

San Jacinto College District Board Workshop

March 2, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met for a Board Workshop at 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2026, in Room 201 of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

MINUTES

	Board Workshop Attendees:	Board Members: Chad Burke, Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson, Erica Davis Rouse, Judy Harrison, Dan Mims, Keith Sinor, Larry Wilson Chancellor: Brenda Hellyer Other: Carin Hutchins, Mandi Reiland, Christian Bionat, Micki Morris (attorney)
	Agenda Item:	Discussion/Information
I.	Call the Meeting to Order	Vice Chair Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson called the workshop to order at 5:02 p.m.
II.	Roll Call of Board Members	Vice Chair Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson 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 (arrived after closed session) Keith Sinor, Secretary Larry Wilson
III.	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	Vice Chair Dr. Michelle Cantú-Wilson adjourned to closed session at 5:05 pm. The Board members listed above as attending, as well as Brenda Hellyer, Carin Hutchins, and Mandi Reiland were present for the closed session. 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. 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.
IV.	Reconvene in Open Meeting	Chair Mims reconvened to open meeting at 6:15 p.m.
V.	Discuss Revisions to Board Bylaws	Brenda Hellyer explained that the Board reviewed the draft changes to the Board Bylaws in consultation with the attorney in closed session. These proposed revisions will be finalized and brought forward for Board consideration and approval at the next regular Board meeting.
VI.	Update on Enrollment – Spring 2026	<p>Carin Hutchins presented a spring enrollment update, noting that enrollment trends have stabilized and are expected to hold through the remainder of the semester. The College is holding steady at a 6.4 percent increase in headcount for the spring term and a 7.4 percent increase in contact hours, which generate instructional revenue. Dual credit enrollment increased 1.8 percent, online enrollment increased 2.2 percent, continuing student enrollment increased 7.8 percent, and first-time-in-college enrollment increased 9.1 percent.</p> <p>Brenda and Carin expressed satisfaction with online enrollment stability and emphasized continued monitoring of student success, particularly between online and hybrid modalities.</p>
VII.	Review Potential Increase in Homestead and Over 65/Disabled Property Tax Exemptions	<p>Carin revisited the potential increase to the homestead exemption and the over 65/disabled exemption, noting that additional analysis had been requested following discussion at the Board retreat.</p> <p>She presented an overview of property tax exemptions, including a comparison of San Jacinto College District’s homestead and over 65/disabled exemptions with those of peer community colleges, independent school districts, and municipalities. The presentation reviewed current exemption structures, statutory requirements, and the impact of exemption freezes for taxpayers who are over 65/disabled. Data was shared on residential property units, noting changes in the percentage of homes receiving homestead exemptions between the previously reported period and the current tax year.</p> <p>Carin presented updated peer and regional comparisons, explaining that only three community colleges currently freeze over 65/disabled exemptions. The College’s existing over 65/disabled exemption remains among the highest</p>

		<p>compared to peer institutions, while the College’s homestead exemption is among the lowest within the Gulf Coast region.</p> <p>She reviewed updated property data, noting that approximately 70 percent of residential units within the taxing district receive a homestead exemption and that residential properties account for approximately 67 percent of total property units. Average market and appraised values remain consistent with prior reporting, with taxable values reflecting the impact of multiple exemptions.</p> <p>The administration is recommending increasing the homestead exemption to \$5,000 or 8 percent, whichever is greater, and increasing the over 65/disabled exemption to \$140,000. These changes increase tax savings for eligible homeowners, align the District more closely with peer institutions, and demonstrate continued commitment to reducing the tax burden for residential taxpayers. The estimated total increase in tax savings to homeowners was presented, along with the projected impact on the tax rate.</p> <p>No action item was brought forward for tonight’s Board meeting, but if the Board is comfortable with the updated analysis, a formal recommendation will be presented in April. The Board members were comfortable with moving forward with this item.</p>
<p>VIII.</p>	<p>Review Financial and Operating Comparisons to Peers</p>	<p>Carin presented a comparative analysis of operational and financial metrics across peer community colleges. Overall, institutional performance was reported to be consistent with peer institutions, with no significant variances identified. The College continues to have the highest percentage of out-of-district students, which administration attributed primarily to dual credit participation and specialized programs not widely available elsewhere in the region.</p> <p>She noted that the College has the highest course load per student among peers, which was attributed in part to the Promise program. Academic contact hours were reported to be lower than peers, while technical contact hours were higher, reflecting the College’s strong workforce program emphasis. Expenditures per full-time student equivalent were comparatively low, indicating operational efficiency. Student-to-faculty and student-to-staff ratios reflect a relatively high proportion of full-time faculty and adequate staffing levels to support student services.</p> <p>Transfer rates to public universities were identified as lower than some peers and were discussed as an area of ongoing</p>

		<p>focus for improvement, along with student success following transfer. Outstanding debt per capita appears high when measured solely against the taxing district population. Carin explained that when adjusted to reflect the broader service population, the per-capita figure improves substantially. Cash reserves were reported to be lower than some peers, reflecting deliberate tax rate reductions and active use of revenues rather than accumulation. Administration also noted that the College maintains some of the lowest tuition rates among peers and does not charge course-based fees.</p>
IX.	Update on Legislative Affairs	<p>Christian Bionat provided a federal and state legislative update. At the federal level, recent priorities emphasized economic performance, inflation, border security, and national security, with limited focus on workforce development or higher education. He reported on recent meetings with federal officials, who expressed interest in the College’s workforce partnerships and potential participation in a regional workforce roundtable. He also outlined upcoming federal funding requests related to maritime centers of excellence and supply-chain initiatives.</p> <p>At the state level, Christian reviewed the Governor’s proposed property tax reforms, which could significantly impact local government taxation. Regulatory changes affecting occupational licensing were discussed, with administration noting continued monitoring for compliance impacts on workforce programs. Election turnout trends were reported to be consistent with historical patterns.</p> <p>Christian also provided an update on House Bill 8 funding, noting that anticipated payments for the current year were received, but no dynamic adjustment was included for higher-than-expected performance outcomes. Discussions are ongoing at the state level to address this issue.</p>
X.	General Discussion of Meeting Items a. Additional Purchasing Support Documents b. Delegation of Authority	<p>Brenda and Carin highlighted additional items included in Board materials, including prohibited communications related to active contracts, delegation of authority items, financial operations of the Children’s Learning Center, and updates related to dual credit agreements and pilot advising models.</p>
XI.	Calendar	<p>Brenda reviewed the calendar and asked the Board members to let Mandi Reiland know if they would like to attend any events.</p>

XII.	Adjournment	Chair Mims adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
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