



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT VIII
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, state of Washington, was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Pradnya Desh, chair, presided. This meeting was held in the Spruce Studio 1 Room at Cedarbrook Lodge at 18525 36th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98188 and remotely on Zoom. A telephone line was also available.

MINUTES

Chair Desh called the business session to order 9:09 AM.

ROLL CALL

A quorum of the Board was present.

Present: Chair Pradnya Desh, Vice Chair Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Richard Leigh, Trustee Greg Dietzel, President David May, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson.

Absent: none.

There were 5 guests in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Trustee Leigh made a motion to approve the agenda (June 27, 2024). Trustee Dietzel seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Fukutaki made a motion to approve the minutes (June 18, 2025 and June 26, 2025). Trustee Sotelo seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:15 AM, Chair Desh announced the Board would convene for 90 minutes in executive session under [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)](#) for the following purpose: (g) To review the performance of a public employees. Chair Desh announced that no final action would be taken during the executive session.

The executive session ended at 10:45 AM.

RECESS

Chair Desh called for a 15-minute recess at 10:45 AM.

BUSINESS SESSION

Chair Desh called the business session back to order at 11:01 AM.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Frances Dujon Reynolds, Vice President of Human Resources presented on strategic planning, providing updates on progress, alignment, and next steps.

RECESS

Chair Desh called for a 75-minute recess at 12:00 PM.

BUSINESS SESSION

Chair Desh called the business session back to order at 1:22 PM.

BUDGET

Dr. Jorge de la Torre, Vice President of Administrative Services; Ty Bergstrom, Executive Director of Finance and Auxiliary Services, and Sharon Kussy, Budget Director presented an update on college finances covering structure, strategy, and stewardship.

Key takeaways included:

- Trustees provide strategic oversight on direction and risk.
- Most spending is fixed or slow to adjust, limiting short-term flexibility.
- Reserves are often restricted, designated, or policy-defined, and must be used strategically.
- Structural risks require long-term planning, as not all gaps are temporary.

The briefing emphasized that the budget is not just an accounting tool but a way of expressing institutional priorities, making tradeoffs, and planning for the future.

RECESS

Chair Desh called for a 15-minute recess at 3:13 PM.

BUSINESS SESSION

Chair Desh called the business session back to order at 3:28 PM.

BUILDING THE CONDITIONS

Dr. David May, President presented on Bellevue College's efforts to build the conditions for long-term, mission-aligned revenue growth. He emphasized the shift from passive reliance on state funding to active stewardship across public, philanthropic, civic, and corporate sectors. Key elements included:

- Strengthening public funding through year-round legislative engagement.
- Expanding the College's civic presence with local leaders and regional initiatives.
- Rebuilding philanthropic capacity by increasing development and engaging alumni.
- Developing corporate partnerships with industry.
- Advancing internal alignment by focusing on effective strategies and letting go of legacy assumptions.

President May also noted the important role of trustees in supporting this work by sustaining a long-term view, amplifying the College's story, opening doors to new relationships, and stewarding public trust.

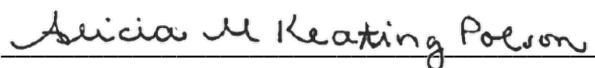
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Desh adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 4:34 PM.



Pradnya Desh
Chair, Board of Trustees
Community College District VIII

ATTEST:



Alicia Keating Polson
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Community College District VIII