



**Agenda Item Details**

Meeting	Apr 13, 2026 - REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (HYBRID)
Category	11. GENERAL
Subject	11.6 *Approval of Appointment of Independent Legal Counsel for District and Board Regarding Chancellor Complaint and Related Matters
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	Approval of the appointment of legal counsel to advise and represent the the District and Board as presented.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Board will appoint independent legal counsel, separate from current District counsel and from counsel representing the Board President, to advise and represent the Rancho Santiago Community College District and Board of Trustees in connection with (1) the Chancellor's allegations of discrimination, harassment and retaliation involving the Board President, and (2) related governance, investigation and anticipated-litigation matters.

**ANALYSIS:**

Under California Education Code sections 35041.5, 35204, 35205, 35160, and 35160.1, the Board may contract with one or more law firms to provide legal services for purposes it deems appropriate, including to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure independent advice. In light of the Chancellor's complaint against the Board President and the District's need for neutral, conflict-free counsel, the Board finds it appropriate to engage separate independent legal counsel to advise and represent the District and Board in these matters, distinct from counsel who have been involved in assisting the Chancellor or representing individual officials.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Board approve appointment of independent legal counsel to advise and represent the District and Board in connection with the Chancellor's complaint and related governance and anticipated-litigation matter as presented.

**PREPARED BY:** Debra Gerard

**SUBMITTED BY:** Phillip Yarbrough, RSCCD Board President

*Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.*