

**MONTEREY PENINSULA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING**

Sam Karas Room
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, California 93940

4:00 p.m. – Open Session

Friday
November 30, 2007

MINUTES

Mr. R. Lynn Davis, Chair of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Phillips. Mr. Davis declared a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. R. Lynn Davis
Mr. Charles H. Page
Dr. Loren Steck
Dr. Jim Tunney
Ms. Eleanor Morrice, Student Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Douglas R. Garrison, Superintendent/President
Mr. Carsbia Anderson, Vice President for Student Services
Mr. Michael Gilmartin, Dean of Instruction, Occupational &
Economical Development
Dr. John Gonzalez, Vice President for Academic Services
Ms. Barbara Lee, Associate Dean, Human Resources
Dr. Susan Steele, Interim Dean of Instruction, Liberal Arts
Mr. Richard Montori, Public Information Officer
Ms. Vicki Nakamura, Assistant to the President
Ms. Victoria Phillips, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/
President and the Governing Board
Mr. Carl Pohlhammer, Political Science
Dr. Ron Rinehart, Physical Science Laboratory Specialist

GUESTS: Mr. Dan Albert
Mr. Edward W. Armstrong
Ms. Kathryn Badon
Dr. Diane Cordero de Noriega
Mr. Alvin Edwards
Mr. Mel Mason
Mr. James Miller

Dr. Kathrina Ognyanovich
Ms. Jan Penney
Mr. Carlos Ramos
Mr. Emerson Reyes
Ms. Helen Rucker
Ms. Michele Welsh
Mr. William Zeigler

Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence for Supervisor Jerry Smith. He said that many of us attended the service today for Jerry and it was huge. He asked that we remember Jerry and think of his family at this difficult time.

Mr. Davis said he and the rest of the Trustees would like to voice their comments first on the topic for the day and then open it up to the audience for their comments. He and the Trustees wanted to be allowed to set the stage for the audience so the audience would know their thinking on the subject. He reported that next Wednesday, December 5th, the County School Board has set an agenda reversing their June 20, 2007 decision (7-0) to not initiate the establishment of a five district area for MPC. Today's meeting is a discussion by the MPC Governing Board on how to proceed on the districting issue. With that background, he opened it up to the Trustees for their comments.

Special Business

DISCUSSING DISTRICTING ISSUES

INFORMATION

Mr. Charles Page was the first to address the issue and stated that he was the Governing Board's representative to the Steering Committee. He reported that while it was recommended that we go to a 5 district area, there were mixed feelings expressed by the committee members. Many felt that MPC should remain "at large" because of the problems observed at other districts with trustee areas. Mr. Page recommended putting the issue on the November 2008 ballot and letting the voters decide. He stated that if it goes on the November 2008 ballot, it will draw the most voters because of the presidential election.

Dr. Jim Tunney said he had also given this issue a lot of time and consideration. He felt the November 2008 election is the best time to place it on the ballot because of the presidential election and he favored letting the electorate decide the issue. To make a special election would cost the district a lot of money and would most likely garner a low voter turn out.

Dr. Loren Steck said this issue has been a great distraction for a long time. The best solution at present is to take it to an election; preferably the November 2008 election because of the high voter turnout. It is going to cost the District a significant amount of money to do it, but less money than in June.

Mr. Lynn Davis said he agreed with the rest of the Board. I think the District has run well for sixty years without district trustee area elections. People want someone from their community to represent them, but when I look at other districts...Hartnell College, for instance, it doesn't seem

to be working. That College seems to have significant problems. MPC has been looking at this issue for three years now. I feel we need to take it to the voters and let them decide.

Mr. Davis then opened it up to the audience for their comments.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Mel Mason was the first to speak. He said, “Let’s take it to the voters and let them decide. Twenty-seven point four percent (27.4%) came out to vote, but for the presidential election eighty-one percent (81%) of the County voters came out to vote. He asked that the pre-clearance be completed before the election so that the District will have a full year to bring forward candidates for the district’s that are involved. I am also in favor of asking the County Committee with moving forward.

Dr. Tunney asked Dr. Garrison, “What is the cost of a Special Election verses the cost of a regular election?” Dr. Garrison stated that the approximate cost of the November 2008 election to the College would be \$92,000. The approximate cost of a June 2008, would be \$179,000. The approximate cost of a Special Election would be \$600,000. Dr. Tunney asked where would these funds come from. Dr. Garrison replied from the College’s Reserve funds.

Student Trustee Eleanor Morrice reported that during Hartnell College’s special election they had a turnout of 5%. She said she favored an at-large district and she favored holding the election in November 2008 as it cost the least and had the most voter turn out.

Mr. Carlos Noriega asked the Trustees to listen to the people. He stated that districting does work well. He also stated that “You didn’t win; we lost because we didn’t get the voters out to vote. I assure you that we are committed to working on getting the voters out this next election.

Mr. Mel Mason, Chair of the Citizens Committee for Re-Districting, said we are still in the process of holding the school district to the authority in Education Code 1519. We still would like the County Commission to institute the districting issue on its own. We are not in favor of going to the November 2008 election. There is not a consensus in our organization of going to the November 2008.

Dr. Kathrina Ognyanovich stated that the District has been very cooperative and would like to see the District continue to be and establish a five district area.

Mr. Carlos Ramos, President of LULAC, stated that there is a lack of outreach into the community by the MPC Board. This issue will not go away. The community feels there is a lack of understanding by the Trustees.

Dr. Ron Rinehart, an employee of MPC, but speaking for himself, stated that voter turnout was depressing and the local media coverage about the District Trustee election was abysmal. He said as long as voter turnout is low and media coverage is spotty, he doesn’t think things will ever change.

Mr. Carl Pohlhammer stated that he is supporting district area trustees and said elections are good things. He commended the Board for advocating an election. He asked local organizations to invite him to their meetings and he would accept, when possible.

Mr. Alvin Edwards congratulated Mr. Pohlhammer and the incumbents for their re-election to the Governing Board. He also encouraged them to take action today and save the College money by establishing five area trustee districts.

Mr. Dan Albert, former Mayor of Monterey, said that this is a big issue and that it is an issue that should be taken to the voters. He said, "I think you are headed in the right direction." He also offered his congratulations to those who were victorious in their election to the MPC Governing Board. To those who ran who weren't elected, he said, "It takes courage to run for office and I commend all who ran."

Board Chair Lynn Davis said that we all want to do what is best for the College, and we must keep this in mind and go out of this room arm in arm.

It was moved by Dr. Loren Steck, and seconded by Mr. Charles Page, and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to consider an action item on MPCCD Districting.

It was moved by Mr. Page, and seconded by Dr. Tunney, and unanimously approved of the intent of the MPC Trustees to request the County Committee on School Districting to place the question of Trustee Election by Districts, per the 5-District model developed by Dr. Jeanne Gobalet, on the November 2008 General Election, specific language to be considered at the December 7, 2007 Board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas R. Garrison, Ed.D.
Secretary to the Board