

**San Jacinto College District  
Board Workshop  
April 6, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met for a Board Workshop at 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2026, in Room 201 of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

**MINUTES**

	<b>Board Workshop Attendees:</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Chad Burke, Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson, Erica Davis Rouse, Judy Harrison, Dan Mims, Keith Sinor, Larry Wilson <b>Chancellor:</b> Brenda Hellyer <b>Other:</b> Carin Hutchins, Mandi Reiland, Christian Bionat, Micki Morris (attorney)
	<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Discussion/Information</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Call the Meeting to Order</b>	Chair Dan Mims called the workshop to order at 5:05 p.m.
<b>II.</b>	<b>Roll Call of Board Members</b>	Chair Dan Mims conducted a roll call of the Board members:  Chad Burke Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson, Vice Chair Erica Davis Rouse, Assistant Secretary Judy Harrison Dan Mims, Chair Keith Sinor, Secretary Larry Wilson
<b>III.</b>	<b>Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act</b>	Chair Dan Mims adjourned to closed session at 5:06 pm.  The Board members listed above as attending, as well as Brenda Hellyer, Carin Hutchins, and Mandi Reiland were present for the closed session. Other attendees are noted below.  a. Legal Matters - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board’s attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law. Consultation with attorney Micki Morris. b. Real Estate Matters - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. It was determined after the time of posting that there were no real estate matters to discuss. c. Personnel Matters - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to

		hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Reconvene in Open Meeting</b>	Chair Mims reconvened to open meeting at 6:26 p.m.
<b>V.</b>	<b>Discuss Revisions to Board Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy</b>	The Board discussed proposed revisions to the Board bylaws and related conflict of interest requirements, based on consultation with legal counsel in closed session. Brenda Hellyer clarified that the final recommendations would be brought to the Board for approval at the May Board meeting.
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Discuss Revisions to Employee Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy</b>	Brenda explained that in closed session the Board discussed an employee ethical conduct and conflict of interest policy included in the Board book for first reading. This was reviewed with legal counsel.  Christian Bionat joined the workshop.
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Review Increase in Homestead and Over 65/Disabled Property Tax Exemptions</b>	Carin Hutchins presented the final information for the proposed increase in property tax exemptions and confirmed that the recommendation remained as discussed in the March 2, 2026 Board Workshop.  Carin stated that the recommendation is to increase the homestead exemption from \$5,000 or 5 percent to \$5,000 or 8 percent and increasing the over-65/disabled exemption from \$127,500 to \$140,000.  Carin reported the proposed changes would increase the tax exemption value by approximately \$1.1 billion and would result in an estimated \$1.6 million increase in annual savings to homeowners (approximately a 19.8 percent increase). Because the College should remain whole, the impact would be a redistribution to taxpayers not eligible for the exemptions, resulting in a very small increase in the tax rate (approximately 0.00005).
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Update on Refinancing Plan and Bond Ratings</b>	Carin provided an update on the refinancing plan for interest savings and related bond ratings. She reported the new, refinanced bonds were priced on March 26, 2026. The College refunded \$138.6 million in general obligation bonds, generating net present value savings of 6.1 percent (net of issuance costs), and refunded \$19.8 million in combined fee revenue bonds, generating net present value savings of approximately 5 percent (net of issuance costs).  She noted the original savings estimate presented at the February Board meeting was higher than the actual savings due to market conditions, but the transaction remained above the College's

		<p>threshold of 3 percent savings required by policy. She also reported that the refinancing will lower debt service payment in the coming fiscal years and support the budget process. Carin explained that, although the pricing day was challenging in the market, the College proceeded because savings remained favorable and subsequent market conditions were expected to worsen.</p> <p>Carin explained that Standard &amp; Poor’s and Moody’s rated the new bonds and reaffirmed the College’s existing ratings. She stated the rating agencies cited strengths including strong fiscal management and financial performance and management of pension liabilities but noted challenges including local economic concentration in oil and gas and comparatively higher debt levels versus peers. Carin indicated that continued progress on debt reduction could support potential rating improvement in the future.</p>
<p><b>IX.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Legislative Affairs</b></p>	<p>Christian Bionat provided a legislative affairs update. On federal issues, the President’s federal budget request included proposed Pell Grant funding of approximately \$33 billion and a proposed \$10.5 billion increase to address projected program shortfalls. Christian noted the proposal is largely a stabilization request and includes potential reductions or shifts in certain programs, including moving some grant functions from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Labor.</p> <p>Christian discussed ongoing federal implementation considerations for Workforce Pell, including an anticipated requirement that eligible programs be approximately 8–15 weeks in length, which may affect certain short-term programs such as commercial truck driving.</p> <p>He also reported that the senior education director from the U.S. Department of Labor visited San Jacinto College and met with staff regarding registered apprenticeships, workforce pathways, and strengthening education-to-employment connections.</p> <p>On state issues, he explained that the Legislature had entered the interim charge season and that anticipated interim studies relevant to community colleges may include affordability, workforce alignment, and student outcomes.</p> <p>Brenda added that there are continued implementation considerations related to House Bill 8, including the dynamic funding formula and adjustments. She reported that a scheduled dynamic adjustment payment had not been issued because the calculated amount exceeded available funding. She stated the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was reviewing metrics and measures and anticipated posting revised rules in the near term. She noted state leadership remains supportive of</p>

		<p>outcomes-based funding while also focusing on fiscal sustainability.</p> <p>Brenda noted an update will be provided next month regarding Senate Bill 37 and curriculum, including how core curriculum and workforce program requirements guide course offerings and transfers. She also recognized Christian Bionat’s work supporting external engagement, including organizing a visit involving Eli Lilly representatives.</p>
<b>X.</b>	<p><b>General Discussion of Meeting Items</b></p> <p><b>a. Additional Purchasing Support Documents</b></p> <p><b>b. Delegation of Authority</b></p>	<p>The Board held a general discussion of meeting items, including purchasing and delegation items anticipated for action at the Board meeting.</p> <p>Brenda reviewed the first reading of the equal employment opportunity policy, noting the policy was being converted to the College’s current policy format and updated to reflect clarifying federal language (including “pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions” and “gender/sex”). She also reviewed language regarding equal opportunity regardless of citizenship status, noting it reflects standard requirements applicable to employers and would not change current practices.</p> <p>She reviewed items in the Board packet related to open solicitations and contracts, including a solicitation for grant development services, roof drain repairs, and plumbing repairs.</p> <p>Brenda also provided an update on a previously approved delegation of authority for sanitary sewer repairs, noting the final contract amount (including an additional \$100,000) remained under the approved delegation amount.</p> <p>In response to questions regarding a purchase request for welding consumables and supplies, administration clarified that the request included the purchase of ten welding machines funded through Perkins funds. Brenda explained that Perkins allocations are finalized after internal prioritization and that the machines were identified as a priority due to aging equipment and repair needs, particularly at the North Campus industrial technology center. It was also noted that the College has approximately 110 welding machines at that location and will need to continue developing a replacement plan over time.</p>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Calendar</b>	<p>Brenda reviewed upcoming events and asked Board members to inform Mandi Reiland of their attendance plans, including the Service Awards Banquet, Fleet Week-related events, campus events, and spring commencement ceremonies.</p> <p>The Board agreed to cancel the Building and Finance Committee meeting scheduled for May 19, 2026. The Board members</p>

		discussed dates for a Board retreat and agreed that Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. is the best for most trustees. Brenda also discussed scheduling a budget retreat after receipt of final tax values (expected July 25) and tentatively planned the retreat for Thursday, July 30, 2026, from noon to 5:00 p.m. The Board also discussed cancelling committee meetings in July.
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	Chair Mims adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.