

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Board of Trustees in Gridlock

Special meeting ends with no solution

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BY BROOKE SELF

STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • More than 20 public comments were made at the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees' special meeting Thursday, many pleading for the board members to come to an agreement and either appoint one of the interested candidates or make a decision about a special election.

The board has still not approved which process it will take to fill its empty fifth seat, but a public notice was issued by Board President Lorrie Denson last week for candidates to submit resumes and formally express interest in the position.

Lisa Ellis, the California Teacher's Association president at VVC, stormed out of the packed board room after being the third person to share a public comment. She shouted, "this meeting is a sham" and declared that it was "illegal by California ed code."

Ellis was opposed to Denson's prior notice to seek interested candidates.

Trustees Dennis Henderson and John Pinkerton were also opposed to the process. Both were mute when the vote to approve the appointment process was motioned by Denson and Trustee Joseph W. Brady. In a move to reiterate his disapproval, Henderson got up from the dais to make a public comment at the podium.

In contrast, several community members said they were "humbled" by the talent and experience presented by the candidates and said a special election would constitute wasteful spending for the cash-strapped college, which has recently had 7,000 students on waitlists for classes.

The candidates who spoke publicly included Carl Tate, Dinah Shumway, Mike Rothschild, Randy Coleman, DeAnne Hudgens, Janice Moore, Bernadette McNulty, Bob Sagona, Brandon Woods, Donald Powell, Bill Jensen and Norm Hurst.

The name of former trustee Joe Range was called to make a public comment, but nearly a minute went by and he did not appear at the podium.

"This is just ludicrous; they want to spend \$100,000 for a special election for a one-year position," McNulty said after the meeting.

The 5 p.m. meeting adjourned at about 7:30 p.m. when the board members agreed to table their vote on an appointment until a future meeting. If a decision is not made by Aug. 29, the process will automatically go to a special election.



AMANDA TOUCHSTONE, FOR THE DAILY PRESS

Concerned residents, educators and applicants attend the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees' special meeting on Thursday regarding a special election to fill the vacant fifth seat on the board.



DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS

Victor Valley College Board of Trustees discuss motions regarding a special election during Thursday's special meeting to fill the fifth seat on the board.