



**Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
(Wednesday, April 15, 2026)
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present: Tom Minder (Chair), Christine Anderson, Amanda Augustine, Norma Castaneda, Bill Chunowitz, Elisabeth Dick, Barbara Foster Monachino, Ramraghi Fuller, Barbara Fromm, Jim Greene, Gib Hentschke, Paul Hinkes, Joan Lamb, Dale Landon, Jaishri Mehta, Phillip Niblo, Tony Ogden, Diane Rubin, Jane Saltonstall, Alvin J. Schonfeld, Shari Stewart, Jenell VanDenBos, Matt Walding, Scott White

Voting Members Absent: Carol Fragen, Ed Gubman

Non-Voting Members Present: Catherine Abbott, Juan Falcon, Donna Greene (representing Corbyn Wild), Neil Lingle, Val Martinez-Garcia, Chip West

Non-Voting Members Absent: Joel Kinnamon,

Guests: Joy Cowden, Eve Fromberg-Edelstein, Amanda Phillips, Terri Wilson

Recorder: *Eve-Marie Dehondt*

2. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The Board Minutes from February 18, 2026 were approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approve IRS 990 Forms

Diane Rubin moved to approve the IRS 990 Forms. Ramraghi Fuller seconded. Motion carried.

5.2 Approve the 2026-27 Slate of Officers

Alvin Schonfeld moved to approve the 2026-27 Slate of Officers. Bill Chunowitz seconded. The list of officers are as follows:

- **Tom Minder** – Chair
- **Barbara Foster-Monachino** – Chair Elect
- **Diane Rubin** – Past Chair
- **Bill Chunowitz** – Co-Past Chair
- **Ed Gubman** – Treasurer
- **Shari Stewart** - Secretary

Motion carried.

6. REPORT ITEMS

6.1 Superintendent/President Report - Val Martinez Garcia.

Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia welcomed and expressed gratitude for the leadership of the members of the Executive Cabinet who were present: Vice-President of Student Services, Amanda Phillips, Vice-President of Instruction, Joy Cowden, Vice-President of Human Resources, Terri Wilson, Vice-President of Administrative Services, Chip West and Executive Director Neil Lingle.

He informed the Board that the Commencement Ceremony is scheduled on May 18 at the Acrisure Arena and thanked the Foundation Board for their ongoing support with the caps and gowns for the ceremony. He assured that moving forward, the College will work closely with Acrisure to secure a more appropriate date for the students, even though this event remains a very exciting time for the students.

He then reported that College of the Desert is on track to exceed its goal of 10,600 FTES, and is working on expanding dual enrollment opportunities with local K-12 districts, including a potential middle college experience with Palm Springs Unified. He also reported on the visit from the State Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and thanked Chairperson Amanda Augustine for serving on the panel. Finally, he informed the Board that the Athletic field will be completed by August 29, 2026 and that the Stadium is expected to be completed by the end of October 2026.

6.2 Board Chair Report – Tom Minder

Board Chair Tom Minder recognized Jane Saltonstall for her 15 years of service in the Board, as she announced her resignation from the Board of Directors. Carol Fragen will also be resigning from the Board. He then read a letter from a student who received Student Emergency funds and shared his intention of making an ask for a fundraising towards the Student Emergency Funds, during the President's Circle Reception scheduled right after the Board meeting that day.

6.3 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott

Executive Director Catherine Abbott recognized and thanked Jane Saltonstall for her 15 years of service on the Board. She thanked the Foundation Staff for their dedication and passion ensuring the students have their needs fulfilled. She honored Tom Minder for his leadership over the past year, and commended President Val Martinez-Garcia for his inspiring direction in seeking funding for PLEDGE for All. She finally thanked the Foundation Board for their sound decision-making and willingness to embrace the collective voice of the Board.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Presentation and 1st read of the 2026-2027 Operating Budget

Kirstien Renna presented the 1st read of the 2026-27 Operating Budget and answered a few questions from Board members.

7.2 The Importance of President's Circle

Amanda McCarthy presented on the importance of President's Circle and answered a few questions from Board members.

7.3 Development Team - Year-End Presentation

This item was tabled due to time constraint.

7.4 Legacy Leaders Acknowledgement

This item was tabled due to time constraint.

7.5 Committee Chair Recognition

This item was tabled due to time constraint.

8. SPECIAL ITEM

8.1 Swearing in of Officers – Eve Fromberg-Edelstein

The Board meeting included a formal swearing-in ceremony for new executive committee members for 2026-27, led by Eve Fromberg-Edelstein. The new members are as follows.

- **Tom Minder** – Chair
- **Barbara Foster Monachino** – Chair-Elect
- **Diane Rubin** – Past Chair
- **Bill Chunowitz** – Co-Past Chair
- **Shari Stewart** – Secretary & Director of Resource Development & Stewardship
- **Joan Lamb** – Director of Recognition & Outreach Committee Tony Ogden – Director of Programs & Campus Connections Liz Dick – Director of Operations & Governance Committee
- **Ed Gubman** – Treasurer
- **Barbara Fromm** – Parliamentarian
- **Joel Kinnamon** – Board of Trustees Liaison
- **Val Martinez-Garcia** – College Superintendent/ President Chip West – VP of Administrative Services
- **Catherine Abbott** – Executive Director

Eve Fromberg-Edelstein then swore-in the Board Officers for 2026-27 as follows:

- **Tom Minder** – Chair
- **Barbara Foster-Monachino** – Chair Elect
- **Diane Rubin** – Past Chair
- **Bill Chunowitz** – Co-Past Chair
- **Ed Gubman** – Treasurer
- **Shari Stewart** - Secretary

9. ADJOURNMENT

9.1 Next Meeting: May 14, 2026 - Palm Desert Campus - Cravens Student Services Center Multipurpose Room

9.2 Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44PM and a reception took place at the Desert Willow Golf Resort, where a mission moment from Students from the Dreamers Research Center took place.