



East Region Adult Education  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Road, El Cajon, CA 92019 | Building I, Room 209

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A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by ERAE Governing Board President Kirsten Vital Brulte.
- b. The following ERAE Governing Board members were present: Paul Dautremont, Patrick Keeley, Jessica Robinson, Kirsten Vital Brulte, and Rick Wilson.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

- a. There was no special report or recognition.

C. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. There were no communications from the public.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Motion Passed: The August 21, 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 Paul Dautremont
  - Yes Patrick Keeley
  - Absent Lynn Neault
  - Yes Jessica Robinson
  - Yes Kristen Vital Brulte
  - Absent Rick Wilson
- b. Motion Passed: The September 3, 2025 minutes were approved as written. The first motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Paul Dautremont, and the second by Jessica Robinson.
  - Yes Paul Dautremont
  - Yes Patrick Keeley
  - Absent Lynn Neault
  - Yes Jessica Robinson
  - Yes Kristen Vital Brulte
  - Absent Rick Wilson

E. REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM/CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda. The First motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Jessica Robinson and seconded by Paul Dautremont.

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



## F. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

- a. Ornamental Horticulture (OH) Presentation and Tour- facilitated by George Dowden, Paul Palacios, and Ganna Reva
  - George Dowden provided an overview of the OH flagship program, highlighting its strong community partnerships and comprehensive academic offerings.
  - The program includes nine certificates and eight associate degrees in areas such as Arboriculture, Floral Design, Irrigation Technology, and Landscape Management. Faculty are active industry professionals, ensuring alignment with current workforce needs and providing students with real-world experience.
  - The program emphasizes:
    - hands-on training, preparing students for immediate employment while building foundational knowledge in horticulture, landscape design, and business practices.
    - strong transfer pathway options for agriculture programs.
    - robust partnerships, including the San Diego Zoo, which support networking and work-based learning opportunities.
  - A student testimonial video underscored the program's impact.
  - Paul Palacios and Ganna Reva facilitated a tour of the OH program, showcasing:
    - student projects, sales areas, the production space, and greenhouse facilities, including a new state-of-the-art greenhouse with instructional and propagation areas.
    - the level of hands-on learning through student-built features such as retaining and half-walls.
    - Ganna Reva's experiences as a SB554 dual enrollment student who began at Grossmont Adult Education and is now completing her fourth certificate in OH. Ganna shared her goal of encouraging more students to join the program, emphasizing the importance of hands-on experience for career readiness.
  - The team also announced the upcoming Spring Festival on May 2, in collaboration with the Water Conservation program, Open House, and campus museum, with marketing to begin soon.
- b. Strategic Plan Progress- facilitated by Kim Bellaart, Vincent Chambers, Joyce Liou, Cynthia Nagura
  - Joyce Liou provided an update on Year 1 progress of the Strategic Plan, highlighting key initiatives already underway.
  - Cynthia Nagura shared efforts to strengthen partnerships with academic Deans at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges to expand collaboration opportunities. She noted successful alignment through programs like CPAP and ongoing monthly meetings with CTE partners, K-12 districts, and colleges to improve student transitions. Current CPAP enrollment includes 18 new and 16 continuing students, with 30% facing residency barriers—many of whom would not otherwise access college.



- Sally Cox added that recent presentations effectively demonstrated CPAP's impact and the level of student support required.
- Kim Bellart provided updates on noncredit pathways, emphasizing their role in serving non-traditional students and those facing barriers. She also highlighted the UDW project, which supports home care and family child-care providers through free college access and career training; the program currently includes 25 referrals, with 10 enrolled at Grossmont Adult Education.
  - Additionally, GAE now offers five apprenticeship programs through partnerships with organizations such as Firefighters, Creating Coding Careers, and Kitchens for Good.
  - Pre-apprenticeship pathways continue to grow, with students transitioning into apprenticeship opportunities, including those from Kitchens for Good and the IDEA Center.
  - The re-entry program supports all apprenticeship areas, and expansion efforts remain a priority within the consortium's three-year plan.
- Joyce Liou also shared onboarding improvements, including more structured processes at Mountain Empire Unified High School District and aligned entry points within GAE's EL and Academic programs. These changes integrate Transition Specialists earlier to better support student goals. She highlighted a recent example demonstrating the impact of immediate support services.
- Vincent Chambers (MEUHSD) provided updates on catalog design and marketing, including multilingual program materials, new branding for 2026–2030, and the development of consistent communication tools such as a weekly newsletter.

#### G. GOVERNANCE/ACTION ITEMS

There were no Governance or Action items.

#### H. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Patrick Keely shared that Mountain Empire has been in a staffing transition and extended holiday well wishes to the group.
- Paul Dautremont reported that GUHSD is developing its Portrait of a Graduate and has launched a survey for adult learners and community members, which takes about 20 minutes to complete. He also noted upcoming district employment opportunities and wished everyone happy holidays.
- Kirsten Vital Brulte provided an update on upcoming Portrait of a Graduate events scheduled for January 30–31, emphasizing the importance of broad community input in shaping the student experience and informing Cuyamaca College's long-term direction. She thanked participants for their engagement and contributions.
- Jessica Robinson reflected on the broader impact of adult education programs, emphasizing how educational opportunities extend beyond individual students to benefit entire families and communities. She shared examples of multi-generational student success and highlighted the consortium's shared responsibility to maintain strong, high-quality support for learners.



- Rick Wilson thanked the group for the tour and continued collaboration, offered congratulations to board leadership, and shared information about upcoming holiday events, including the December 16 Holiday Brewery gathering in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. He closed by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m. The next ERAE Governing Board meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026.