

Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD)
2323 North Broadway via Zoom
Santa Ana, California

BOARD SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

MINUTES

1.0 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Yarbrough did not join the meeting until 12:25 p.m.; therefore, the meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by Ms. Claudia Alvarez. Other member present: Mr. Phillip Yarbrough. Other board member present: Mr. John Hanna.

Staff present: Ms. Zina Edwards, Ms. Evelyn Elmore, Ms. Debra Gerard, Ms. Tracie Green, Mr. Peter Hardash, Mr. Bart Hoffman, Dr. Vaniethia Hubbard, Dr. James Kennedy, Dr. Jeffrey Lamb, Ms. Sheryl Martin, Mr. Marvin Martinez, Mr. Enrique Perez, Dr. Narges Rabii-Rakin, Dr. Linda Rose, Ms. Leisa Schumacher, Interim Chief Mike Toledo, Mr. Brad Virgoe, Dr. Timothy Winchell, and Ms. Anita Lucarelli as record keeper.

Students present: Mr. Mariano Cuellar, Mr. Henry Gardner, and Ms. Monica Renteria.

Guests present: Ms. Trish Lamantia and Ms. Jennifer Aries.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Cuellar (before Mr. Yarbrough arrived).

1.3 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

1.4 Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Yarbrough and seconded by Ms. Alvarez to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 2, 2019. The motion carried with the following vote: Aye – Ms. Alvarez and Mr. Yarbrough.

2.0 GENERAL

2.1 Review of District Safety and Security Training (Policies and Procedures)

- a. Use of Force
- b. Cultural Sensitivity
- c. Mental Health

2.1 Review of District Safety and Security Training (Policies and Procedures) (cont.)

The committee received an overview of the District Safety and Security training policies and procedures from Chief Toledo. He indicated that full-time District Safety Officers are required to possess appropriate Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) credentials and are required to receive Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) training. Chief Toledo indicated that officers at the Santa Ana College (SAC) Orange County (OC) Sheriff's Regional Training Academy train future officers in the carotid restraint control hold as a way of restraint, not a life-threatening use of force.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of carotid restraint hold training. Ms. Alvarez noted that the district is restricted in banning training policies from using the carotid restraint control hold since the State/OC Sheriff's Department (OCSA) control the courses to train its officers. Mr. Hanna indicated that the district may not be able to change the carotid restraint control hold training but the committee has an obligation to express its concerns.

Mr. Hanna asked that documents related to the meeting be provided to the committee members/trustees a few days before the meeting in order to give the committee member/trustee time to review the documents prior to the meeting.

Chief Toledo indicated that officers receive perishable skills retraining including use of force training and diversity training techniques. He reported that District Safety Officers have no authority to arrest a person; although they have the ability to hold/restrain a person if the officer witnesses a misdemeanor occurring or information is provided of a felony being committed by the perpetrator.

In response to Mr. Cuellar's question regarding the number of instances of excessive force used on campus, Chief Toledo reported that since he's been at the district, there have been four instances of handcuff/restraining on SAC campus and one on Centennial Education Center (CEC) that resulted in arrests made and student discipline administered.

Chief Toledo indicated that 75% (out of 35 officers) District Safety Officers are armed and only draw a weapon if an imminent life-threatening event occurs. Mr. Yarbrough expressed the opinion that the same reasoning should be in effect for a carotid restraint control hold – that it should only be used if an imminent life-threatening event occurs.

In response to Ms. Alvarez' questions regarding the protests held near SAC over the past weekend, Chief Toledo reported that there were approximately 150 peaceful protesters near the SAC campus and there was no damage to the campus.

Dr. Lamb provided a general background on the SAC Criminal Justice Academies (CJA) partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to the committee. He indicated the Basic Academy instruction includes 589 instructional hours in 42 learning domains (LD).

2.1 Review of District Safety and Security Training (Policies and Procedures) (cont.)

Ms. Alvarez asked how the district is training its future officers on the use of force with the public/community members and how future officers are trained to deal with diversity and mental illness. Mr. Virgoe reviewed LD 20 Use of Force/De-escalation, LD 33 Arrest and Control, and LD 35 Firearms/Chemical Agents, and LD 42 Cultural Diversity/Discrimination. Dr. Rabii-Raken offered RSCCD faculty assistance in training officers in social intelligence, emotional intelligence, and racial intelligence. Mr. Virgoe indicated that he will inform the OCSD of Dr. Rabii-Rakin's offer of resources since the OCSD manages the training at the SAC OC Sheriff's Regional Training Academy.

Ms. Alvarez stated that she understands the district is restricted from making changes to the curriculum in the CJA Academies, but asked if there were any requests by staff to lobby on behalf of changes to the curriculum, to please let the committee know.

Dr. Lamb indicated that the SAC Basic Fire Academy consists of three primary courses (Structural Firefighting, Hazardous Materials, Wild Land Firefighting) over a period of 16 weeks and offers a concurrent course on physical fitness wellness course that includes a guest lecturer who instructs future firefighters on stress resilience. (There are also additional courses [vehicle extrication, low angle rescue, and rescue systems] offered in the academy.) The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is responsible for firefighting training and safety and has worked with SAC and the Orange County Fire Chiefs to create and implement the State fire curriculum for professional development. Since the Fire Academy does not focus on contents that include cultural sensitivity, diversity, or the community, Ms. Alvarez asked that this item be placed on the next Board Safety & Security Committee agenda.

2.2 Proposal of Future Agenda Items

As noted in Item 2.1, Ms. Alvarez asked that the possibility of cultural sensitivity and diversity training curriculum for the Fire Academy be placed on the next agenda.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Alvarez declared this meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 8-10-22