



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

9:00 am

In Person Meeting

Marlene L. Garcia (Executive Director)

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Catalina Cifuentes (Chair)
Charles Nies (Vice Chair)
Anahi-Marcella Araiza
Patrick Day
Juanita Doplemore
Audrey Dow
Shannon Gary
Guillermo Mayer
Eva Robinson
Angel Rodriguez
Alexis Takagi
David Valladolid
Chao Vang

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT:

Debra Maxie (Secretary)
David O'Brien

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

Public comment received from Education Trust west - Vivianne Martine.

3. **Approval of the Commission minutes of July 18, 2023, and September 7, 2023 (Action)**

Commissioner Dow **moved to approve** the minutes. **Seconded** by Commissioner Tagaki for July 18, 2023.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (11): Araiza, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Dow, Gary, Mayer, Nies Rodriguez, Takagi, and Valladolid

Abstention (2): Robinson and Vang

Absent (2): Maxie and O'Brien

Carried (11 to 2 Abstention)

The Commission **APPROVED** the Commission minutes of July 23, 2023.

Commissioner Nies **moved to approve** the minutes. **Seconded** by Commissioner Doplemore for September 7, 2023.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (9): Araiza, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Mayer, Nies, Rodriguez, Takagi, and Valladolid

Abstention (4): Dow, Gary, Robinson, and Vang

Absent (2): Maxie and O'Brien

Carried (9 to 4 Abstention)

The Commission **APPROVED** the Commission minutes of September 7, 2023.

4. **Chair's oral report on Commission related issues (Information)**

Chair Catalina Cifuentes welcomed everyone and the three new Commissioners: Commissioner Araiza, Robinson, and Vang.

5. **Executive Director's oral report (Information)**

Executive Director Marlene Garcia thanked Commissioners, partners and staff for the work to reach and help students. She highlighted some of the topics that will be covered during the meeting.

6. **Presentation of Resolution to Hal Geiogoue, former Commissioner (Information)**

Chair Cifuentes read the resolution for former Commissioner Hal Geioque.

Commissioners were provided an opportunity to share their thoughts and gratitude for the former Commissioners.

7. Election of Commission Officers (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Catalina Mistler, Chief Deputy Director, to present item 7.

Ms. Mistler announced the list of nominations for election of Commission officers as follows:

- Commission Chair: Catalina Cifuentes
- Commission Vice Chair: Charles Nies
- Commission Secretary: Debra Maxie

Each nominee was provided an opportunity to share a few words.

Commission Dow **moved to approve** the nominations. **Seconded by** Commissioner Rodriguez.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Cifuentes, Nies, Araiza, Day, Doplemore, Dow, Gary, Mayer, Robinson, Rodriguez, Takagi, Valladolid, and Vang

Absent (2): Maxie, and O'Brien

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the following election of Commission officers: Commission Chair, Catalina Cifuentes; Commission Vice Chair, Charles Nies; Commission Secretary, Debra Maxie.

8. Consideration of proposed 2024 Commission meeting calendar (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Catalina Mistler, Chief Deputy Director, to present item 8.

Ms. Mistler presented the proposed 2024 Commission meeting calendar and explained the reasoning for the meeting dates selected.

Bagley Keen Counsel Milad shared the changes to Bagley Keen Open meeting act. He noted that the "classic" teleconference rule before pandemic could only be open to public meeting spaces ADA compliant and was removed during pandemic. The "classic" rule will kick in for

ADA compliant spaces and if a quorum is available in a physical location, then the rest of the members can participate in a private location. He also noted that the rule will last from 2024-2026. In regards to advisory meetings that do not have decision making power, Counsel Milad explained that the meetings can be held in private location as long as there is a physical location for the public to join as the meeting act still requires a remote option for the public to join.

Commissioner Valladolid **moved to adopt** the 2024 Commission meeting calendar. **Seconded** by Commissioner Doplemore.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Araiza, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Dow, Gary, Mayer, Nies, Robinson, Rodriguez, Takagi, Valladolid, and Vang

Absent (2): Maxie and O'Brien

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2024 Commission meeting calendar.

9. **Consideration to approve proposed emergency regulatory amendments for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program (Action)**

Chair Cifuentes invited Tae Kang, Deputy Director of the Programs Administration and Services Division, Libby Rafferty, Specialized Programs Manager, and Gary Collard, Regulations Coordinator, to present item 9.

Mr. Kang provided a brief background on the Golden State Teacher Grant program. He presented the proposed recommendations and noted the changes in the program.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mayer **moved to approve** staff recommendations. **Seconded** by Commissioner Nies.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (12): Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Dow, Gary, Mayer, Nies, Robinson, Rodriguez, Takagi, Valladolid, and Vang

Abstention (1): Araiza

Absent (2): Maxie, and O'Brien

Carried (12 to 1 Abstention)

The Commission **APPROVED** staff recommendation to approve the proposed emergency regulatory amendments for the Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) Program and authorize staff to complete the emergency regulatory process, including initiating a five-day public comment period, preparing, and submitting all required documents to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and making any non-substantive changes to the regulations and supporting documentation as requested by the OAL.

10. Ratification of emergency contract(s) and approval of contract(s) over \$250,000 (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Lilly Myers, Deputy Director of the Fiscal Administrative Services Division, to present item 10.

Ms. Myers presented the following contract for ratification:

- John R. Justice Grant Program

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Valladolid moved to ratify the contracts. Seconded by Commissioner Gary.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Araiza, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Dow, Gary, Mayer, Nies, Robinson, Rodriguez, Takagi, Valladolid, and Vang

Absent (2): Maxie, and O'Brien

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** ratification of the contract described in the proposed new contracts over \$250,000.

Commission **RECESSED** for BREAK at 10:29 a.m.

Commission **RECONVENED** at 10:43 a.m.

11. Update on the Commission's 2023 Food and Housing Survey (Information)

Chair Cifuentes invited Jessica Moldoff, Deputy Director of the Data, Analysis and Research Team, Ryan Fuller, Research Specialist, and Patty Sanders, Research Specialist, to present item 11.

Dr. Moldoff shared brief background on the Food and Housing Survey. She proceeded to present findings from the survey.

Commissioner Gary suggested a task force to help address some of the gaps and issues found in the survey. Commissioner Nies asked to break down elements from the survey findings to determine how to address some of the concerns.

There was no public comment.

12. Supporting foster youth students (Information)

Chair Cifuentes invited Tae Kang, Deputy Director of the Program Administration and Services Division, and Jake Brymner, Deputy Director of the Policy and Public Affairs Division, to present item 12.

Mr. Kang provided a brief background on the Commission's programs and the Chafee Foster Youth Grant which supports foster youth students.

Commission **RECESSED** for lunch at 12:23 p.m.

Commission **RECONVENED** at 1:08 p.m.

13. Presentation on the new Career Education Master Plan (Information)

Chair Cifuentes invited Ben Chida, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, Kathy Booth, Associate Director for the CA Guided Pathways for WestEd, and Jake Brymner, Deputy Director of the Policy and Public Affairs Division, to present item 13.

Mr. Brymner shared some brief background on the Career Education Master Plan. Mr. Brymner invited Mr. Ben Chida and Ms. Kathy Booth to share more information on the Master Plan. Mr. Chida shared some context behind the Career Education Master Plan and Ms. Booth shared the development process that includes deliverables, task force, public process, and work groups.

There was no public comment.

14. Report on and consideration of the November 29, 2023, Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Charles Nies provided an update from the Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting on November 29, 2023

There was no public comment.

15. Report on and consideration of the November 29, 2023, Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Angel Rodriguez provided an update from the Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee meeting on November 29, 2023.

There was no public comment.

16. Report on and consideration of the November 29, 2023, Data, Research, and Strategic Planning Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Vice Chair Juanita Doplemore provided a report from the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee meeting on November 29, 2023.

There was no public comment.

17. Commission Closed Session (Information/Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Bagley Keene Counsel Milad to announce Closed Session.

Mr. Milad announced that the full Commission would meet in Closed Session to discuss and may take action on personnel matters pursuant to California Government Code, Section 11126(a).

There was no public comment.

The Commission went into Closed Session at 2:55 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Chair Cifuentes reconvened Open Session at 3:32 p.m. and announced that there was nothing to report.

18. New business to be considered at future meetings (Information/Action)

Chair Cifuentes noted the following items as new items for a future meeting:

- Deep dive on food and housing survey - what are next steps, follow up on homelessness and housing insecurity
- Deep conversation on Foster Youth students and what are next steps to discuss, streamline processes
- Invite credit bureaus or loan departments to share insight on student loan debt
- Follow up on CSAC role on Career Education Master Plan
- Update on Better FAFSA - what it is, what does it look like, how's it impacts completion rates

- Focus a discussion specifically on Housing Insecurity

19. **Adjournment**

Chair Cifuentes adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

DEBRA MAXIE
SECRETARY