

# **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES\***

## **Board of Trustees Coast Community College District**

**Via Telephone**

**Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Coast Community College District was held on August 24, 2021 via telephone.

### **1.00 Preliminary Matters**

#### **1.01 Call to Order**

Board President Moreno called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

#### **1.02 Roll Call**

Trustees Present: Trustees Grant, Hornbuckle, Moreno, Patterson, Prinsky and  
Student Trustee Sahachaisere

Trustees Absent: None

#### **1.03 Opportunity for Public Comment**

Chandler Herrera and Bryce Lindsey submitted comments to the Board (attached).

### **2.00 Resolutions**

#### **2.01 Adoption of Resolution #21-45 to Develop and Disseminate Districtwide Mandated Vaccination and Testing Protocols**

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Hornbuckle, the Board voted to adopt Resolution #21-45 of the Board of Trustees of the Coast Community College District to Develop and Disseminate Districtwide Mandated Vaccination and Testing Protocols.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes:	Trustees Grant, Hornbuckle, Moreno, Patterson, Prinsky and Sahachaisere
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

### 3.00 Close of Meeting

### 3.01 Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Moreno, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:49 p.m. in memory of Howard Nicholson.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes:	Trustees Grant, Hornbuckle, Moreno, Patterson, Prinsky and Sahachaisere
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

  
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Jane Burton  
Secretary of the Board

*The Student Trustee of the Coast Community College District is provided with an advisory vote to the Board of Trustees, per Board Policy 2015. As such, the Student Trustee's votes recorded within these minutes are advisory only in nature and are not counted in the final outcome of each action taken by the Board. Additionally, per Board Policy 2015, the Student Trustee does not participate in Closed Session meetings of the Board, therefore, votes reported from Closed Session will not include a reference to the Student Trustee.*

*Public Comment*

Good afternoon Board of Trustees,

My name is Chandler Herrera, and I am a student at Orange Coast College. I have proudly attended this university since 2016. I have earned an associates degree and I am currently going into my second year as a part of the Allied Health Program to be an Assistant to a Speech Pathologist.

I know what you all may be thinking; why has it taken so long for me to leave OCC? During the 2019-2020 school year, I made one of the most difficult decisions in my life; I was given the choice to become a foster mom to my 6 month old niece. For those of you who aren't familiar with the foster system, the goal of placing children who are entered into the system is to put them with family. In this case, that family member was me.

I was supposed to start my 2 year certificate program in 2019 and graduate with my classmates in 2021 but, I put my life and education on hold to help raise and support her. Looking back, If I had not been a foster mom I would not be in this difficult situation with the vaccine mandate. I still would not change any of my actions if I could because if I chose myself over my niece she would most likely still be in the system to this day.

Mary L. Hornbuckle and Lorraine Prinsky, you have both had an impact on my life before my time at OCC. Growing up, I was actively a part of Girls Scout's. Little did I know at the time I would be learning important foundations that I strive to achieve in my everyday life. I can still recall The Girl Scout law from memory - "I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout." My experience in Girl Scouts has shown me a great love for helping people and inspired me to further my education in college.

As I was given the choice whether or not I wanted to become a foster mom, I think it is important to give students like myself the choice whether or not to get vaccinated if they hold religious beliefs that prevent them from receiving the vaccine. I currently work at a high-school, and I am given the choice whether or not to be vaccinated due to my deeply held religious beliefs. Why does Orange Coast College not give me the same option?

Please amend resolution #21-45 to include students in the clause that allows faculty, staff, managers, and Trustees to religious exemptions.

Please do not crush this girl scout's dream of becoming an Assistant to a Speech Pathologist. I want to continue my education at OCC. However, without any current exemptions for religious beliefs I will be unable to.

Sincerely,  
Chandler Herrera

*Public Comment*

Dear members of the Board of Trustees,

My name is Bryce Lindsey, and many of my friends currently attend Orange Coast College. I graduated college before the possible implementation of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate, but my family and friends find themselves in a very difficult situation because of the proposed resolution #21-45.

If the COVID-19 vaccine is mandated on all students, many of my friends and former classmates will be unable to continue their education. This is because many of them hold religious beliefs that prevent them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. If no exemption is provided, they will have no choice but to drop out of Coastline Community Colleges or face expulsion.

I know that each Trustees' goal is to further higher education and make it more impactful, attainable, accessible, and inclusive to the community. Many of you have spent decades working towards these noble goals. Mandating the Covid-19 vaccine on students without a provision of religious exemptions will do immense damage to these goals. This decision will make CCCD no longer inclusive to students who hold religious beliefs which prevent them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

The pending resolution #21-45 does not provide any religious exemptions for students. Currently, the Cal-State and UC System, Long Beach City College, and many others provide religious exemptions for students.

The following clause of resolution #21-45 makes no mention of a religious exemption for students: *FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chancellor is to develop and disseminate COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing protocols for students no later than October 1, 2021; and*

Furthermore, students are omitted from the following clause of resolution #21-45 which allows for religious exemptions:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor to develop and implement a COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate for Coast District faculty, staff, managers, and Trustees as soon as possible with regular testing for those with medical or religious exemptions; and*

I urge the Board of Trustees to amend the above-mentioned clause in Resolution # 21-45 By inserting the word "students," after "the word staff".

The resolution would then read:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor to develop and implement a COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate for Coast District faculty, staff, **students**, managers, and Trustees as soon as possible with regular testing for those with medical or religious exemptions; and*

This amendment will ensure students will be afforded the same opportunity as faculty, staff, managers, and yourselves to receive a religious exemption. It removes the current uncertainty of whether students will be able to receive a religious exemption or not. Furthermore, it will align CCCD's COVID-19 vaccination policy with other universities and community colleges.

Coastline Community College's sole focus should be improving higher education, not forcing all students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or face expulsion regardless of religious beliefs. By providing religious exemptions for students, the Board will ensure students with deeply held religious beliefs will be able to continue their higher education. This will ensure Coastline Community College remains inclusive to all students of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Thank you for your time,  
Bryce Lindsey

