
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Patterson
Trustees Absent: None

In Attendance: Dr. John Weispfenning, Chancellor; Dr. Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology; Dr. Andrew Dunn, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Services; Tim McGrath, President, Golden West College; Dr. Dana Emerson, Dean, Coastline College; Michael Scott, Project Director, Coastline College; Erik Fallis, District Director, Public Affairs and Marketing; Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs; Laura Kroeger, Townsend Public Affairs, Senior Associate; Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs; Mary Grady, Administrative Assistant Board; Jane Burton, Manager/Board Secretary

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee during Public Comment

4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to appoint Trustee Prinsky as Chair, and Trustee Patterson as Vice Chair, of the Legislative Affairs Committee.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Patterson
No: None
Absent: None

5. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of December 17, 2020

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2020.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye:	Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Patterson
No:	None
Absent:	None

6. Budget Updates – Casey Elliott, Townsend Public Affairs

Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director from Townsend Public Affairs provided a budget update for the Committee.

The Governor had introduced the January 2021 State Budget Proposal. Some highlights mentioned below:

- \$164.5 billion general fund spending
- \$15.5 billion one time surplus (projection from the Department of Finance) in the current year due to higher than expected revenue levels to the state, and lower levels of case load in certain health and human services and other assistance programs.
- Same budget operating deficits FY22-23 structural budget deficit of approximately \$7 billion
- A proposal for early action to allocate funds was proposed within weeks
- Large portions for COVID-19 relief
- \$4.7 billion in K-14 student support and extended learning, community college students and student retention
- \$3 billion direct support to workers and small businesses impacted by the Corona virus pandemic
- \$575 million in grant assistance to CA small businesses (additional)
- \$71 million in state fee waivers for impacted businesses that pay license fees
- \$2 billion for safe rebuild K-12 schools
- \$975 million for Jobs Workforce training
- \$260 million for homelessness
- \$15.6 billion in the state budget stabilization fund
- \$2.9 billion in the special fund for economic uncertainties

For the education portion of the budget, Prop 98 funding levels of the budget was \$85.8 billion with \$16.2 billion for the community colleges. An attachment was provided to the Committee with a detailed breakdown. Highlights included the Governor's proposal to reduce the deferral from the current year by \$1.1 billion from \$1.4 billion to just over \$326 million. Also included:

- \$150 million in additional financial assistance grants for community college students
- Approx. \$1.11 million for 1.5% COLA
- \$100 million for food and housing insecurity funds for community college students
- .5% Growth enrollment – just over \$23 million
- \$355 million in facilities and continuation of facilities projects
- One capital outlay facilities project was added to the current year budget

Many of the investments would be one time allocations.

Legislature had not yet made modifications.

Vice Chancellor Dunn continued the discussions with comments regarding the 1.5% COLA. The proposal would inappropriately tie the COLA to a performance matrix when it was a Cost Of Living Allowance.

7. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Federal Community College Legislation/Update on Watch List

Laura Kroeger, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs provided an update.

Another Corona Virus Relief Bill had passed in December 2020 for approximately \$900 billion. Of that amount \$81.9 billion was for the education stabilization fund, and within that allocation \$22.7 billion was for institutions of higher education. Other highlights included the following:

- \$4.05 billion for emergency grants to states
- Work study students and students with zero family contributions would be eligible for SNAP benefits until the end of the health emergency
- Financial aid grants
- Direct payments of \$600 per person up to a certain income level
- Supplements for federal unemployment funds

Not included in the bill as passed was direct funding aid for state and local governments. Intentions were for another bill to include this type of funding under the new administration.

The Department of Education had issued guidelines for the funding allocations, including what individual schools could expect to receive.

The bill that was passed also included a full year funding appropriations package.

Riots that took place at the capitol building on January 6th changed the legislative agenda for January. Legislation was moved aside in favor of the second presidential impeachment process.

The Biden/Harris administration presidential inauguration took place. Senator Padilla was also sworn in. President Biden nominated Miguel Cardona for United States Secretary of Education.

Many important Executive Orders were signed by the new President, including the following:

- A pause extension for student loans from the Department of Education
- A revoke of the Trump administration executive order for immigrants in the census.
- Memorandum to preserve DACA
- Combat sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination
- Memo to increase FEMA reimbursements for PPE
- Guidance to safely reopen schools
- OSHA guidance to keep workers safe from COVID-19
- Biden's America's Rescue Plan is on the horizon, proposed \$130 billion to reopen schools is proposed within the plan

8. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on State Community College Legislation/Update on Watch List

Mr. Elliott continued the discussion to the State level. The bill introduction deadline would be February 19, 2021.

On the education side Mr. Elliott noted the state funding would be heavily impacted by the federal levels allocated to the state.

A change in senate leadership was noted, Shannon Grove replaced with Scott Wilke.

9. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Future Legislation and Legislative Priorities

The budget process at both the state and federal levels would be a priority, as well as the flexibility and spending parameters of the CARES ACT funding. Any new bills that could provide funding to the District would be crucial.

10. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force

The OCLTF had reached out to Senators and their representatives with invitations to meet with the Orange County Task Force to share information from both the state and federal levels. Replies were pending.

11.COVID-19 Updates

Student/employee COVID-19 infection counts were discussed. An email had been sent to all employees with a link to sign up for vaccination appointments through the County.

12.Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

13.Future Agenda Items

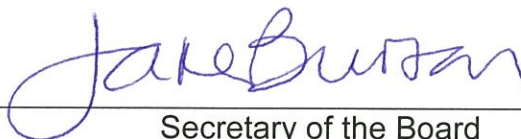
- a. Budget Update – Casey Elliott
- b. Federal Legislative Updates
- c. State Legislative Updates
- d. Future Legislative Priorities

14. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye:	Trustee Patterson and Trustee Prinsky
No:	None
Absent:	None



Secretary of the Board
Jane Burton

