

**MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A special meeting of the Mendocino-Lake Community College District Board of Trustees was convened on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 using ZOOM remote meeting technology.

**GENERAL MATTERS**

*Call to Order*                      Trustee Pinoli, Board President, called the special meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

<i>Board Members</i>	President	Robert Jason Pinoli	present
	Vice President	Marie L. Myers	present
	Clerk	Ed Nickerman	present
	Trustee	Xochilt Martinez	present
	Trustee	John Tomkins	present
	Trustee	TeMashio Anderson	present
	Trustee	Noel O’Neill	present
	Student Trustee	vacant	

*Secretary*                      Timothy Karas, Superintendent/President

*Support Staff*                      Mary Lamb, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President

*Staff Representatives*              Eileen Cichocki, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services (present)  
Debra Polak, Vice President of Academic Affairs (present)  
Ulises Velasco, Vice President of Student Services (present)  
Nicole Marin, Director of Human Resources (present)

<i>Constituent Representatives</i>	Academic Senate	Catherine Indermill, President (present)
	Classified Senate	Mayra Sanchez, President (absent)
	Management Team	Janelle Bird, President (present)

*Agenda Approval*                      M/S (Myers/Nickerman) to approve the agenda as presented. The matter was approved with the following vote:

Ayes	Anderson, Myers, Martinez, Nickerman, O’Neill, Tomkins and Pinoli
Noes	None
Abstentions	None
Absent	None

*Public Comments*                      • There were no comments from the public.

**Joint Meeting with the Board of Trustees and the Mendocino College Foundation Board**

*Discussion*                      Board President Pinoli began the conversation by thanking the Foundation for their continued work for the betterment of the students of the college. He then

opened the discussion for comments from Foundation President Dow and other Foundation Board members.

Tom Dow, Foundation Board President addressed the joint meeting where he thanked Superintendent/President for his work with the Foundation. He also mentioned the retirement of the Executive Director and noted they are currently reviewing the position and taking a deliberate pause to review the needs of the college and its students. With this in mind the Foundation board is looking to determine what the needs of the college will be as we move forward.

Jerry Chaney, Scholarship Committee Chair, also mentioned how fortunate the Foundation board is to have Eliza Fields on their team. His comments were echoed by Tom Dow, Foundation Board President.

Marilyn Harden, Foundation Immediate Past President, echoed Tom Dow and Trustee Pinoli's comments and the positive relationship between the Foundation Board and the College Board of Trustees.

Linda Chapman, Foundation Vice President, stated she is very pleased to see the collaboration between the college and the Foundation.

Jerry Chaney, Scholarship Committee Chair, echoed Dow's comments and scholarship applications are happening as we speak which is a lot of work. He stated he appreciates the college leadership and the goal of student success.

Mark DeMeulenaere, Finance Committee Chair reiterated his appreciation for this joint collaboration. He also expressed his appreciation for both Eliza Fields and Joe Atherton and their work to assist our students.

Tom Herman, Land Committee Chair, echoed he appreciates the strong relationship between Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees.

Tod Kong, Foundation Board member, is looking forward to a great year ahead and the Year of the Ox. He treasures his work with the Foundation and doing great things for our students. He added he misses seeing everyone and looks forward to the time we can all work together in person again.

Barbara Rice, Foundation Board member, expressed her concern regarding the length of time it will take replace the Executive Director of the Foundation. Superintendent/President Karas addressed her concern and explained the ad-hoc committee is currently working to review the job description for the position and the process will be completed as timely as possible once a final job description has been developed and approved.

Travis Scott, Special Events Committee Chair, stated he looks forward to collaborating with the College and the Foundation when we once again return to an open environment.

Irma Turner, Foundation Board member and liaison with the Art Gallery stated the scholarships and other support the Foundation provides to our students has been exacerbated by the current COVID-19 situation which has put the students in our area presenting with even greater need.

Channing Cornell, Governance Committee Chair, stated he appreciates working with the Trustees especially now as he feels this is going to be yet another tough year.

Trustee Pinoli asked the Administration and constituent group leaders for any other comments.

Superintendent/President Karas expressed his and the district's appreciation for the Foundation's work for the betterment of our students. Together we can do amazing things for our students.

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Cichocki conveyed her thanks to all the board members as she interacts with both groups. She reminded everyone to continue to share information between the two organizations and to keep our mission moving forward.

Vice President Velasco expressed this thanks to the Foundation for all the support they provide to our students which was also occurring prior to the current COVID-19 situation.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Polak added evidence of the work of the Foundation is present in so many areas of our campus such as the Nursing Program, the sign at the end of Hensley Creek Road, etc. and we are very appreciative of all your work.

Academic Senate President Indermill stated she appreciated everyone's comments regarding working together in the best interest of our students. In light of the changing college environment, she expressed her hope that the faculty can work with the Foundation in the near future to develop new strategies for scholarship distribution.

Management Team President Bird echoed how much the Management Team looks forward to working with everyone and continuing their commitment to providing student scholarships.

Trustee Anderson stated it is an honor to have everyone here together and expressed his thanks to the Foundation for creating a central place for the community and their giving. The impact of the many supported projects including the Food Pantry have had a huge impact in the community.

Trustee Martinez said she has enjoyed seeing and hearing everyone's comfort level and is thankful for the Foundation's passion and dedication to the college and our students.

Trustee Myers expressed her thanks and support of the Foundation and the Board of Trustees are all here to help in any way they can.

Trustee Nickerman stated he is thrilled to have so many people from the Foundation in attendance.

Trustee O'Neill expressed his thanks for the many programs the Foundation supports and all they do for the college.

Trustee Tomkins expressed his thanks to the Foundation and their years of service to the college. The Foundation is a strong advocate that works on behalf of the college in our many communities.

Trustee Pinoli he reminded everyone we invited a member of the Foundation to participate in the recent selection of the college Superintendent/President. He added we are here and we are not going anywhere so if something is needed, please let us know. The Board fully supports having these joint meetings but would like to hear from the Foundation regarding a timeframe of how often they should be held.

Foundation President Dow stated the Foundation would like to continue to have these meetings twice a year. It is great to see how many people are behind the scenes working on behalf of our students and added the Foundation will be working with the college regarding wraparound services and any other support the college needs.

Trustee Pinoli informed the group we will look at holding the next joint meeting in the early fall as we begin the fall semester.

Foundation Board Member Turner shared that the enrollment process has improved 100% this semester and thanks those responsible for the changes.

Trustee Tomkins then asked about what the Foundation plan is for the land holdings and where it is located. Land Committee Chair Herman informed everyone present there are 200-acres immediately west of the campus due west from the softball diamond and another 160-acre piece which adjoins Orr Springs Road. Those properties were acquired for additional and/or emergency access to Orr Springs Road from the college main campus.

### *Adjournment*

With agenda business concluded, Board President Pinoli declared the meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Submitted by:  
Timothy Karas, Superintendent/President  
Secretary, Board of Trustees