

District Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026

Attendees: Don Mueller, Elmer Gomez Michael Meadors, Liliana Cervantes, Chelsea Van Doornum, Micki England, Christopher Dela Cruz, Hillary Mennella, Adrian Ayub

Quick recap

The safety committee meeting focused on construction updates, immigration enforcement activities, and facility safety concerns. Elmer provided comprehensive construction project status reports, including the Student Services and Administration building (86% complete), Health Science renovation (99% complete), and various other campus improvements. Don shared updates on immigration enforcement activities at nearby campuses and clarified the campus's notification protocols for immigration activities. The committee discussed issues with the Health Science Building's alarm system and door locking mechanisms, with Elmer agreeing to follow up with vendors to address these concerns. Adrian, a student senator, shared his experience with a hate incident in November 2024, highlighting concerns about emergency communication systems in parking lots. The conversation ended with a discussion about the limitations of restricting solicitors on campus, as the college maintains free speech rights.

Next steps

- Elmer: Discuss with Felipe about the possibility and timing of allowing photos to be taken inside the new admin building for campus communications, and report back to Chelsea.
- Elmer: Look into the timeline and process for furniture procurement (including ergonomics) for the new admin building and report back to Meadors.
- Elmer: Coordinate with Johnson Controls to schedule and conduct a test/repair of the audible alarm system in the Health Sciences Building and across campus, potentially scheduling a test over a weekend or during spring break.
- Mueller: Follow up with Elizabeth Riley to obtain updated list of building marshals/floor monitors for the Health Sciences Building and other new buildings.
- Mueller: Update the campus evacuation map to reflect that Health Sciences Building evacuates to Lot 8.
- Micki: Present submitted suggestions/ideas at the top of the agenda for the next meeting.
- Elmer: Investigate which (if any) emergency buttons were referenced by Adrian and staff in the Studebaker parking lot area, and verify their functionality.
- Adrian: If possible, provide details to Elmer/Mueller about which emergency buttons were referenced by staff during the November incident for follow-up.

Summary

Committee Meeting: Updates and Agendas

The group approved the October meeting minutes and discussed construction updates, with Elmer scheduled to provide updates on spring-related projects. The agenda included reviewing Micki's suggestions, addressing

Health Science Building door locking protocols, and continuing the emergency supplies survey initiated in October.

Construction and Campus Safety Updates

Elmer provided updates on multiple construction projects, including the Student Services and Administration building, which is 86% complete with a move-in date in December, and the health science renovation project, which is 99% complete. He discussed the soccer field replacement project, the Child Development Center expansion, and the new police department building, among others.

Campus Immigration and Infrastructure Update

Chief Mueller shared information about recent immigration enforcement actions on college campuses in California and reassured the group that their current procedures for notifying students about immigration activity comply with state law while avoiding conflicts with federal authorities. Don explained the delicate situation regarding immigration enforcement on campus, emphasizing the need to support undocumented students without drawing attention that could harm them. He clarified that they are careful not to publicly criticize enforcement actions to avoid becoming a target. Don also provided an update on the completion of a barricade project near the football stadium, which was finally finished after five years, though temporary K-rails may remain for additional protection.

Fire System Repairs and Testing

The meeting focused on addressing issues with the fire alarm system and door locking mechanisms in the Health Sciences Building following the earthquake drill. Elmer explained that while there were initially multiple system issues, they had been reduced to one, with Tilden Coil following up with the vendor for warranty repairs. Mueller clarified that outer doors are not designed to automatically lock to allow first responders access, while inner doors should be able to lock securely. The group discussed plans to conduct a campus-wide audible test during spring break to verify the functionality of the fire alarm system speakers.

Building Evacuation and Security Updates

The meeting focused on building evacuation procedures and security protocols. Mueller discussed the need for updates regarding floor monitors and building marshals, as well as the designated person to report to, which is still pending. They also addressed the evacuation route for Health Sciences, which will use Lot 8 until student housing development changes the plan. Elmer clarified the California fire code requirement for sliding doors to unlock during emergencies, explaining this is for safety compliance, and Mueller emphasized the importance of communicating these protocols to staff and union members.

Campus Emergency Phone System Issues

Adrian Ayub, a student senator, shared his experience of a possible hate incident on campus in 2024 where emergency buttons were ineffective due to Wi-Fi outages. Mueller clarified that the campus uses blue emergency phones, which are not dependent on Wi-Fi, and advised students to program the campus police department's direct phone number into their cell phones for emergencies, as Wi-Fi connectivity in parking lots is unreliable. The safety committee discussed the importance of using blue phones or calling 911 in emergencies. They reviewed the quarterly testing of blue phones by IT staff and discussed the need to ensure all phones are functioning properly. The committee also addressed concerns about petitioners on campus,

with Chief explaining that as a community college, they cannot restrict free speech or the number of solicitors, unless they are causing disturbances. The conversation ended with Elmer reminding everyone to use the facilities link to report safety issues, which will be prioritized if labeled as such.