

STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chelsea Mason-Placek, chair // Martin Valadez, vice chair // Ben Bagherpour // Crystal Donner // Phyllis Gutiérrez Kenney // Mack Hogans // Jay Reich // Kady Titus // Fred Whang

Paul Francis, executive director // Julie Walter, executive assistant

Statutory Authority: Laws of 1991, Chapter 28B.50 Revised Code of Washington

Study Session: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 // 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 28, 2024 // 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Skagit Valley College: 2501 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

State Board Members Present: Ben Bagherpour, Crystal Donner, Phyllis Gutiérrez Kenney, Mack Hogans, Chelsea Mason-Placek, Jay Reich, Martin Valadez, and Fred Whang

State Board Members Absent: Kady Titus

The State Board held a study session on March 27 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Members heard an in-depth presentation and held a community roundtable discussion focused on student financial aid as part of the board's strategic plan. In addition to the ACT, WACTC, system unions, and executive director reports, members also had an update on the system's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Chris Villa, Skagit Valley College president, provided an overview of the college and a tour of the dental clinic.

Welcome

Chair Mason-Placek called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. and welcomed those present.

Establish a Quorum and Adoption of Agenda

Chair Mason-Placek noted that a quorum was present and requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Reich, seconded by Board Member Hogans, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of the March 28, 2024 regular meeting agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Columbia Basin College–local capital expenditure authority for acquisition and design for new student housing.
Resolution 24-03-11
- b. Columbia Basin College–local capital expenditure authority for T building science lab and mechanical equipment updates.
Resolution 24-03-12
- c. Olympic College–local capital expenditure authority reduction for Poulsbo campus Allied Health renovations.
Resolution 24-03-13
- d. Spokane Community College–local capital expenditure authority increase to design and construct campus-wide security upgrades.
Resolution 24-03-14

- e. Spokane Falls Community College–local capital expenditure authority to design and construct campus-wide security upgrades.

Resolution 24-03-15

- f. SBCTC Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2024

Motion: Moved by Board Member Reich, seconded by Board Member Hogans, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of the March 28, 2024 consent agenda.

Public Comments

- Jacqui Cain, AFT-WA
- Tobi Rosenberg, Bellevue College
- Kip Zwolenski, AFT-WA

2024 Legislative Session Update

The Legislature adjourned sine die on March 7, 2024. Stephanie Winner, operating budget director, Darrell Jennings, capital budget director, and Arlen Harris, legislative director, reviewed key investments made for the college system in the supplemental operating and capital budgets and provided information on policy bills.

2024 supplemental operating budget

The 2024 supplemental operating budget included nearly \$2.4 billion in funding for the community and technical college system. Funding included:

- \$1.14 million to support college Bachelor of Science in Computer Science programs.
- \$475,000 to support continuing Integrated Climate Solutions curriculum development.
- \$1.05 million in 2024 to support expanding College in the High School.
- \$1 million for refugee education.
- \$425,000 to expand the financial aid outreach and completion pilot program to ESD 113, which covers Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties, under SSHB 1835 which passed in 2022.
- \$819,000 to support incarcerated students under SSB 5953.
- \$553,000 to fill a funding gap related to the Student Basic Needs Benefits Navigator under 2SHB 1559.
- \$412,000 to support opioid and fentanyl prevention and education on college campuses under 2SHB 2112.
- \$12,000 for the Retail Industry Work Group under ESB 6296.
- \$11,000 for construction apprenticeships in prisons under SHB 2084.

Proviso funding included:

- \$275,000 for a low-income housing study.
- \$200,000 to increase access and capacity to manufacturing apprenticeship related supplemental instruction.
- \$275,000 for a Hospitality Center of Excellence at Columbia Basin College.

- \$85,000 to Edmonds College for students who are military veterans, focusing on counseling services, financial assistance, and reentry services.
- \$204,000 to Olympic College to hire program directors for the surgical technology and radiology technology health care academic pathways.
- \$100,000 to Renton Technical College to increase the number of students in its dual credit pilot program.
- \$150,000 to Tacoma Community College for expansion of its imaging science program.
- \$598,000 to the State Board office for 1500 Jefferson lease and relocation costs (one-time).

2024 supplemental capital budget

The 2024 supplemental capital budget included \$30.4 million in new appropriations for the community and technical college system.

	College	Funding Phase	SBCTC Request	Conference Budget
1	Bellingham	Campus Center Repairs	\$19,384,000	\$19,384,000
2	Statewide	SBCTC Statewide Utility Submeters	\$8,544,000	\$8,544,000
3	Statewide	HB 1390–Decarbonization Planning	\$724,000	\$478,000
4	Statewide	CTC Energy Efficiency Program	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
5	Lower Columbia	Center for Vocational and Transitional Studies	\$43,704,000	\$0
6	Columbia Basin	Performing Arts Building Replacement	\$47,876,000	\$0
		Total:	\$122,232,000	\$30,406,000

The budget also included:

- \$2 million in local expenditure authority for Renton Technical College to renovate Building J.
- \$1.1 million in Public Facility grants through the Department of Commerce for athletic field improvement projects at Lower Columbia College and Wenatchee Valley College.
- Directs the Department of Commerce – consulting with several stakeholders, including the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Highline College – to study the development of a climate resilience and environmental equity campus in south King County. A report is due to the governor and Legislature by Dec. 31, 2024. The study is to identify:
 - The educational and community engagement programming that will be offered.
 - Potential industry partners for development of the campus.
 - Potential funding to support the creation, maintenance, and operations of the campus.

Policy Bills

Priority bills passed in the 2024 legislative session:

- SSB 5953: Concerning financial aid grants for incarcerated students.
- SHB 1889: Allowing persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

- 2SHB 2112: Concerning opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness at institutions of higher education.
- 2SHB 2214: Permitting beneficiaries of public assistance programs to automatically qualify as income-eligible for the purpose of receiving the Washington College Grant.
- SSB 5670: Providing summer Running Start for rising juniors.
- ESB 6296: Establishing a retail industry workgroup.
- HB 1146: Notifying high school students and their families about available dual credit programs and any available financial assistance.
- ESHB 2019: Establishing a Native American apprentice assistance program.
- SB 5904: Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs.
- HB 1943: Modifying the Washington National Guard postsecondary education grant program.

2025-27 Legislative Priorities — Development Process

To create a more transparent and inclusive process for developing legislative priorities for the college system, State Board staff worked with WACTC to create a two-survey process to identify policy and budgetary needs to present to the State Board and then the Legislature.

The first survey asked colleges to rank five categories — compensation, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), IT and cybersecurity, workforce education, and Basic Education for Adults — and to identify any additional categories important to their colleges. Responses were received from 100% of colleges.

Support for high priority items was:

- Faculty and staff compensation: 96%.
- Student services (mental health, basic needs, access to technology): 83%.
- Support work towards SBCTC vision statement (DEI funding and policies): 83%.
- College IT and Cybersecurity: 72%.
- Workforce education programs: 58%.
- Basic Education for Adults (IBEST, HS+): 55%.

Additional priorities mentioned included funding for dual credit, safety and security, childcare opportunities, funding for mental health, and housing affordability for students, faculty, and staff.

The second survey will be sent out the first week in April and will include the five categories from the first survey plus dual credit, safety and security, and additional options under student services and workforce education. Results of the second survey will be shared with the board at its May meeting.

WACTC plans to act on its final recommendations to the State Board at the May WACTC meeting and present them to the board for consideration at its June meeting.

Allocation Model Review Update

RCW 28B.50.090 authorizes the State Board to receive state funds for the system and to establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds to college districts. Each year the State Board adopts an annual allocation to the districts before July 1, the start of the fiscal year.

Most funds are distributed according to an allocation model that was first implemented in 2016. The allocation model includes four key elements and funding drivers:

- Student Achievement Initiative–Performance funding based on completions in specific areas.
- Weighted Priority Enrollments–Additional funding for enrollment in specified courses.
- Minimum Operating Allocation–Fixed amount for operations.
- District Enrollment Allocation Base–Allocation based on enrollment target.

In 2021, WACTC voted to establish a review of the allocation model; however, due to the challenges presented at the time, the review was postponed.

In 2022-23, the WACTC Equity Committee performed a thorough review of the allocation model and its components and provided recommendations that formed the guiding principles and equity principles for the re-established Allocation Model Review Committee.

Ivan Harrell, Tacoma Community College president, and Chad Hickox, Walla Walla Community College president, are co-chairing the Allocation Model Review Committee (AMRC). They provided an overview of the committee’s objective, guiding principles, membership, how it will organize its work, equity principles, and timeline.

North Seattle College’s Affordable Housing Property Sale

North Seattle College has determined that it does not require all the property at its campus for future academic facilities and has been studying the possibility of providing housing on campus since 2018. With the approval of the board, the college has been in negotiations since 2021 with a partnership formed by Bellwether Housing and Chief Seattle Club. Both Bellwether Housing and Chief Seattle Club are affordable housing development entities selected through a request for proposal process.

The college originally brought forth a proposal to ground lease for 80+ years a surplus parcel of land. The board adopted resolutions 21-03-10 and 22-08-44, setting forth conditions to guide the college in negotiating ground lease terms. After extensive research and discussion with Bellwether and the City of Seattle, it was determined that financing the affordable housing project and City of Seattle requirements under the proposed ground lease was not feasible because the board did not have legal authority to agree to the City of Seattle’s requirement that the State Board subordinate the fee simple interest in the land.

The college and its Board of Trustees are now requesting to sell the property for affordable housing. In exchange, the college would receive a cash payment of \$7.089 million. Of that amount, \$3,099,834 would be placed into a reserve account held by the college. The reserve account funds would be used to pay for 5,757 square feet in the finished project that North Seattle College would have an exclusive option to purchase. If acquired, the facility will be acquired via a condominium agreement separating the housing elements from the space reserved for North Seattle College and a pro rata share of the underlying parcel.

The board will be asked to consider action on selling the property at its May meeting.

Consideration of Running Start Residency Waiver (Resolution 24-03-16)

Running Start (RS) students face challenges in accessing resident tuition rates when enrolling in credits that are ineligible for RS funding. Since RS students are also secondary school students, colleges participating in RS cannot engage in any inquiry around residency and immigration status

that may result in requiring students to disclose or document their immigration status. However, residency determination must be made after the college confirms that a student has exceeded the 1.40 full time equivalency (FTE) and annual average FTE (AAFTE) limitations or is enrolled in non-college level courses during the regular term. These latter situations would not be covered under the RS basic education funds and would be subject to residency for tuition determination in accordance with RCW 28B.15.012.

The absence of a streamlined process for coding RS students as residents hinders their ability to benefit from cost-effective tuition, creating financial barriers for these students and their families. Additionally, colleges are facing extra workloads to manually track and code RS students that fall into these categories of ineligible funding.

State Board staff requested approval of the Running Start residency waiver that will allow colleges to code all Running Start students as residents until a permanent fix in statute can happen in a future legislative session. This waiver provides a technical solution to charge students the correct amount and alleviate additional workload for college staff and financial barriers for Running Start students.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Reich, seconded by Board Member Valadez, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of Resolution 24-03-16 authorizing the Running Start residency waiver which would waive non-resident tuition differential for Running Start students.

Board Discussion and Chair's Report

Evaluation Committee update (Resolution 24-03-17)

The Evaluation Committee recommends that it conduct interviews and survey various stakeholders and interested parties, including board members, synthesize that information for board review, and recommend a summary executive director evaluation for board consideration and approval.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Hogans, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of Resolution 24-03-17 approving the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee, directs it to proceed with interviews and surveys, and provide such information and a recommended evaluation of the executive director to the board for review and approval by the board.

Bylaw Review Committee update

A summary of the key bylaw changes recommended by the Bylaw Review Committee were presented for discussion prior to consideration at the May meeting. The recommended amendments reflect the objective to:

- Clarify the process of establishing board committees.
- More accurately reflect the process of board appointments.
- Clarify the board's intent to limit officer appointments to not more than two consecutive years in either officer position.
- Add the evaluation committee into the bylaws, including the process to nominate members and the primary function of the committee.
- Specify that the board will prioritize equity and accessibility when setting the location and structure of meetings.
- Explicitly encourage board members, when possible, to attend meetings in person.

- Remove language allowing for board member proxies and secret ballots.
- Clarify that the executive director will consult with the executive committee in finalizing board agendas.
- Broaden the requirement that the minutes be mailed to allow for other forms to distribution.
- Allow the board to use Robert’s Rules of Order as a guide rather than requiring that it be strictly adhered to.
- Modify the formatting of the bylaws to be clearer to read.

Nominating Committee update (Resolution 24-03-18)

Each year a Nominating Committee is appointed in March to recommend to the board a chair and vice chair for the upcoming year at the June meeting. Ben Bagherpour, Mack Hogans, and Kady Titus have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee to recommend the 2024-25 chair and vice chair at the June 2024 meeting.

Motion: Moved by Board Member Valadez, seconded by Board Member Reich, and unanimously approved by the board, the adoption of Resolution 24-03-18 appointing Ben Bagherpour, Mack Hogans, and Kady Titus to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2024-25 chair and vice chair.

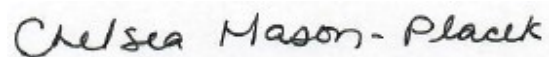
Adjournment/next meeting

There being no further business, the State Board adjourned its March 28, 2024 regular meeting at 12 p.m. The next regular meeting will be May 8-9, 2024 at Green River College.

Attest



Paul Francis, secretary



Chelsea Mason-Placek, chair