going through the same process as everyone else, as he would really like to continue on the Board. The Vice-Chair will lead the search and the portion of the next meeting regarding Zone 7. This process was verified with Oregon Community College Association legal counsel as ok. Ms. Childs added that interviews for the Zone will take place prior to the April 28, 2026 meeting under a work session.

XV. FUTURE ISSUES

- None.

XVI. NEXT MEETING

A. Scheduled Board of Education Meeting: April 28, 2026, Founders Hall Boardroom

XVII. ADJOURN

Chair DeCrans adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Shannon Childs

Klamath Community College

Board of Education Secretary