

KCCD Board of Trustees Meeting, October 2018
Liz Rozell Remarks

President Meek, board members, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today. I will begin by asking for some grace with the 5 minute limit, for I suspect I will need 8 minutes. I am here, before you, as the Vice President of Instruction very concerned about the delay in approving a promising site to locate the Bakersfield College Southwest Campus. The proposal presented at the last board meeting was an unexpected opportunity for the college that has too many benefits to bypass. Recently, I was informed that the proposal is slated for evaluation by the Finance Committee on November 14th. This has alarmed me because delays in approving this proposal will cost the students in timely completion; cost the college in reputation; cost the community in educational resources; and cost the district financially.

Our sublease with Fresno Pacific University sunsets in March, 2019 and Castle & Cook is reluctantly willing to extend this to December 2019, provided we have a location secured and a building built for our students to move into starting January 2020. With a year-long construction timeline of the new building we could move into the leased space by January 2020 if the lease presented to you prior to September 13th, almost 30 days ago, is approved before the end of this month.

The result of delaying a few months is asking Bakersfield College to shut down BC Southwest for at least one semester and turn away more than 2000 students. *This is not a student centered decision.*

In 2012 when I was a faculty department chair, we were coming out of a season of many cancelled class sections due to a fear of massive state cutbacks. Not all community colleges in our state turned away students like we did. Unfortunately, the community lost faith with us because we did not provide the educational opportunities they so desperately needed. Happily, we have been able to regain community trust, by serving a growing number of students, seen in BC's significant enrollment growth over the last five years, while at the same time improving our degree completion and transfer rates. Improving access while simultaneously improving success.

BC has now established a presence in the southwest for the past 4 semesters. In Fall 2017, you approved the previous lease of 22,000 sq ft, which resulted in serving students who live in the southwest; they live in the zip code covered by Area 3 of the KCCD Trustee service region. Now we are back in 2018 to ask you to approve an expanded lease to 61,000 sq ft to serve the students in this same area. Now, having established a robust program in the Southwest and then disappearing for a semester, two semesters will be significantly worse than what we did to the community about 10 years ago. I am concerned for the reputation of Bakersfield College and the break in trust with the southwest community. There will be a perception that Bakersfield College and KCCD 'abandoned' the community after establishing the southwest campus in a big way.

In 2017-18, BCSW garnered 216 FTES. Currently, there are 322 FTES for Summer and Fall, 2018. We expect at least 200 FTES in the spring semester of 2019 giving the southwest campus a 142% increase in FTES from 17-18. Losing a semester will cost us over a million dollars in apportionment! A significant financial hit to KCCD.

According to the Institutional Research data sent out on September 4th, Bakersfield College showed a 4.7% growth in FTES compared to Fall 2017. If we were to subtract the 220 FTES connected to the southwest campus, this would reduce Bakersfield College's growth to 1.5% and KCCD's to 3.5%. Of course, you may wonder if these students would have just have sought courses on the main campus.

However, the general education courses we offer at BCSW are impacted with large waitlists on the main campus. Providing these sections at the southwest campus increased access that contributed to the growth at Bakersfield College. Since 2013-14, the number of students living in the southwest has grown 27%. This is the target population that has contributed to the 2010 students currently enrolled at the southwest campus this fall.

Chancellor Burke worked with Dean Mourtzanos, President Christian and me to determine conservative projections for expenditures and income revenue for the University Office Center location. Even with this conservative approach, Bakersfield College will be in the black by year 5 and overall, the sum of the costs and revenue over the 20 years positions the college with a profit of over \$11 million.

At the last board meeting, you indicated an interest in new construction in addition to potential leases. Based on timeline projections for new construction, this will delay the college for 2 years with an projected loss of 1500 FTES at a cost over \$7 million. That is a pretty expensive decision. Once we learned that the current southwest location would not be available to us in the near future, we did explore other sites, seven in all. Buildings that are for business and office spaces have lower parking ratios compared to college campuses. Therefore we are not desirable tenants in spaces that are in the middle of business and office complexes. None of these sites were viable options and none of these provided the advantages of the proposed University Office Center location.

From an instructional lens, the most appealing aspect of the University Office Center location is that it is on the CSUB campus. Bakersfield College faculty and transfer staff have devoted much time in developing a strong collaborative relationship with CSUB, resulting in the Kern Promise, Finish in 4, and increased completion. We have ramped up our course offerings at the southwest campus to facilitate a smooth transition from BC with an ADT to CSUB for four year degrees. What an amazing model we would be for the state of California with a community college located on the campus of its sister university with very visible collaborative pathways. This serves students in our community and would be a memorable *student centered decision*.

As the Vice President of Instruction, I ask that you consider our students, our community and give us the green light to proceed with this lease before the end of October.