

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD

UNADOPTED MINUTES

March 6, 2013

**APPENDIX A**

6. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Board President Chapman recognized Ms. Sandy Person, President, Solano Economic Development Corporation, who requested to comment on ICON Aircraft. “In today’s economic climate, there is virtually not a day that goes by that you won’t hear the phrase, ‘economic development.’ It is used by people from all walks of life, i.e., business and civic leaders, politicians, community activists, educators, students, and families talk about economic development as a way to solve our economic problems.

We understand that good economic development means job generation, capital investment, and improvement tax bases that will keep our communities strong and provide a higher standard of living for employers, employees, and residents. Unfortunately, many oversimplify how complex it is to accomplish the goals of economic development.

The Solano EDC and the Governor’s Office of Business Investment Services began working with ICON Aircraft over a year and a half ago. The initial site selection process included several states and numerous communities. It is a tremendous credit to the collaborative spirit of Solano’s team effort that includes the city of Vacaville, Solano County, Solano EDC, state of California, and Solano Community College to be considered a final contender for such a globally desired product and extraordinary business project.

ICON Aircraft is a California-born venture originating in Silicon Valley and now operating in Los Angeles. They employ some of the industry’s brightest talent and are a recognized global leader in aviation innovation and product development.

The ICON team ensemble has consistently demonstrated a high work ethic and strength of character in their site selection pursuit.”

Ms. Person thanked the Board for their leadership and collaborative spirit in helping Solano seize the ICON opportunity and work in partnership with the dreams of Solano Community College.

Board President Chapman recognized the Honorable Dilenna Harris, Vice Mayor of the city of Vacaville, who requested to comment on ICON Aircraft.

Ms. Harris stated how thankful she is for the relationship the city of Vacaville has with Solano Community College. We have worked together for many years and appreciated the work that has been accomplished together. The city worked with the District to provide the 60 acres available for expansion many years ago. Current day collaborations with the fire fighter programs have been an excellent experience. The city is looking forward to the Measure Q offerings for students. Measure Q will offer the ability to add aviation programs. ICON has been working to bring world class training to the city. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the College and the city to be a global center for aviation. Six hundred new jobs related to

aviation will create a demand for student learning. How wonderful to be able to train our own residents. The Nut Tree Airport along with the Jimmy Doolittle Museum will create greater purpose for all concerned. Ms. Harris concluded by stating she is looking forward to working with all entities for training, learning, and creating jobs for our community.

Board President Chapman thanked the presenters for their comments on this extraordinary opportunity and concept. Dr. Chapman stated she is hopeful the Superintendent will do the needed research to see if it is feasible to bring back more information to the Trustees to consider moving forward with a partnership with ICON Aircraft.

Board President Chapman advised she has been in receipt of many emails and phone calls relative to Project Labor Agreements. She identified the following, together with their position on PLAs:

Pro PLAs:

- Tom Riley Van de Brooke, District Director, Office of Assembly Member Susan A. Bonilla, Assembly District 14
- Dave Mandelkern, Trustee, San Mateo County Community College District
- Frank Crim, Field Representative/Marketing, Carpenters Local 180
- The Honorable Lois Wolk, Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Opposed to PLAs:

- Diann Nielson, President, G.D. Nielson Construction, Inc.
- Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction
- Mike Flynn, Painting Old and New, Inc.

Board President Chapman recognized Ms. Tammy Evans from WPCS International, Inc., (wireless communication, specialty construction, electrical power company) who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Ms. Evans stated WPCS was founded in 1997 and is a local digital communication contractor in favor of PLAs. Most of their employees live in Solano County, participate in non-profit organizations, Little Leagues, and is one of the largest contributors to the Mission Solano Toy Drive every year. The employees live and pay taxes in the area. It only makes sense to hire local workers to do construction work in the county. Our kids attend SCC and are involved in the community. Our company does business all over California, Washington, and Oregon on colleges and in hospitals. Ms. Evans alluded to the work at Peralta Community College that did not go well because they did not have a PLA, which took nine months longer than it should have. Half of the contractors filed bankruptcy before the project was finished. The District paid a lot of money in change orders. Ms. Evans commented how important it is to use both dollars and contractors wisely, and to hire people locally in the area who care about their community, pay taxes, and care about the end result.

Board President Chapman recognized Ms. Cherie Cabral, California Construction Labor Management Cooperative Trust (LMCT), who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Ms. Cabral alluded to the study objecting to the data regarding the costs of PLAs that California school construction costs taxpayers 13 – 15% more when built under PLAs because it was data that was manipulated incorrectly. The PLA, for example, for the San Diego

Unified School District exceeded in local hires and did more for local people than any other tool throughout the San Diego County. Ms. Cabral gave a general rebuttal to the facts presented by the ABC. PLAs do not discriminate in the non-union environment and do not eliminate open competition, as well as do not create collusion.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. John Takeuchi who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Takeuchi is a resident of Fairfield and spoke at a previous Board meeting in opposition to the passage of Measure Q. Mr. Takeuchi stated he is not going to dispute any of the comments made, but rather commented on the Measure C Bond implemented by the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District several years ago. Mr. Takeuchi's taxpayer group was one of the original Citizens Bond Oversight Committees. The school district left the decision to use PLAs to the CBOC. They decided unanimously not to require PLAs. History recalls that every project completed under Measure C except for one came in on or under budget, and one missed by a small amount. Mr. Takeuchi encouraged the Board when it comes times to choose an oversight committee that they be very conscientious in their work. At least one business person and CPA are needed. If you pick a good CBOC, you will get good results.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Dave Harrison, Operating Engineers, Local 3. Mr. Harrison is a former SCC student. He talked about Solano County and the building trades organizations and how they bring to the area community involvement. The unions donate in several ways to the community, i.e., major sponsors of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, supplies and labor for the Vacaville Habitat for Humanity; scoreboards for Little Leagues, high schools, and the Mission Solano Annual Toy Run. The unions rebuilt a Little League park in the city of Winters, sponsored sober grad night at local high schools, all of which is a "short list" of organized labor involvement in Solano County. For these, and many other reasons, Mr. Harrison requested that the Board support PLAs.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Mark Leach, Business Agent for IBEW, Local Union 617, San Mateo, California. Mr. Leach commented that he is a product of the California community college system and veteran of the armed forces. The community college system changed his life and stated that he owes his educational success to the IBEW and community college system. PLAs can connect our communities in ways that are needed. San Mateo PLAs have been in effect for over a decade, and \$500M and 60 projects later have changed the lives of local residents in my county having provided for solid employment. PLAs offer good jobs, safe conditions, fair pay, and allow workers to raise their families where they work; equating to quality work that is completed on time by a dedicated work force.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Jeff Sousa, McGrath Electric, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Sousa, a registered voter and property owner, stated he has been employed by IBEW, Local Union 180, as well as having worked under non-union contracts. Mr. Sousa encouraged the Board not to go with PLAs. With McGrath Electric, I make more money and choose where my health benefits and retirements funds are placed. I cannot touch these funds until I retire when working on a union job. Mr. Sousa stated he voted for Measure Q but doesn't want the projects to become PLAs.

Board President Chapman recognized the Honorable Skip Thompson, Solano County Board of Supervisors, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Supervisor Thompson

stated how disappointing it is to hear words like decisive and discriminatory. Mr. Thompson reported on a \$100M project that lasted 2.5 years without any work disruptions. The PLA project enlisted over 1,000 workers, 250 craftsmen, and 30 different subcontractors, all of whom worked together. Eighty percent of those employed were local. Supervisor Thompson encouraged the Board to approve PLAs for Measure Q projects. They will help students and the community.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. George Guynn, Jr., President of the Central Solano Citizen/Taxpayer Group, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Guynn stated he was speaking as a private citizen, and commented further that he thinks the Board will be better off if they don't adopt a PLA. He recalled when there was an issue with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District and people came from out of state to promote PLAs. Mr. Takeuchi mentioned with that having a PLA doesn't mean you won't have disputes. Supervisor Thompson mentioned one success story. PLAs mean more union money going to politicians and suggested they expect something in return, which explains a lot of what hasn't been made clear this evening. Mr. Guynn asked if any of the Trustees are presently union members that they exclude themselves from this discussion to avoid conflicts of interest. Mr. Guynn concluded that he hopes the Board will not vote for PLAs; it is better for workers if they don't belong to unions.

Board President Chapman acknowledged Mr. Kevin Coleman, Business Agent, IBEW, Local Union 180, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Coleman extended congratulations on the passage of Measure Q and stated he is a proponent of PLAs. Through the local building trades there is a marvelous opportunity to harvest benefits of a highly skilled, drug-free, proficient work force in the area. Union labor is forward thinking. There is no substitute for it, which is achieved through collective bargaining agreements. Both parties enjoy the assurances of dignity and respect through health and welfare and pension benefits. It all starts with apprenticeship and ultimately matriculation to journeyman. Mr. Coleman asked the Board to respect their mission to focus on learning and educational goals. "It is our hope that we can bring our knowledge and skills and abilities to construction facilities the Board requires and deserves." Mr. Coleman concluded by saying, "PLAs seem a prudent way to go about this and we endorse them."

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Manuel Maciel, McGrath Electric, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Maciel stated that he opposes PLAs. Having worked on projects at the Cal Maritime Academy, Rodriguez High School, and the California Medical Facility-Vacaville, to say that a PLA is more acceptable and that I can't work in my own county is unfair. These projects should be open to anyone for work. There are many misconceptions about non-union contractors. We get health and welfare and pension benefits and can choose what we can best afford. "I love this about a small business," he said. Any money that I put into a pension plan is mine without having to wait five years for it. I am a homeowner in Fairfield, and not only do I raise my family here, I contribute to this community. It becomes frustrating when I can't do that. Mr. Maciel urged the Board to make it fair for everyone to work in Solano County.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Brian Hooker, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Hooker, representing Congressman John Garamendi's office, read a

letter from the Congressman supporting PLAs and the Helmet to Hard Hats project, which connects quality men and women from the Armed Forces with promising building and construction careers. PLAs meet the District's objectives. PLAs have a strong history of being implemented successfully. Proposed PLAs provide high quality work and ensure all contractors comply with the requirements of California Labor Codes and prevailing wages. They help returning military veterans adjust back into their communities.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Bill Whitney, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Whitney is the Vice President of the Northern California Mechanical Contractors Association (NCMCA) that represents over 100 firms in San Francisco, East Bay, North Bay, Sacramento, and San Jose, which represents over 10M work hours every year in union construction.

Mr. Whitney stated that he has lived in Benicia for 37 years, owns his own business, and understands the value of the dollar. He sits on the Benicia City Council for eight years and too their reserves from 5% to 25%. Mr. Whitney supports PLAs because it is smart business-good business. Mr. Whitney talked about job safety on PLA jobs, high standards of union contractors, which inevitably leads to better craftsmanship. Safety says we are committed to our families and that we will return them the way they left in the morning.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Greg Long, Long Electric, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Long Electric has been in business for 23 years, employing many men and women that work in this area who voted on Measure Q, and who are active in the community. Long Electric provides great benefits to its employees—full health care for the employee, spouse and children, and a great pension. When employees retire, new people need to be brought into the industry, and we do that through apprenticeship. Mr. Long stated he is proud to be a part of that training. Having been involved in previous Bond measure projects (Building 400 and the Vallejo Center); Mr. Long proudly alluded to the Excellence Award received on these projects. Because of the many benefits, Mr. Long stated his support for PLAs and asked the Board to support them as well.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Ben Espinoza, Cement Masons, Local 400. Mr. Espinoza stated that everyone needs to make choices on whether you want to be represented or not. Mr. Espinoza stated he has been on both sides. When construction dropped in 1984, he left the state to Arizona where he worked for three and a half years in an open shop. Arizona is a “right to work” state. When he was able to return to California, he went back into the union—Cement Masons where he has worked in the field for many years since his return. Mr. Espinoza state how proud he is of his trade and the union and what it brings to the people and the economy in this area. He is grateful to the voters for passing Measure Q and announced that he sat on the first CBOC for Measure G—a long-term plan that has finally come to fruition. Mr. Espinoza stressed the importance of apprenticeship training, a three- to five-year program with rigorous training in labs and on projects ultimately producing the highest quality worker.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Brett Risley, Sheet Metal Workers, Local 104, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Risley stated that PLAs support the preparation and coordination of a project. It is a negotiated document designed to create positive

benefits to both parties. PLAs ensure great communication that focus on regular meetings to discuss timelines, production, and opportunity to address unforeseen issues. PLAs provide for standardized work hours, scheduled holidays, multiple opportunities to remain within budget, and ensure access to a pool of predictable, highly skilled craftsmen and women.

Board President Chapman recognized Ms. Toni Murray, Music Operations Club Member and SCC Alumni, who requested to comment on the SCC Music Department.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Javier Banuelos, Carpenters Apprenticeship, Local Union 180, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Banuelos stated he is a product of the Helmets to Hard Hats project. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for nine years he had nowhere to go after leaving the military, until he became aware of the Helmets to Hard Hats opportunity, where he went from one brotherhood to another. Through the apprenticeship program, he learned how to build walls and bridges with no prior knowledge of construction. Through programs like this he can provide a good life for his family, and that home is in Solano County. Mr. Banuelos stated how grateful he is to his local union, their support of PLAs, and encouraged the Board to support them as well.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Joseph Guillery, Carpenters Local Union, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Guillery began his trade in Santa Clara and is new to the community. He supports PLAs and appreciated the union that taught him how to work and apply the principles of the brotherhood in other areas of his life. He is able to leave a legacy to his children as a result of his opportunities. Mr. Guillery is looking forward to being a taxpayer in Solano County and to raising his children in the area.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Cha’Ron Russell, Carpenters Apprenticeship Program, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Russell is a resident in Fairfield and supports PLAs. He stated how his decision to get into the trade was either learn a respectful trade to provide for his family or follow a life of crime. The decision was obvious. Being the first of five children, getting into the union afforded an opportunity to immediately provide for them. PLAs will allow him to work locally and also spend time with his family.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Jamie Clark, Carpenters Apprenticeship Program, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Supporting PLAs means there is opportunity for people within the community to have the American Dream within their grasp to provide a home for their families. We pay our tax dollars here. I am inspired when I see others working hard to better their lives. Mr. Clark stated he is proud of what is happening in his community and encouraged the Board to support the idea of PLAs.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Tom Riley Van de Brooke, District Director, Office of Assembly Member Susan A. Bonilla, Assembly District 14, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements. Mr. Van de Brooke read a letter from the Honorable Susan Bonilla supporting PLAs. Unions are here as partners in this community working to educate workers. Mr. Van de Brooke wished the Board the best of luck with Measure Q and encouraged the Board to support PLAs.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Richard Bentler who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements.

Mr. Bentler is a non-union electrician, and has been for thirteen years, having never missed a day of work. He works for a drug-free company that provides all the elements of a safe working environment. Mr. Bentler is not in favor of PLAs.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Gabriel Johnson, ASSC student, who requested to comment on Item 10.(a), Agreement between SCCD and ADCAMP, Inc. Mr. Johnson's comments were deferred to later on the agenda.

Board President Chapman stated that two houses are being built in Fairfield by Habitat for Humanity and encouraged everyone who can to support this effort within the community.

Board President Chapman thanked everyone who took the time to comment on their concerns.