

**East Region Adult Education  
Governing Board Meeting**

August 21, 2025

East County Chamber of Commerce, 201 S. Magnolia Ave., El Cajon CA 92020

**Minutes**

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● **CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 8:03am by ERAE Governing Board Vice President, Patrick Keeley.
- The following ERAE Governing Board members were present: Rick Wilson, Paul Dautremont, Jessica Robinson, Kirsten Vital Brulte, and Patrick Keeley.

● **SPECIAL REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

- Kim Bellaart introduced the new Grossmont Union High School District Superintendent, Kirsten Vital Brulte who has been an educator for over 30 years. Kirsten has worked in different school districts and has been in various roles including as a teacher, Asst. Principal, Principal, Director, and has been a superintendent for 15 years. Kirsten is proud and honored by the incredible work that is being done in the GUHSD and the work that is being done with Portrait of a Graduate. Kirsten is excited to be working with the ERAE Governing board.

● **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- There were no communications from the public.

● **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2024 and April 17, 2025**

- **Motion Passed:** The December 12, 2024 minutes were approved as written. The first motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Rick Wilson and seconded by Paul Dautremont.
  - Yes Patrick Keeley
  - Yes Paul Dautremont
  - Yes Kirsten Vital Brulte
  - Yes Jessica Robinson
  - Absent Lynn Neault
  - Yes Rick Wilson
- **Motion Passed:** The April 17, 2025 minutes were approved as written. The first motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Paul Dautremont and seconded by Jessica Robinson.
  - Yes Patrick Keeley
  - Yes Paul Dautremont



- Yes Kirsten Vital Brulte
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Rick Wilson

- **REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

- There were no changes to the agenda. The first motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Paul Dautremont and seconded by Kirsten Vital Brulte.
  - Yes Patrick Keeley
  - Yes Paul Dautremont
  - Yes Jessica Robinson
  - Yes Kirsten Vital Brulte
  - Absent Lynn Neault
  - Yes Rick Wilson

- **REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS**

- **Chamber of Commerce**

- Rick Wilson gave an overview of the East County Chamber projects and initiatives and partnership opportunities. Rick mentioned that collaboration and partnership in the community plays a huge role in the growth of an organization, and the East County Chamber has grown exponentially because the team, the community, and organizations are incredible leaders in the community and come together to make decisions. Rick mentioned that there is a ribbon cutting ceremony for Neighborhood by GC Lemon Grove on Aug 22 and Business after Hours Mixer--Home of Guiding Hands on Aug 27. There is a Career Fair with the City of Santee on Sept 19, Fall Health Fair at Parkway Plaza on Sept 27th, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Women in Leadership event will be held on Oct 17 at the Sycuan Casino and Resort. Nominations for Women in Leadership end on Aug 29. The Leadership East County Program is in its 34<sup>th</sup> year. Rick thanked Grossmont/Cuyamaca Colleges for their partnership.

A new web-based chamber app was launched. It is still in phase one, and there are three more phases. The chamber is working on Increasing educational workshops and webinars and providing more opportunities to educate businesses. The East County Chamber is trying to create as many opportunities as possible, not just for educational purposes but for networking and relationship building as well. Rick is proud of the work that is being done by the chamber as it uplifts the entire business community. Rick gave an overview of Veterans East County Alliance (VECA) and said that the program has expanded with the help of Susan Roberts-Egley. Refer East County is a Networking referral group offered through the East County Chamber and meets every Tuesday morning from 7:45-9:00am at the Office of Ellen Meador w/Keller Williams. The Chamber also started another new referral group "Women in Business" which is



designed to help educate and support women leaders and professionals. The East County Chamber partners with the East County Federal Credit Union to offer the Educator Tours. This summer the tours were to Costa Rica and Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Next year the tour is scheduled for Peru and Argentina.

#### **Internships and Pre-Apprenticeship Collaborations**

- Kim Bellaart shared information on the Pre-apprenticeship program in Grossmont Union High School District. Grossmont Union High School District is the LEA for five apprenticeship programs. There are pre-apprenticeship linkage agreements with Kitchens for Good and Southwest Carpenters. Students who complete the pre-apprenticeship curriculum have priority to apply for apprenticeship opportunities in these programs. Students receive a Certificate of Completion when they complete the pre-apprenticeship curriculum. The Construction linkage agreement with Southwest Carpenters cover the GUHSD high school classes at the IDEA Center, El Capitan, and West Hills. It also covers the Adult Education construction classes that take place in the evenings at IDEA Center and the Adult Education Construction classes at the East Mesa and Las Colinas Detention Centers.

Businesses have given feedback that sometimes students do not possess the career readiness skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. Grossmont Adult Education is planning on working more with adult students to improve career readiness by increasing internship opportunities in the non-medical CTE programs. The Adult Education relationship with the East County Chamber has been instrumental in helping to move the consortium forward.

#### **Strategic Plan and Annual Plan**

- Joyce Liou provided a handout with an overview of the Three-Year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan and the annual member plan have been submitted. Three areas of focus in the plan are:
  - **Education that Works**--This will allow the consortium to create and expand pathway opportunities through dual enrollment, credit and non-credit options, pre-apprenticeship opportunities, and partnership in high demand sectors. The activities embedded in our annual plan are related to pathway development and conducting needs assessment and to leverage those partnerships and making sure that the skills that are being shared with students lead to employment and provide resources for students to access these pathways and stay in them.
  - **Students Who Succeed**--This involves work on comprehensive onboarding and on closing digital literacy and providing more career readiness skills. Enhancing marketing and messaging is also a focus. The consortium has undergone a consortium-wide marketing campaign and has made the websites and social media more user friendly.
  - **Transitions That Matter**--This will strengthen transitions by implementing



data reviews and a focus on data driven community by establishing standardized processes and by finding early trends and make decisions based on the data.

**Consortium Fiscal Administration Declaration (CFAD)**

- Sally Cox gave an overview of the Consortium Fiscal Administration Declaration (CFAD). The budget was reviewed. There is a 2.3% COLA which was applied to all consortium members.

● **GOVERNANCE/ACTION ITEMS**

- **Motion Passed:** Kirsten Vital Brulte was nominated as President of the ERAE Governing Board. First motion to approve Kirsten Vital Brulte as president of the board was made by Paul Dautremont and seconded by Rick Wilson.

- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Kirsten Vital Brulte
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Rick Wilson

- **Motion Passed:** Patrick Keeley was nominated as Vice President of the ERAE Governing Board. First motion to approve Patrick Keeley as vice president of the board was made by Paul Dautremont and seconded by Rick Wilson.

- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Kirsten Vital Brulte
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Rick Wilson

- **Motion Passed:** The CFAD was approved as written. First motion to approve the CFAD as written was made by Kirsten Vital Brulte and seconded by Rick Wilson.

- Yes Patrick Keeley
- Yes Paul Dautremont
- Yes Kirsten Vital Brulte
- Yes Jessica Robinson
- Absent Lynn Neault
- Yes Rick Wilson

● **Communication from Board Members**

- **Kirsten Vital Brulte**—Portrait of a Graduate will be held Friday Aug 22 and Saturday Aug 23. The next meeting will be in November. Kirsten is excited to be working on Portrait of a Graduate and over a hundred guests are scheduled to attend the



event.

- **Paul Dautremont**—Paul welcomed Kirsten Vital Brulte to GUHSD and the ERAE Governing Board. Paul is hopeful and energized about the year ahead. One of the biggest projects that the GUHSD will be working on is Portrait of a Graduate. The district is continuing work with Cuyamaca College this year in transitioning Mt. Miguel HS to an early college high school. Valhalla is building on their dual enrollment program and there are currently seven students enrolled in the program. The District is continuing its partnership with the East County Chamber and other businesses in the community.
- **Patrick Keeley**—MEUSD schools are back in session. Patrick is interested in taking MEUSD students to the Health Occupation Center (HOC) open house on Oct 21. Heather will share the open house information with Patrick. MEUSD is continuing their dual enrollment for English Learners (EL). MEUSD is partnering with GCCCD to offer College on the Mountain and to host Cuyamaca courses to help serve the community.
- **Lynn Neault**— Absent.
- **Jessica Robinson**—GCCCD classes started on Monday, Aug 18. There is a new interim president at Grossmont College, Dr. Pamela Luster. Cuyamaca Care is a basic needs program on the Cuyamaca College campus and offers housing assistance, a food pantry, and a safe parking program. Jessica mentioned that they are extremely proud of the work they are doing. Cuyamaca College has a three-prong housing program and partners with a hotel in El Cajon to allow students who are experiencing homelessness to have a room to sleep and food while they receive services. These students must be willing and open to receiving services. Cuyamaca College also partners with Crisis House to allow students to have safe parking. This program started last year for students of Cuyamaca College, and it has been extremely successful. There are several criteria for both the housing and the safe parking programs.

GCCCD also received a grant to assist students enrolled in the hotel program with long term housing assistance such as down payment, rent, etc. on a scale over several years as they continue college or as they graduate and transition to local colleges and universities.

- **Rick Wilson**—Rick appreciates that the chamber has the opportunity to be a member of the ERAE Governing board, and he thanked the other members of the board for making it possible.
- **ADJOURNMENT**
  - The meeting was adjourned at 8:57am. The next ERAE governing board meeting will be held at 8am on December 8, 2025, at Cuyamaca College.