PROPERTY ACQUISITION: The Board voted unanimously to award an $11.2 million contract to H.B. Parkco Construction, Inc. to build a 430-space parking structure at SMC’s Academy of Entertainment & Technology, the first step in SMC’s plans for a new Media & Technology Complex at the satellite campus. College officials say they expect to start construction in early March and finish the parking structure by the end of 2012. The $61.2 million Media & Technology Complex is funded by Measure AA, the 2008 bond measure approved by Santa Monica and Malibu voters.

STUDY SESSION: The Board discussed two proposed programs within the framework of Santa Monica College’s “College of the Future” concept. One, a partnership with the California Institute for the Arts (CalArts), would provide for the institutions to jointly develop and offer credit courses and certificates. The second proposal would provide resident and nonresident students with a for-credit open-enrollment contract education offering. The College of the Future has been proposed in part to address the recent extraordinary cuts in class offerings due to the state funding crisis. Based on Board discussion, a set of principles will be developed to guide the potential implementation of College of the Future programs.