Napa Valley Community College District

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 29, 2007
9:00 a.m.  Public Session
Room 1340 McPherson Administration Building
Napa Valley College, Napa, California

AGENDA

1.0 CALL TO ORDER 9:00 a.m.
Michael Baldini called the meeting to order at 9:15, and the audience recited the pledge of allegiance.

2.0 Presentation on Voter Trends and Climate Related to Facilities Bonds in California Community Colleges
Jared Boigon, bond marketing strategist from the firm of Terris, Barnes, and Walters, made a presentation on voter trends and climate related to a potential future bond measure. He confirmed the assessment he made at the April 14, 2007 board meeting—that the February 5, 2008 election would be the most advantageous election for a potential bond measure. He said there would be positive information about community colleges circulating on behalf of the Community College Initiative that will be on the February ballot. Heavy advertising/mailers for the November, 2008 presidential election would overwhelm the District’s message. The ballot would also be long, with a facilities bond measure at the end. The February election would be the most advantageous for a potential bond.

Brenda Knight reported on her recent experience at the CCCT conference in San Diego related to passing a successful bond. If the board moves forward with a bond, she stressed the importance of board members remaining focused, positive, and willing to work hard for sixty days prior to the election. Michael Baldini thanked her for her contribution and also thanked everyone for attending the day’s study session.

3.0 Review of Financial Options for Potential Future Bond
Scott Miller, Vice President, Business and Finance, presented a brief update on the financial options regarding a potential future bond that were discussed at the April 14, 2007 Special Meeting. He reviewed that a tax extension would qualify the college for significantly less than a new bond measure. Jared Boigon offered that the fundamental issue for voters is not the amount of a potential bond, but why it is necessary. He noted that the college has evolved rapidly over the last five years, is a major resource in the community, and a potential future bond would most effectively be justified on the basis of campus needs.

4.0 Review of Potential Future Projects and Their Scope Descriptions
Dan TerAvest, Director of Campus Planning and Construction, made a presentation related to potential future facilities projects, based on the Facilities Master Plan Project Scope Descriptions that the board received at its September 9, 2007 meeting. The board reviewed the categories of projects (new buildings, modernizations, and infrastructure) and their scope descriptions.
The board discussed new and used the Facilities Master Plan worksheet to provide direction regarding potential projects. Dan TerAvest explained that we have completed a great deal of infrastructure work and are now deep into new construction, with unfunded projects at the bottom of the chart. The board reviewed the project list. Dr. McCarthy said that any project the board as a whole was not comfortable with would be removed from the project list.

Board members expressed their general support for a future bond as a way to make Napa Valley College the best instructional facility possible for students and the community. They also voiced a preference for the February 5, 2008 election for a potential bond. However, a final decision will not be made until early November. If the board should decide at that time to go out for a bond, they would approve a resolution ordering an election during the first week of November. Preparing for the future was deemed the strongest argument in support of a potential bond.

The board also discussed the importance of providing for the community a clearer understanding of what is being done on campus, particularly regarding bond projects. Several board members said they are getting many more questions about projects now that construction is visible from the road. Everyone also agreed that the college is here to serve the community and its residents, and those educational needs should drive all the board’s decisions.

5.0 Adjournment
Board president Michael Baldini adjourned the meeting in memory of Brian Fletcher, a Napa Valley College ADN student.