

**College of San Mateo – Fire Technology
Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, April 27, 2026
10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Invitees:	Christy Baird, Coordinator Dave Pucci, Fire Chief Todd Ellis, Deputy Chief Josh McGurk, Battalion Chief Justin Velasquez, Battalion Chief Ryan Frederick, Battalion Chief Chris O’Leary, Training Captain Linda Vaughn, Regional Director Chris Wettstein, Academy Director Alex Lee, Academy Director	Fire Technology, College of San Mateo Central County Fire Department Menlo Park Fire Protection District San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department Redwood City Fire Department North County Fire Department Woodside Fire Protection District Chancellor’s Office, Public Safety Sector College of San Mateo College of San Mateo
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I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

III. Topics

A. Short-Term Goals

- Fire Academy Fall
Academy number 7 in the Fall 2026
- CSM Financial Status
- MOU
Department vs. City
Department requests
- Improving student recruitment
Fire Technology Information Session – March
Fire Academy Prep Class
- State Fire Training Accreditation - 2027
- State Fire Training Changes
- Curriculum Review and recommended updates
Reorganizing the 17-unit course
To include the testing course for FF1 and FF2

B. Long-Term Goals

- Regional Training Facility
- Paramedic Program

IV. Adjournment

College of San Mateo

Fire Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/27/26

Time: 10:35 AM – 11:50 AM

Location: College of San Mateo

List of attendees

- **Christy Baird**, Coordinator – Fire Technology, College of San Mateo
- **Dave Pucci**, Fire Chief – Central County Fire Department
- **Todd Ellis**, Deputy Chief – Menlo Park Fire Protection District
- **Josh McGurk**, Battalion Chief – San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department
- **Justin Velasquez**, Battalion Chief – Redwood City Fire Department
- **Ryan Frederick**, Battalion Chief – North County Fire Department
- **Chris O’Leary**, Training Captain – Woodside Fire Protection District
- **Linda Vaughn**, Regional Director – Chancellor’s Office, Public Safety Sector
- **Chris Wettstein**, Academy Director – College of San Mateo
- **Alex Lee**, Academy Director – College of San Mateo

College of San Mateo

Fire Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/27/26

Time: 10:35 AM – 11:50 AM

Location: College of San Mateo

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **10:35 AM**.

II. Introductions

The following attendees were present:

- **Christy Baird**, Coordinator – Fire Technology, College of San Mateo
- **Dave Pucci**, Fire Chief – Central County Fire Department
- **Todd Ellis**, Deputy Chief – Menlo Park Fire Protection District
- **Josh McGurk**, Battalion Chief – San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department
- **Justin Velasquez**, Battalion Chief – Redwood City Fire Department
- **Ryan Frederick**, Battalion Chief – North County Fire Department
- **Chris O’Leary**, Training Captain – Woodside Fire Protection District
- **Linda Vaughn**, Regional Director – Chancellor’s Office, Public Safety Sector
- **Chris Wettstein**, Academy Director – College of San Mateo
- **Alex Lee**, Academy Director – College of San Mateo

III. Program Review & Student Success

- Update on **Fire Academy #6**, including strong progress and multiple recruits receiving job offers
- Continued success of the **Fire Academy Prep (fitness) course**, with **no attrition due to fitness** this semester

IV. Labor Market Trends & Student Recruitment

- Strong regional hiring demand; fire chiefs reported **high satisfaction with CSM graduates**
- Departments prioritizing candidates who have completed the **CSM Fire Academy**
- **Fire Technology Information Night** was identified as a key recruitment success and will continue
- Noted increase in interest in fire service careers due to **job stability and limited impact from AI**

V. Curriculum, Prerequisites & Regulatory Updates

- Exploration of restructuring the **17-unit Fire Academy** into smaller modules
- Consideration of adding **FF1 and FF2 testing courses as corequisites**
- Continued emphasis on **pre-academy fitness preparation**
- Updates on **State Fire Training (SFT)** requirements and **2027 accreditation cycle**, including a planned pre-site visit in Fall 2026
- **Potential AFT Local 1493 strike** discussed; expectation of advance notice

VI. Resources, Funding & Program Constraints

- Ongoing **budget challenges**, including reduced course offerings and reliance on instructional cost controls
- Increased pressure to reduce **FTEF**, impacting academy staffing and delivery
- Challenges maintaining **multi-instructor, safety-driven training environments**
- Continued discussion of **MOU structure** (county vs. individual agency agreements)

VII. Long-Term Planning & Partnerships

- Regional Training Facility discussions ongoing (CSM not currently involved)
- Exploration of a potential **paramedic program partnership with City College of San Francisco**, requested by the fire chiefs.

VIII. Action Items

- **Dave Pucci** to follow up on **MOU structure**
- **Christy Baird** to provide update on potential **AFT Local 1111 strike**
- **Christy Baird** to discuss the possibility of a **paramedic program partnership with City College of San Francisco** with the Dean

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **11:50 AM**.