



Adopted Minutes

Board of Directors

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Meeting 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

SRJC Foundation 707 Elliott Avenue

Board of Directors: Suzy Marzalek – Chair, Troy Sanderson – Vice-Chair, Kate Jolley – Treasurer, Scott Bartley, Maggie Fishman, Doug Garrison, Brian Reeves, Kaya Clark, Shirley Ward, Ozzy Jimenez, Francisco Lopez, Marion Walker

Absent: Dr. Angélica Garcia – Secretary, Carolina Spence, Evan Hershey

Staff: Sarah Laggos, Katie Greenwald, Elizabeth Macias Lopez, Stephanie Dirks

Guests: Lauren Coburn

1) Call to order | Land Acknowledgment – Suzy Marzalek

The land acknowledgement was read and the meeting was called to order at 4 pm

Suzy Marzalek welcomed and introduced Kaya Clark, the new Student Director for the SRJC Foundation.

2) Public Comment – Suzy Marzalek

A member of the public was present and provided commentary regarding the Doyle Scholarship, including use of funds and risks. The community member also suggested board members recommend adding additional context to the audit report.

3) SRJC President's Update – Kate Jolley for Dr. Angélica Garcia

Dr. Garcia would like to say thank you for the planning of the President's Address. The District is now creating an implementation strategy for the Strategic Plan. Enrollment is up, including at the Petaluma campus.

4) Bond Update – Kate Jolley

The District is exploring the possibility of a bond measure for 2026. Measure H has all been allocated and nearly fully expended. The District has been doing a facilities assessment. Identified a \$1,75B need. There is no local or state funding available for capital needs from the state or other ongoing funding streams. Ongoing scheduled maintenance allocations have been removed. With five sites and 107-year-old infrastructure, we need more financial support for deferred maintenance. A feasibility poll was completed with the community in August, and the Board of Trustees will review the results in the October meeting.

There are three bond structure options. One option is an extension of the existing taxes.

Measure A is ending in 2030. Measure H is ending in 2042. We are looking at a general obligation bond. Accountability is built in through the audits.

The Bond extends what's currently happening and will have been paid off, it's not an additional cost.

The feasibility study is testing various amounts. \$800M is the cap. Within the poll testing, we're seeing if there are implications for different asks.

Measure A was \$251K. Measure H was \$410K. The District will extend the term of the debt. The district has a facilities planning process through 2030 following the 2014 bond.

The Bond Measure will be for November 2026. The state has been pushing for a locally funded deferred funding for California Community Colleges (CCCs). Unrestricted general funding must be spent in the classroom. Our hands are tied in many ways in how we're funded.

The bond oversight committee has been exemplary. Kate and team have done an amazing job at getting the maximum impact out of limited dollars.

Periodically, the state budget allows for matching dollars. If we are able to get a bond, we could apply for future matching. The state periodically provides for this, but only for CCCs that have support from the community through passing a bond. The need builds behind available dollars.

As part of the assessment, we know the areas of need. In order to allocate matching funds, you have to go through an extensive process and spend thousands of dollars, so that will be done after the bond is passed.

5) Board Discussion: Bond – Suzy Marzalek

What are we hearing in the community?

One board member discussed that in the community, there is a push back against higher education.

There is conflation of Sonoma State University financial issues and assumptions about SRJC. This is a distinction that we need to make very clear.

"Billion" is a big number that can sound scary. Can any part of this include housing? We have within current contracts a P3 structure. This includes requirements around occupancy rates and structure. From a general obligation bond that's something we'll look into because housing is a revenue generator. Napa has had an issue with housing. Student housing there is only one third of the way full.

State colleges could be in trouble with growth of community colleges.

One board member mentioned that they've heard people in the community talking about it being an ask for more money. Construction companies are asking about project labor agreements. From a construction standpoint, bond money means jobs. The bond measure should have strong support from the construction companies.

What else will be on the ballot? It's possible the Smart Train will be on the ballot at this time. A lot of bonds appear on property tax bills from so many districts. There is a potential fatigue issue and dollar figure issue. There is also residual from Measure H. There is a shelf life on a bond that doesn't have to do with dollars or facility needs.

Education around the measure will be important. We'll need to tell good stories about the positives from Measure H.

Measure H was from 2014. We'll want to talk about the trades. This is an important message. We're here so people can find work and make a living. That will resonate more with the public.

If the Bond goes forward, what is the role of the Foundation to support it? If it does not go forward, what is the role of this Foundation?

If the District does decide to pursue the bond, the Foundation board has the opportunity to provide support for this from the operating budget. We can provide \$175K to fund the campaign. Then, we individually take time off to support the campaign. We cannot support this as employees. On our own time, we can raise funds to support the campaign as individuals. Board members will be asked to fundraise to support the bond and be ambassadors.

Two phases: education campaign ahead of time; and campaign activity to encourage voting.

6) Navigating Financial Aid in Changing Times – Lauren Coburn

FAFSA qualifies students for federal and state financial aid. Undocumented students with AB540 can complete the California Dream Act application.

All students are encouraged to complete the application annually. The Financial Aid office receives the application and uses a government formula. SRJC's commitment is to ensure students are being considered for as much funding as possible.

There are several forms of aid:

- Doyle scholarship
- College Promise grant
- Federal aid
- State aid
- Foundation scholarships

Federal options include Pell Grant (\$7,395/year), supplemental education opportunity grant, federal work study and student loans.

State options include SRJC for Free/California College Promise Grant, Cal Grant/Student Success Completion Grant (up to \$9650).

Institutional include the Doyle Scholarship (\$1,700max) and Foundation scholarships, which vary.

These awards are all stackable.

Board members are asked to join the Financial Aid Awareness event on Valentines Day in the future.

What do we do with this information? We get an SAI, student aid index, which demonstrates the Student's financial strength and their ability to pay. Cost of attendance, minus SAI, and the difference tells us the financial need.

In addition to Student Financial Services, offices include Basic Needs, EOPS, Ignite, MESA and more. Some of these departments have their own funding available.

Last year in Title 4 funds, we disbursed more than \$44M to students, not including scholarships. This was the most dispersed in some time.

52% pf students had a zero SAI. 8% of the students had their need fully met. 44% of all students had half of financial need met. 0.6% of all of our students had their need fully met.

We are in a critical time of change. In 24/25, there was a FAFSA simplification process that did not simplify the application. Many students with parents who are undocumented did not apply. This created a lot of mistrust for students. The CalGrant is going through an adjustment process. Graduate student loans are gone. We are in the process of participating in two state pilot programs, for previously incarcerated and foster students. This is at high risk of not being renewed. We have relied heavily on grants for housing insecure students. This has been millions in support and is not likely to continue.

Department of Ed is at risk. Types of aid and the way it's awarded can change. With DEI cuts, our marginalized students are the first to suffer.

Federal Govt is looking at reduction of Pell Grants. We're looking at a massive reduction in Pell Grants to students.

7) Philanthropic Plan – Sarah Laggos

This planning process will take 6 – 9 mos. It shows how we will support the District's strategic plan. Now, the District is working through its implementation plan. We have a large

role to play in this. The Foundation is the connection for the community. We provide resources so the District can help meet its goals.

A work group will develop a response to the District's strategic plan. This will inform us of how we can use philanthropy to help advance the District's strategic plan. The first is institutional alignment. We'll look at our mission, values, vision and CCF principles. Then we'll develop funding priorities after conversations with our community. We're inviting them to talk with us and help us craft how we can have the most impact. We'll look at where opportunities are and where we have gaps. We'll look at organizational capacity, staffing, tools, technology and how we'll implement. This will include board engagement and governance.

Board governance and culture: we're introducing discussion and detailed information in written reports. We'll create metrics to understand where we've met goals.

The goal is to have a solid plan in March or May. We're looking to roll it out quickly after that.

There was a comment about the college needing to be involved more in advocacy issues. Most colleges are guilty of being knowledgeable about themselves and don't understand that the college doesn't have that understanding. Community needs more of an understanding of funding, etc.

We're diving into Community Roundtables right away. We're organizing around District trustee areas. The Board of Trustees will be asked to help. We'll look to meet with community leaders, education leaders and government officials in this area. October is when the Sonoma Valley roundtable will take place. Brian Reeves is helping to identify and bring in who we want to educate. This will include a presentation by SRJC for 45 minutes, and a one hour discussion tied to each area of strategic plan. Discussion topics and feedback will be shared with the implementation team. Roseland roundtable will happen in November, North County will happen in January, followed by Rohnert Park, Petaluma, etc.

8) FY26 Conflict of Interest Policy – Suzy Marzalek

9) Written Reports, Questions / Comments

10) Approval of March and May Minutes – Suzy Marzalek

The March 2025 and May 2025 meeting minutes were provided in advance and approved. All in favor. MSP.

11) Foundation Business

a) FY25 Operating Surplus – Sarah Laggos

- Vote to apply ~\$200K to the Opportunity Fund; 50% of surplus. Scott Barley motioned, Troy Sanderson seconded. All in favor. MSP.

b) FY26 Foundation Proposed Budget – Sarah Laggos

- Vote to approve the proposed budget. Marion Walker motioned, Scott Barley seconded. All in favor. MSP.

c) Corporate Resolution for Signing Authority – Suzy Marzalek

- Vote on the corporate resolution for signing authority to add Sarah Laggos – Marion Walker motioned, Francisco Lopez seconded. All in favor. MSP
- d) Add Teresa Norton to Board Emeritus – Suzy Marzalek
 - Vote to add Teresa Norton to the board emeritus. Suzy Marzalek motioned, Scott Barley seconded. All in favor. MSP

12) FY26 Conflict of Policy – Sarah Laggos

Conflict of interest policy agreements were distributed and signed by the board.

13) Written Reports, Questions/Comments – Suzy Marzalek

Marion Walker asked that the comments made by the community member at the beginning of the meeting are addressed at an upcoming board meeting.

14) Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm

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