

DISTRICT CONSULTATION COUNCIL
March 23, 2026

SUMMARY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Byron D. Clift Breland, Steven Estrada, Brandon Floerke, Rosanna Islas (for Karla Frizler), Bridget Kominek, Elaine Loayza, Candace Lynch, Flavio Medina-Martin, Khaoi Mady, Jaclyn Maggini, Cynthia Olivo, John Parker, Michelle Patrick Norng, Valentina Purtell, Joel Salcedo, Marlo Smith, Kai Stearns, Scott Thayer, Jennifer Vega La Serna, and Annalisa Webber.

VISITORS: Erika Almaraz, Danielle Davy, Ariel Gentalen, Luis Gonzalez, Jenelle Herman, and Gabrielle Stanco.

ABSENT: Kathleen McAlister, Aaron Pilkey, and Irma Ramos.

CALL TO ORDER: Chancellor Byron Clift Breland called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Summary: The summary of the February 23, 2026 meeting was approved with the noted name correction. **There was consensus to approve the summary with two abstentions** (John Parker and Marlo Smith).

STRATEGIC GOALS & PLANNING

2026-2030 Districtwide Strategic Plan: Jennifer Vega La Serna, Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Institutional Effectiveness, and Gabrielle Stanco, District Director, Research, Planning and Data Management, presented a first reading of the draft 2026-2030 Districtwide Strategic Plan developed by the Design Team authorized by DCC in August 2025. The Design Team met and worked to develop the Strategic Plan throughout the 2025-26 academic year and the resulting draft Strategic Plan represents the collaborative work of stakeholders from across the District and provides a framework for implementing, evaluating, and advancing the District Strategic Directions that guide NOCCCD's districtwide initiatives. The Strategic Plan focuses on District-wide systems, services, and leadership functions that support student success, employee development, and community engagement. Specifically, the Plan outlines goals and objectives in three areas:

1. Expand Equitable Student Success and Career Mobility
2. Strengthen Employee Engagement and Organizational Effectiveness
3. Advance Regional Impact and Strategic Partnerships

During the discussion, members noted the following:

- Participants on the group expressed pride in the strong final product, satisfaction with the process and the feedback they received, and thanked Vice Chancellor Vega La Serna and the researchers for doing a lot of the heavy lifting.
- The framework seems to be actionable and applauded the use of KPIs and inclusion of pathways from noncredit to credit.

- Goal 1 includes data collection, but given the structure of the District, could the District facilitate a dialogue as to where the potential lies since its faculty led.
- If classified representatives were included, how were they were assigned.
- For non-campus personnel, it's important to see the campus vantage points in order to be a resource for them.
- Praise for a great blend of statewide initiatives and localized matters.

Concurrently, the Design Team members will share the draft with their respective constituent groups to gather feedback prior to the second reading, and Vice Chancellor Vega La Serna requested that feedback be submitted right away.

The Strategic Plan will return to DCC for a second reading at the April 27, 2026 meeting and will be presented to the Board in the fall.

Budget Review: John Parker, Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services, introduced the budget discussion and echoed the theme of communication, as noted by Vice Chancellor Vega La Serna, as it relates to the budget and introduced Erika Almaraz, Executive Director, Fiscal Affairs, who presented information on the District's fiscal position which highlighted the following:

Prior Year Budget Update

- Typically, districts receive their General Apportionment recalculation from the State Chancellor the following year in February.
- Prior year recalculation was issued on February 19, 2026. No deficit factor was included.
- No revenue adjustment related to prior year will be necessary in the current year.

Current Year Budget Update

- District reported 32,780.03 FTES at P1, only 60.37 FTES below its target.
- Campuses improved across various Student Success and Supplemental Allocation metrics (30% of the SCFF).
- Net effect is a projected \$3.3 million in additional earned SCFF revenue.
- The first Principal Apportionment Report issued February 19, 2026 includes a 3.04% deficit factor which equates to \$8.2 million for the District. If a deficit factor is included in the Second Principal Apportionment Report, it would impact the contingent off-schedule payment and on-schedule increase in 2026-27 for collective bargaining groups.
- As the focus has been on growing enrollments, \$13.6 million in additional expense was invested in adjunct and overload this year.
- Funding to come from a combination of additional earned SCFF revenues, savings from vacant positions, and other campus funds.
- Expected to be out of hold harmless this year.
- Early projection shows District as a whole may end the year with a modest surplus, but at the campus level, there may be deficits that could require backfilling from prior year carryover funds.
- All budget centers continue to monitor budgets closely.

Next Year Budget Assumptions

- Revenue Assumptions: SCFF revenue include a proposed 2.41% cost of living adjustment, 2025-26 P1 FTES, 2024-25 headcount data for Supplemental and Student Success allocations. Other Revenues includes state and local revenues based on 2025-26 and self-supporting revenues based on 2025-26. Total Estimated Revenue = \$306.17 million.

- Expense Assumptions: Using 2025-2026 Position Control, adjusted for regular step and column increase, salary increase of 2.97% (includes 0.25% known, plus 2.72% contingency), PERS decreased from 26.81% (2025-26) to 26.40% (2026-27), STRS remains at 19.10%, health & welfare increase of 5% over prior year, and districtwide expenses of \$6.99 million. Total Estimated Expenses = \$300.48 million
- Not Currently Included: Estimated cost of the Job Family Study, required 2026-27 increase to Board Policy Reserve (will be included once all budgeted expenses are finalized), estimated one-time contingency payment in FY 2026-27, augmentation to Extended Day budgets based on 2025-26 projections, and estimated cost savings from vacant positions.

Economic Outlook

- Economists expect increasing fiscal stimulus from capital spending around artificial intelligence (AI) and federal fiscal policy. Continued output growth alongside weakening labor market and trade policy uncertainty is expected.
- In California, output and income growth have outpaced the nation but employment has lagged. Forecasters expect employment downturn to continue into early 2026. Housing continues to be an economic constraint.

Multi-Year Projections

Several four-year forecast scenarios were shared that factored 2025-26 FTES at P-1, FTES (both stagnant and with a decline), budgeted expenses based on 2025-26 actuals, adjusted for annual salary increases and pension costs, an increase in health and welfare costs of 5%, and estimated increases to non-personnel costs by the change in the Consumer Price Index, and the retiree benefit contribution is paid from the Irrevocable Trust. The various scenarios highlighted the budgetary impact across the four years that would result if there were no growth in FTES, FTES decline of 1%, and a 1% decline in FTES with no COLA beyond 2026-27.

FCMAT Fiscal Health Risk Analysis

- FCMAT assists TK-12 schools and community colleges to identify, prevent, and resolve financial, operational, and data management challenges with tools to help evaluate a district's fiscal health and risk of insolvency.
- A higher score points to a greater potential risk of insolvency or fiscal issues. A score of 40% or more = High Risk; a score of 25% to 39% = Moderate Risk; and a score of 24% or less = Less Risk
- The District's risk score was 18.2% based on the common risk indicators sections.

Benchmarking Fiscal Performance against other Community Colleges

- 72 districts in the California Community College System
- 34 districts earned growth revenue in 2024-25
- This year in December 2025 (before P1 reporting), the State Chancellor's Office projected: 21 districts would be funded based on SCFF, 33 districts would be funded based on Stability Protection (i.e., prior year earned revenue adjusted for COLA), and 18 districts would be funded based on Hold Harmless.

Board Policies and Strategic Directions

- Assure fiscal health and stability (BP 2200 Board Duties and Responsibilities)
- Maintain unrestricted general fund reserves of no less than two months of total general fund expenditures (BP 6250 Budget Management)

- Revenues accruing to the District in excess of amounts budgeted shall be added to the District's reserve for contingencies. They are available for appropriation only upon a resolution of the Board of Trustees. (BP 6250 Budget Management)
- The District will promote a shared vision of responsible stewardship of District resources through transparent and inclusive decision-making and integrated planning. (2020-2030 NOCCCD Strategic Directions)

Budget Process Major Principles – Established by the Council of Budget and Facilities

- Balance on-going expenditures with on-going revenues.
- Maintain board policy reserve for economic uncertainties.
- Maintain appropriate autonomy for each budget center to use resources in a manner that best addresses the budget center's needs. Budget center allocations are expected to align with the District's mission statement and link District strategic directions and District objectives to the resources needed to accomplish these institutional goals.

Fiscal Stability Plan

- Enrollment Management: Focusing on data-drive decision-making; enhancing reporting capabilities; stabilizing FTES but investing in growth area; maximizing Supplemental & Student Success metrics, enhancing cross-team collaboration, and Council of Budget & Facilities will review key efficiency metrics.
- Maintain Board Policy Reserve: Funds could be used in an economic downturn. Unrestricted general fund expenditures are \$25 million per month.
- Review of Resource Allocation Model: Incorporate fiscal stability at campus level.
- Monitor Cashflow and Budget-to-Actuals: Budget Officers meet at least monthly; the Council of Budget & Facilities meets monthly; and budget management training.
- Providing Multi-Year Projections for Proposed Increases to Compensation
- Continuous Exposure Monitoring: Construction and facilities maintenance; insurance limits (AB218 claims); and the OPEB Liability and Retiree Benefit Trust.

During the discussion, members stated the following:

- Requested clarification on the contingency payment.
- How common is it for deficit factors to materialize?
- It would be helpful to know how much the winter term costs in terms of overload expenses.
- When highlighting the \$13.6 million figure for adjunct and overload expenses, it is important context to note that the figure was more than was budgeted, not more than what was spent the previous year, and to also note that the budget changed from the year prior.
- Whether the Board understands that extended day includes everything not just overload.
- If the deficit factor is implemented, does the contingency payout become an IOU?
- Have we ever shown growth scenarios?
- Is the goal of the job family study to have it completed by the end of the fiscal year?

Chancellor Byron Cliff Breland noted that the District is moving in the right direction, but stated we have to be cautious because the District will run out of money if adjustments aren't made. He thanked Erika Almaraz for the presentation and asked members to continue bringing forward questions about deficits, reductions, efficiencies, etc. for clarification.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Digital Accessibility Compliance: At the February 23, 2026 DCC meeting, a presentation outlining the requirements for compliance with the new ADA Title II rule that requires all public entities to ensure that websites, mobile apps, instructional materials, and digital services meet the new standards by April 24, 2026 was presented. To ensure compliance, it was recommended that the District require mandatory accessibility training for faculty, staff, and administrators responsible for digital content; provide clear district-wide guidance aligned with WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards for Canvas, websites, documents, forms, and third-party tools; and allocate resources for remediation support, captioning, document accessibility, technology review, and ongoing compliance monitoring. In response to the discussion, the District explored participation in the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM) developed by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Accessibility Center.

Khaoi Mady reported on an initial meeting with the ACMM and provided an overview of the framework that is being developed to assist colleges, aligns with Vision 2030, meets proactive legal requirements, and allows for cross collaboration among districts throughout the State. Currently 37 districts are participating, and he recommended the District join the 2026-27 cohort which would include a site visit, assessment, and plan. He clarified that it is not an audit, only an assessment with results that would only be shared with the District, and would provide a roadmap. There is no initial cost, but there would be a necessary investment of time and other resources, and joining would provide free access to the State Chancellor's Office tools and a discounted rate for other tools. The assessment would include four visits (to the District and the campuses), and if the District joins, the visits would take place in November or December

Members inquired about who the visiting team would be comprised of, current efforts to move towards compliance, and voiced a faculty concern about their discipline and the use of symbols which they are having difficulty with. Chancellor Byron Clift Breland thanked Khaoi Mady, Amita Suhrid, and Erika Almaraz for their work and leadership on the compliance efforts.

POLICY

Revised Board Policies & Administrative Procedures – Review Cycle Revisions: The following BPs and APs were reviewed as part of the District's review cycle. The proposed revisions include recommendations by the CCLC Policy and Procedure Legal Updates Service. Additional revisions include minor grammar corrections in keeping with District practices.

- BP 3600, Auxiliary Organizations
- AP 3600, Auxiliary Organizations
- BP 3720, Computer and Electronic Communication Systems
- AP 3720, Computer and Electronic Communication Systems
- AP 3721, District Password Procedure
- AP 3722, District Data Security Standards for End Users
- BP 3740, Web Sites
- AP 3740, Web Sites
- AP 3750, Use of Copyrighted Material
- BP 3810, Claims Against the District
- AP 3810, Claims Against the District
- BP 3820, Gifts and Donations

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- BP 3900, Speech: Time, Place, and Manner
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During the discussion, BP 3720, AP 3720, AP 3721, and AP 3722 were pulled by Khaoi Mady to allow for review and updates by the District Technology Committee. Kai Stearns also pulled BP 3740, AP 3740, BP 3900, and AP 3900 for review by the communications teams.

There was unanimous consensus to approve the remaining revised Administrative Procedures and post them on the District website and forward the remaining revised Board Policies to the Board for their consideration.

New APs – Inclusive Restrooms and Inclusive Locker Room Facilities: DCC received a second reading of the proposals for administrative procedures regarding inclusive restrooms and inclusive locker room facilities to codify existing campus and District commitments. Ariel Gentalen, Fullerton College LGBTQIA2S+ Resource Program Special Projects Manager, and Jenelle Herman, Cypress College LGBTQIA2S+ Liaison, guided members through the proposed language in both policies.

During the discussion of the all-inclusive restrooms procedure, members inquired if it supplemented AB 1732, if the language related to renovations included facilities mandated by the Division of State Architects, if other districts have similar policies, if CCLC provides model policy language, if wheelchair accessibility should be included, and if providing period products at no cost is a legal requirement. It was also noted that the AP is an attempt to go beyond what is required by legislation in order to capture the culture of the District.

With regard to the all-inclusive locker facilities, members asked if the California Community College Athletic Association provides guidance, if only listing locker facilities was limiting since it doesn't address other spaces like dressing rooms in the theater department, and whether the intent is to have a separate room. Jenelle Herman clarified that the intent is not to minimize gendered spaces, but instead to create all gender spaces with increased level of space.

The Chancellor stated the draft procedures will be formatted and vetted by legal counsel before returning to the next DCC meeting.

New Drone Policy: Jay Seidel, Fullerton College Drone Technology Professor, introduced proposed language to set policy that establishes rules governing the operation, launch, landing, and use of drones and other Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) on or above Fullerton College and at college-sponsored events.

Members did not discuss the proposed policy and the Chancellor noted that it would be placed on a future DCC meeting agenda in order to gather feedback.

OTHER

Tentative May 18, 2026 DCC Meeting: Chancellor Byron Clift Breland confirmed that the May 18, 2026 meeting which had originally been marked as tentative will take place.

AI Taskforce: It was noted that a number of staff and faculty participate in an AI Taskforce that meets monthly and is developing a draft AI policy to address policies, practices, education, legal aspects and privacy concerns. The draft will be shared with the District Technology Committee (DTC) and then DCC.

Members expressed concern that it was a self-appointed group and not appointed by the academic senates or DTC. It was noted that DTC created a workgroup at its last meeting, and that newly formed group should have appointed representatives.

Next DCC Meeting: The next DCC meeting will take place on Monday, April 27, 2026 in Room 105 at the Anaheim Campus.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.