

HSEPC Meeting March 5, 2026

Once quorum was reached, Paul Cassidy convened the meeting, reviewed the committee's collaboration norms, and guided approval of the agenda and prior meeting notes (December 4, 2025, and February 5, 2026), both of which passed unanimously.

Ad Astra / Space-Use Visibility Concerns

A central topic was the continued use of **Ad Astra**, a room and space management system used at Skyline College. Participants raised concerns that Ad Astra is increasingly unreliable, does not display all classes (notably some weekend classes), and appears to be supported by a vendor that is unresponsive.

Committee members discussed that Ad Astra is not used consistently across the district; other campuses may rely on Banner or different practices entirely. This inconsistency creates challenges for **public safety, administrators, and first responders**, particularly when attempting to identify who is on campus during off-hours or emergencies. While there are workarounds in place—such as manually notifying Public Safety of events so they can add them to officers' calendars—there was broad agreement that this is not a sustainable long-term solution.

There was consensus that the district should explore replacing Ad Astra with a more modern, supported, and ideally **district-wide unified system**, rather than relying on temporary fixes. The value of consistency was emphasized, especially for officers who work across multiple campuses in a single day. Paul Cassidy committed to further investigating what systems other campuses use and bringing clearer information back to the committee.

Public Safety Update

Jim Vangele provided a detailed public safety update. Highlights included:

- **Traffic and Parking Safety:** Missing stop signs were identified and replaced with help from Facilities. Student compliance with parking rules has improved, with complaints and citations down.
- **EV Charging Enforcement:** Increased enforcement is underway to ensure compliance with four-hour charging limits and overnight parking rules. The department focuses on education first, issuing warnings before citations. Future expansion of EV charging stations is anticipated, though no timeline is set.
- **Safety Escorts:** Public Safety continues to provide safety escorts for students and staff on request.
- **Community Partnerships:** Public Safety leadership toured campus with the relatively new San Bruno Police Chief, reinforcing a strong working relationship.

Additional comments emphasized mental health support during midterms, increased foot patrols, and encouraging students and staff to use Public Safety as a readily accessible service.

Health Services Update

Judith Martinez and Lane Cordero shared several updates:

- A **Health Fair** is scheduled for the following Wednesday, with vendors, information tables, and giveaways.
- A **Blood Drive** is planned for May 5.
- The **Health Center** is expected to move into Building 2 in June or July. This move may temporarily disrupt services for one to two days, with more communication forthcoming.

Emergency Preparedness and Drills

Ben Zara Minkin led updates on recent emergency preparedness activities:

- **Violent Intruder Drill:** This year marked a shift to one morning and one evening drill district-wide, rather than separate drills per campus. This approach tested system-wide coordination, including card-access lockdowns and PA announcements through RAVE. A technical issue caused duplicate announcements at Skyline, but the redundancy was confirmed to be a built-in fail-safe. Feedback on the revised drill format was largely positive, especially from those who work or study across multiple campuses.
- **Fire Drills at Child Development Centers:** Successful fire drills were conducted, including evacuation procedures that account for weather, time of day, and child safety. Building 19 was used as a temporary relocation site if outdoor assembly is unsafe, though future space availability may change as some units move back to Building 2.
- **Training:** Fire extinguisher training and makeup Building Captain training are scheduled for April 16–17. Building Captains receive radios and go-bags, and training is required every two years due to perishable skills and CPR certification requirements. Future plans include shifting some training modules to remote formats to reduce burden.

Additional Notes and Next Steps

- The importance of accurate radio distribution and equipment tracking was reinforced.
- Committee members suggested adding an update on the **DAS project** (Distributed Antenna System) to a future agenda.
- The next meetings are scheduled for **April 9** and **May 7**, after which the committee will reconvene in September for the next academic year.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for committee members' engagement and a reminder that safety depends on open communication and proactive reporting.