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

Board of Education Retreat, Running Y Resort
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9:00 AM – 5:45 PM

NOTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeCrans called the Board of Education Retreat of the Klamath Community College Board of Education to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Kenneth DeCrans, Dave Jensen, Misty Buckley, Raymond Holliday, Kate Marquez, and Rejeana Jackson.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, President; and Shannon Childs, Secretary to the Board.

Guests: Randy Cox, Executive Director, KCEDA; Dr. Keith Brown, Superintendent, Klamath Falls City School District (KFCS); Fred Bartels, KFCS Executive Director of School Improvement; and Carly Lynch, KFCS Grant Administrator.

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Overview by Kenneth DeCrans, Board Chair and President's Remarks by Dr. Gutierrez, President

- Chair DeCrans welcomed the Board to the Retreat.
- Dr. Gutierrez updated the Board on the history of projects at KCC. Cosmetology is the fastest-growing program. The College purchased 6 acres across the street 5 or 6 years ago. This may be housing in the future. Enrollments are currently flat.

9:30 a.m. Board Self-Evaluation for 2025-2026

- Chair DeCrans reviewed the Compilation of the Self-Evaluation for 25-26 as distributed in the binder.
- Trustee Jensen shared that he felt each Board member should experience being Board Chair.
- It was noted that KCC is high-functioning and has a high-functioning board.
- Trustee Jensen shared that he felt that the President-to-Board relationship at KCC was the best. The relationship between the Board and Dr. Gutierrez was complimented board-wide. Dr. Gutierrez thanked the Board for their support. Trustee Holliday expanded that, for the most part, the KCC Board does not come to the table with personal agendas.
- Trustee Jackson added that she would like to participate more with student relations and events.
- Trustee Marquez expressed that it looks good on grant applications that the Board donates to the Foundation, in some capacity. It was encouraged that the Board consider donating in any capacity.
- The Board discussed KCC's impact on the community and was encouraged to know that Randy Cox may be bringing some of that information.
- Trustee Marquez shared a concern with the Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC). In Minnesota, there was fraud associated with a childhood organization. Some members of the community are concerned that the local OCDC may have similar issues. The concern was discussed, and opportunities to deter the negative concern were shared. Dr. Gutierrez shared that Donalda Dodson has now retired. Dr. Gutierrez will be looking into concerns.

10:30 a.m. Break

- The Board took a 5-minute break at 10:51 a.m.

10:45 a.m. Klamath Falls Economic Development

- Randy Cox, Executive Director of the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA), was introduced. Executive Director Cox presented a PowerPoint on KCC's impact on Economic Development.
- Executive Director Cox spoke about the partnership with KCC, which provides talent through education for businesses that want to come in and need the talent provided.
- It was noted that Lightcast was hired by the state to gather KCC data. The investment analysis data was pulled from Lighthouse.
- It was shared that there is no policy on data centers; there is a policy on solar. If there were a data center in the city, it would involve the city and county. The Keno solar was discussed. It is not yet a project.
- Trustee Buckley inquired how it works for economic growth with people who like the community just the way it is. Executive Director Cox shared a statement he heard: if you are not growing, you are dying. The key is to have projects that work with the community.
- Trustee Buckley added that some people do not know how they can make a difference in the community. Executive Director Cox shared that the public may attend the quarterly meetings, which include conversations on the project list. The public can engage with KCEDA. Trustee Marquez expressed that it was tragic that there is a loss of a newspaper in the community; it is difficult to know what is going on locally.
- Chair DeCrans inquired about the engagement of being on KCEDA. Executive Director Cox shared that KCEDA has 130 members. Over 100 people attend the annual meeting. 60-80 people attend quarterly meetings.
- Dr. Gutierrez will share quarterly meetings with the Board.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

- The meeting recessed for lunch.

1:30 p.m. President's Annual Goals

- Dr. Gutierrez reviewed last year's goals.
- Goal a: Continue building the international program in the community so that it could enroll a total of 5 students. The College has 4 students who pay the full amount. There are about 21 students who are not in that category and are under partial pay. KCC will be beaming its English as a Second Language (ESL) courses internationally. English is the world's business language. There may be 20 students participating in the ESL programming coming up. The online ESL does not make as much, as it is more efficient. The online ESL students are not subsidized by the taxpayers. Currently, the online ESL student pays $450. Trustee Jensen recommended leaving the goal; however, removing the number.
- Goal b: Continue with the implementation of the Bachelor of Science Nursing. This is complete.
- Goal c: Continue to enhance relationships with native American community and monitor data for credit and non-credit courses for annual board review. KCC got a grant, which was difficult, but is great news. This goal will move forward.
- Goal d: Secure a union contract with the classified staff in support of the college mission. This goal will move forward.
- Goal e: Initiate and complete a new college strategic plan in consultation with internal and external stakeholders. This is complete.
- Goal f: Initiate the implementation of artificial intelligence for college employees and students. This is complete. Faculty have been hired, and curriculum is being developed for a degree.
- Chair DeCrans asked to add: work with the state to adjust the apprenticeship ratios in the trades, specifically in rural communities.
- Chair DeCrans asked to add: Consider a bookstore format that is financially sustainable for KCC.

- Trustee Buckley inquired about marketing for a successful capital campaign and how to best add that into the goals. Trustee Jensen expressed that he felt that VP Ritter should have this under his goal. Trustee Buckley shared that this was beyond fundraising; it has to do with engaging the community. The goal was developed as: Work to ensure a successful capital campaign for the Childcare Learning Center.
- Dr. Gutierrez talked about water conservation on campus and working with facilities on xeriscaping. Trustee Buckley talked about elevation on campus and whether there is an opportunity to reuse collected water. She also shared that there may be a concern about losing green space. Trustee Jensen expressed that he has no concern about the amount of water being used. The grounds, however, overall, are a weak spot on campus. There may be a goal for the improvement of grounds, using less water, using less personnel, and being more efficient.
- Trustee Marquez inquired if a union and co-governance can work together. Dr. Gutierrez shared that it can.
- New goals were developed.
- Goal a: Continue building a remote version of the international program.
- Goal b: Continue to enhance relationships with native American community and monitor data for credit and non-credit courses for annual board review.
- Goal c: Secure a union contract with the classified staff in support of the college mission.
- Goal d: Work with the state to adjust the apprenticeship ratios in the trades, specifically in rural communities.
- Goal e: Consider a bookstore format that is financially sustainable for KCC.
- Goal f: Work to ensure a successful capital campaign for the Childcare Learning Center.
- Goal g: Review an improvement plan to beautify the campus, with an efficient use of resources.

2:15 p.m. Break

- A break was called at 2:22 p.m.

2:30 p.m. Vision for Klamath Falls City School District

- Dr. Keith Brown, Superintendent, Klamath Falls City School District (KFCS); Fred Bartels, KFCS Executive Director of School Improvement; and Carly Lynch, KFCS Grant Administrator joined the meeting.
- Dr. Brown presented a PowerPoint to the Board.
- Mr. Bartels shared more information on the New Education System. SB 141 is raising the standards for K-12 education systems in schools. Mr. Bartels shared information on proficiency rates in some of the schools. A new model was highlighted that reflected current changes to managerial staff, substitute teaching, and paraprofessional staff at Mills and Ponderosa. The intent is to decrease barriers. A handout was shared and reviewed on Capturing Kids' Hearts.
- Ms. Lynch talked about CTE Workforce and grants. Health occupations were highlighted. Ms. Lynch tied in how KCC was involved.
- Dr. Brown reiterated that the partnership with KCC and KFCS is doing very well.
- Dr. Gutierrez handed out the Strategic Plan 4.0.

3:30 p.m. Depart

- The Board departed for a tour of Columbia Forest Products.

Chair DeCrans adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon Childs
Klamath Community College
Board of Education Secretary