



January 28, 2026

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**5:00-6:30 p.m. – District Office Building**

**Minutes**

**Board Present:** Advani, Banerjee, Bewtra, Casas, Dubin, Gvatua, Kniss, Santora, Swenson, Torres, Whalen, Wilson, and Zoglin.

**Board Absent:** Andersen, Axelrad, Bautista, Godfrey, Khechfe, Lambert, Mahoney, Mostafa, Park, Rao, Sathaye and Vaidhyanathan.

**Foundation Staff Present:** Cima, Garcia-Vega, Latta, Reilly

**District Staff Present:** Gleixner, Kamei, Kim, Momjian, Pennington, and Smith

**Guests:** Susie Mielke and Ron Labetitch of Los Altos Rotary

**Welcome and Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ben Dubin.

**Mission Moment – Science Learning Institute (SLI) @ Foothill – Sophia Kim**

- Sophia Kim, SLI Director, and Paulina Cabral, Data Science Foothill College student, presented on the impact of experiential learning through the SLI Summer Internship Program, which provides paid, part-time internships in STEM for first-generation, low-income Foothill STEM students.
- The “Do I belong in STEM?” survey and student testimonies showed that a student's sense of belonging increases after participating in internships. Kim requested support to continue this work by asking Foundation Board members to look for funding for student stipends and for partnerships from companies or labs to sponsor and host interns. The deadline to find partnerships for this summer is March.

**Approval of Minutes**

- November Minutes were approved.
  - *Action: Kniss moved to adopt the November minutes; Santora seconded. The motion carried; minutes were adopted as submitted.*

**Los Altos Rotary**

- Susie Mielke and Ron Labetich of the Rotary Club shared that the Los Altos Rotary has donated \$1.4 million to the Foothill-De Anza Foundation since 2012 to support Foothill student veterans. This includes support for the Veterans Plaza, enhanced VRC facilities, and direct student support such as scholarships, book vouchers, housing grants, lunches, and mentorship.
- They requested that Foundation Board members purchase a table at the club's "Pasta for Vets" fundraiser in March, sponsor a veteran to attend, and get the word out. The event includes a pasta bar and silent auction.

### **Report on Action(s) by Executive Committee – Cima**

- The Executive Committee did not take any reportable action since the last foundation board meeting.

### **Appointment of Board Member**

- Katie Zoglin was considered for appointment to the board (term February 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028).
  - *Action: Motion to approve as submitted; carried unanimously and was approved.*

### **Board Vacancies – Cima**

- Art Swift stepped down from his bond oversight committee and Foundation Secretary roles effective immediately due to relocation out of the state.
- Additionally, in June, three members are terming off the board, and three other members are ending their first term. Citing the need for new members, Cima encouraged Foundation board members to think ahead about their nominations to the board.
- It was explained that to elect a secretary the board will ask for nominations to come forward prior to or at the upcoming March meeting.

### **2026-2027 Draft Meeting Calendar - Cima**

- Cima shared the 2026-2027 meeting calendar and sought a motion from the board to adopt the calendar through July 2027.
  - *Action: Swenson moved to approve the FY26/27 calendar; Bewtra seconded; motion carried.*

### **Finance Committee Report – Latta/Dubin**

- Latta reported FY26 Fundraising Revenue as of 12/31 is \$4.5M.
- This is ahead of the forecast and includes a \$1M in appreciated stock to the Japanese Cultural Center at Foothill College from a longtime donor.
- She also reported a new scholarship endowment of \$50,000 from a part-time Foothill faculty and a \$50,000 donation from a former student along with his parents to the

Emerging Technologies Institute at Foothill College. Dubin expressed gratitude to Leigh Howell and Robin Latta who helped secure these gifts.

- A \$50,000 annual donation from anonymous donors for loan debt relief to De Anza was received by Melanie Reilley.
- Latta explained that Nov/Dec sees an increase in annual Qualified Charitable Donations (QCDs) because donors seek to reduce their taxable income.
- As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, the Foundation's total assets were \$73M.

## **President's Reports**

### **De Anza College – Torres**

- President Torres reported the Cybersecurity Lab/IBM has been implemented using virtual live simulation tools and performance labs made possible by college funding and the Foundation bridging the gap with their unrestricted funding of nearly \$100K.
- De Anza's Industrial Automation Lab will be launched using state Strong Workforce funds. A new full-time faculty member was hired to develop curriculum, and a new lab space is being converted for Fall 2026.
- VR/AR Learning Integration is happening in programs including design & manufacturing technologies and nursing, with plans to develop an augmented reality lab in partnership with Foothill College.
- De Anza also recently secured a \$75,000 grant in collaboration with the Chancellor's Office and has applied for a \$1.2 million NSF cybersecurity grant.
- The Board of Trustees recently approved the naming of the Advanced Technology Center building after Steve Wozniak.

### **Foothill College – Gleixner**

- Foothill College Vice President of Instruction Stacey Gleixner shared that as part of Blueprint for Success 2030, and in alignment with the Chancellor's Strategic Vision, Foothill has adopted a "pursuing a love, not luck" framework. Two main objectives include improving student retention rates and increasing employee satisfaction to 88%.
- The AI Fellows program, led by Dean Zachary Cembellin, includes a mix of faculty staff and students. This initiative focuses on developing an institutional AI framework, policy, and governance structure prioritizing community engagement, equity considerations, and clear communication to facilitate districtwide adoption of AI.
- Gleixner also provided an update on the Emerging Technologies Institute (ETI) through which a class in the newly formed Robotics Lab is being offered for the Tools for Transition Work (TTW) group. She cited the need for additional funding to support ETI efforts, explaining that it is a resource-intensive program.

### **Foundation Report**

- Cima explained that the Foundation is looking to conduct a feasibility study and work on adding new members to the Foundation Board, which can help Foothill-De Anza be on the cutting edge of technology. He suggested that the work might be best in committees that can report back as the existing board structure may not allow for in-depth work and discussions. Cima further expressed interest in developing a campaign steering committee and sought volunteers for this committee as well as the Nominations Committee.
- Conversation was tabled until the March meeting.

*Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.; next meeting March 25, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)*