

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES
Special Meeting
January 5, 2009

APPENDIX A

5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Board President Young recognized Ms. Mary Ellen Murphy, representing CSEA, who requested to comment on staff support of Interim Superintendent/President Lisa J. Waits.

“I’m here tonight as a representative of the CSEA staff to reiterate our support of Dr. Lisa Waits as the Interim Superintendent/President of Solano Community College. The reasons are as follows:

1. The Tom Henry Fiscal Health Report. While at first glance this document could be viewed in a more negative than positive light, we would like to submit that this report is exactly what the doctor ordered, so to speak. Why? Because this report offers the College a clear and concise blueprint of what the problems are and what needs to be done to correct them. In addition, we should not forget that this report was commissioned by the Board of Trustees at the urging of Dr. Waits. We truly believe that neither the previous CEO nor CFO would have taken this action.
2. Dr. Waits has provided the campus community with constant e-mail updates regarding any and all important matters concerning SCC. We have received more information and communication in the last three months than I can ever remember receiving in my 11 years at the College. E-mails from prior CEO’s were usually limited to crisis control whenever there was an incident on campus. Secrecy was the norm. Finally, we have someone that is open and honest about what is happening at Solano.
3. Dr. Waits invites staff involvement and opinions without fear of retaliation. While we might not always agree, she is always willing to listen. In addition, after giving the matter thoughtful consideration, she will take the time to explain her decision and the rationale behind that decision. This is an inclusive and collaborative style that we have been craving at Solano.
4. Dr. Waits has a very quiet, calm manner about her. She is extremely intelligent and has the community college experience to lead effectively. But, it is precisely her calm and collaborative manner that this institution needs at this time.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees once again for asking Dr. Waits to serve as Interim Superintendent/President. She did not have to accept this challenge. We are extremely thankful that she did so.”