



**LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, August 31, 2017, beginning at 6:10 p.m. in the Samuel A. Meyer Board Room located at the Elpha Lee West Building Room 105 at the Fort McIntosh Campus.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President  
Allen Tijerina, Vice President (arrived at 6:28 p.m.)  
Cynthia Mares, Secretary  
Henry S. Carranza  
Rene De La Viña  
Gilberto Martinez, Jr.  
Michelle De La Peña  
Jackie Leven-Ramos  
Cin Bickel, Ex-officio  
MEMBERS ABSENT  
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Fred Solis on behalf of Ricardo J. Solis  
Rusty Meurer, College Attorney  
Nora R. Garza  
Nora Stewart  
Luciano Ramon  
Cesar E. Vela Jr.  
Rodney Rodriguez  
Veronica Cardenas

**CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Martinez, Board President, called the meeting to order. Ms. Mares, Board Secretary, called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2017, SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2017, BUDGET WORKSHOP OF AUGUST 7, 2017, 1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017, AND 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2017**

Ms. Mares moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. De La Viña; motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2018 OPERATING BUDGET**

Judge Martinez indicated that no one stood up for public testimony.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

No one signed up for public testimony.

**RECOGNITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Institutional Operations, indicated that three rosters of new employees are to be read. Ms. Mares introduced the following new employees: Jose De Jesus Garcia – AEP Grant Coordinator; Bianca E. Brewster – Undergraduate Research Coordinator; Miguel P. Pena – Laboratory Technician; Candelario Salazar – General Repairperson I. Dr. Martinez introduced the following new employees: Jeanna M. Cuellar – History Instructor; Alejandra Hernandez – Financial Aid Technician I; Dr. Tayo

Penosen – Government Instructor; Leslie E. Solis – Biology Instructor. Judge Martinez introduced the following new employees: Edwin I. Torres Bazaldua – Mathematics Instructor; Christina Perez – Culinary Arts Instructor; Nestor Serrato – Computer Information Systems Instructor.

Dr. Nora Garza, Vice President for Resource Development, announced two grants recently received by LCC from the Texas Workforce Commission – Adult Education and Literacy Grant for \$1,033,407 and Accelerate Texas 3 Integrated Education & Training Grant for \$366,409. She recognized Mr. Gabriel Lozano for submission of these grants, Brenda Martinez, Sandra Cortez, and Denise Flores.

Dr. Carranza reported on LCC volunteers who traveled to Victoria College today to deliver donations and help clean up the college due to Hurricane Harvey and another group will go again in a few days with the help of Ms. Belinda Guerra, former Board member, to deliver more items.

Judge Martinez noted that Dr. Ricardo Solis is absent from the meeting due to being in Mexico City for a recognition being presented by the Secretary of Education for LCC providing educational services to faculty and professors from institutions from the states of Tampulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Chihuahua.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Dr. Cin Bickel, Faculty Senate President, noted the goal of the Faculty Senate is to recommend policies and measures to implement faculty objectives. She noted that 192 faculty are back to teaching over 9,900 students in over 1,280 classes which translates to over 1.4 million contact hours for the college.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF ORGANIZATION REPORT**

No report.

**CONSENT AGENDA  
YEARLY APPROVAL OF THE  
LAREDO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE 2017 – 2018  
CATALOG – MR. RODNEY H.  
RODRIGUEZ**

Judge Martinez brought up Consent Agenda Items 17 – 19 for action. Mr. De La Viña so moved to approve the items. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF LCC  
STUDENT ID SYSTEM  
UPGRADE, PURCHASE OF  
LCC CHEER PRIDE  
UNIFORMS AND LCC  
MARIACHI PALOMINO  
UNIFORMS – MR.  
CARMELINO CASTILLO**

**APPROVAL OF THE  
PURCHASE OF HEWLETT-  
PACKARD (HP) LAPTOPS  
FOR USE BY INCOMING  
LAREDO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE STEM (SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY,  
ENGINEERING AND  
MATHEMATICS) STUDENTS,  
FUNDED BY THE TITLE III  
LEAPS STEM GRANT – DR.  
NORA R. GARZA**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE  
ACTION  
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING  
MS. RAQUEL GONZALEZ**

Judge Martinez read the resolution below:

**WHEREAS**, on July 29, 2017, the Laredo Community College lost a valued and esteemed former member of the Board of Trustees with the passing of Ms. Raquel Gonzalez;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez, a business leader, community advocate and role model for young Hispanic women, was a tireless and outspoken advocate for education;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez, resided in Laredo, Texas, most of her life and graduated from St. Augustine High School;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez, as one of the first female Hispanics in the United States to own and manage a successful title company, founded the South Texas Abstract Co. in 1975;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Laredo Community College in 1980 and served in that capacity continuously until 2008 when she retired;

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name the automotive technology center located at the Laredo Community College South Campus in Raquel Gonzalez Automotive Technology Center;

**WHEREAS**, on June 28, 2008, the Board of Trustees of Laredo Community College bestowed on Ms. Raquel Gonzalez the honorary title of Board of Trustees Emeritus;

**WHEREAS**, over several decades in her life Ms. Raquel Gonzalez received numerous community service awards, including the Laredo Morning Times Laredoan of the Year, the Congressional Certificate of Merit, the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame, Beta Sigma Phi Lady of the Year, and the Laredo Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez was appointed by Texas Governor Bill Clements to serve on the Metric System Advisory Council and the Texas Policy Advisory Council for Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons Program;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Laredo Community College with excellence, bringing her life-long commitment to promoting education to the residents of the City of Laredo; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez' energy, business acumen, graciousness and strong work ethic enriched those fortunate enough to have known and worked with her, including the members of the Laredo Community College family.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the governing Board of the Laredo Community College District adopts this resolution honoring, recognizing and acknowledging all of the service and contributions of Ms. Raquel Gonzalez to Laredo Community College District.

Judge Martinez asked for a motion to adopt the resolution as read. Mr. De La Viña so moved. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded; motion carried. Judge Martinez noted this resolution is executed and approved by the Laredo Community College District Board of Trustees on August 2017.

Ms. Mares asked for a moment of silence.

**FISCAL YEAR 2018  
OPERATING BUDGET – DR.  
NORA STEWART**

**• RESOLUTION ADOPTING  
THE BUDGET FOR FY  
2018**

Mr. Meurer noted that the Board would adopt the FY 2018 budget, FY 2018 tax rate, and FY 2018 general use fee. He also noted that for the adoption of the resolution for the tax rate there are specific legal requirements which states that the budget needs to be adopted before the tax rate.

Dr. Nora Stewart, Chief Financial Officer, asked that the Board adopt and read resolutions for the FY 2018 budget, FY 2018 tax rate, and FY 2018 general use fee. Ms. Mares noted that she requested at the Finance & Audit Committee meeting that Administration present a brief summary of the budget and tax rate.

Mr. Luciano Ramon, Information Technology Officer and member of the Budget Committee, presented the FY 2018 Budget and Tax Rate Summary.

Ms. Mares read the resolution below:

**Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2018**

**WHEREAS**, each year the Board of Trustees of the Laredo Community College District is required to have a budget prepared, showing the estimated revenue and proposed expenditures for the succeeding school year, and to cause the same to be filed in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Board; and

**WHEREAS**, such a budget has been prepared and the public has been given notice that such budget would be presented for discussion and adoption on August 31, 2017, at the time and place specified in such notice; and

**WHEREAS**, such budget has been discussed and a majority of the Board of Trustees wish to adopt same for Fiscal Year 2018;

**BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE**, that such budget be adopted and same is hereby adopted in all things.

**DATE:** August 31, 2017  
Laredo Community College District

Ms. Mares so moved to adopt the resolution. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded; motion carried.

**• RESOLUTION ADOPTING  
THE TAX RATE FOR FY  
2018**

Mr. Meurer noted that there is specific language in Texas Property Tax Code 26.05 that states that when the tax rate is adopted that exceeds the effective tax rate a specific motion has to be made, the resolution needs to be read, and adopt the resolution. Mr. Meurer read the language required by statute “I move that the Laredo Community College property tax rate be increased by the adoption of the tax rate of .338051 per 100 dollar valuation of taxable property which is effectively a 2.94 percent increase in the tax rate”. Ms. Mares so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

Judge Martinez read the resolution below:

**Resolution Adopting Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of the Laredo Community College District, in order to levy ad valorem taxes, is required to set and establish a tax rate each year; and

**WHEREAS**, such Board of Trustees has considered this matter and desires to set the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2018;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE**, that the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2018 be, and the same is hereby set at **\$0.338051** per \$100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which **\$0.255067** shall be for maintenance and operations and **\$0.082984** shall be for debt retirement.

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE; AND THE TAX RATE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE RAISED BY 2.94 PERCENT AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$10.82.

Judge Martinez asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Ms. Mares so moved. Mr. De La Viña seconded; motion carried.

• **RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING  
COLLECTION OF  
"GENERAL USE FEE"  
FOR FY 2018**

Mr. Meurer noted that the resolution needs to be read. Ms. Ramos read the resolution below:

**Resolution Authorizing Collection of  
"General Use Fee" and Expenditure of Funds  
for Fiscal Year 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of the Laredo Community College District is authorized to fix and collect tuition and fees from students for the use of its property, buildings, and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, such Board of Trustees has deemed it necessary and advisable to collect a "General Use Fee" from students for the use of its property, buildings and facilities and to apply such proceeds to the payment of principal and interest of certain revenue bonds issued and sold in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015, and 2016 for expenses generally associated with construction, reconstruction, remodeling, and repair its property, buildings, and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, such Board of Trustees has determined that such "General Use Fee" should be set at **\$50.00** per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2018, to be used as follows:

1. Approximately **\$ 4,600,713.00** for revenue bond debt service;
2. Approximately **\$ 500,000.00** to be retained as general revenue for expenses related to physical plant operations and maintenance;
3. The balance for payment of construction, reconstruction, remodeling, and repair of property, buildings, and facilities;

**BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE**, that a "General Use Fee" be collected from students at the time of registration, in the amount of **\$50.00** per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2018.

**DATE:** August 31, 2017

**Laredo Community College District**

Mercurio Martinez, Jr., President and Cynthia Mares, Secretary

Mr. De La Viña so moved to adopt the resolution. Dr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried. Dr. Stewart thanked the Board for their support and Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, Ms. Patricia Barrera, for her work.

**JULY 2017 FINANCIAL  
REPORT – MR. CESAR E.  
VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Comptroller, reviewed the following financial information for the report as of July 31, 2017: revenue is \$54,002,977 and expenditures are \$45,346,569 with no major variances; restricted funds revenues from restricted grants are \$24.5 million. Dr. Nora R. Garza clarified information on three grants. Mr. Vela reported that taxes collected are \$30,744,157, investments are \$153,626,868, and the general operating fund balance is \$21.8 million. Mr. De La Viña noted for the record that at one point LCC was funded 54 percent by the State. Mr. Vela noted that it is now 19 percent. Judge Martinez acknowledged the report and asked those in favor to say aye. All in favor; no one against.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 2017  
QUARTERLY INVESTMENT  
REPORT – MR. CESAR E.  
VELA**

Mr. Vela presented the Quarterly Investment Report as of May 31, 2017.

Ms. Mares moved to approve the report. Mr. De La Viña seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE  
RANKING OF PROPOSALS  
FOR THE BANK  
DEPOSITORY CONTRACT –  
DR. NORA STEWART**

Dr. Stewart noted that the Finance & Audit Committee evaluated, scored, and ranked the proposals submitted. BBVA Compass received a score of 231 and Falcon International Bank received a score of 394. Mr. De La Viña made a motion to proceed with Falcon International Bank. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Judge Martinez noted that

representative from Falcon – Mr. Gonzalez and representatives from BBVA – Mr. Narvaez and Ms. Ancira were present and thanked them for their support.

**AUTHORIZE THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LAREDO LICENSED UNITED STATES CUSTOM BROKER'S ASSOCIATION (LLUSCBA) FOR UTILIZATION OF BUILDING P-3 "LCC PANTRY BUILDING" – MR. RODNEY H. RODRIGUEZ**

Mr. Rodney Rodriguez, Executive Director of Strategic and External Affairs, requested approval to authorize the college president to enter into negotiations with the Laredo Licensed United States Custom Broker's Association for utilization of Building P-3. Ms. Mares so moved. Mr. De La Viña seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION TO LCC BOARD POLICY DEB(LOCAL), COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS-FRINGE BENEFITS – DR. FEDERICO SOLIS/MS. VERONICA CARDENAS**

Ms. Veronica Cardenas, Human Resources Director, is requesting approval to remove the employee late fee requirement and remove the permanent residence requirement for dependents from the policy. Ms. Mares so moved. Mr. Tijerina seconded; motion carried.

**APPROVAL TO SERVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT LEGACY DINNER AS PER LCC BOARD POLICY GFA(LOCAL) AND MODIFY THE LEGACY DINNER DATE – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS**

Dr. Fred Solis noted that the Legacy Dinner is now set for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and the President is seeking approval to serve alcoholic beverages at the dinner. Ms. Leven-Ramos noted that the committee is considering only serving wine. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved to approve. Mr. Meurer noted that there is a Board policy that addresses the serving of alcoholic beverages; therefore, suggested that the Board make a motion authorizing the institution to serve wine at the Legacy Dinner. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PROGRAMS – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS**

Dr. Fred Solis is asking that the consent agenda items be deferred to the September meeting. Mr. De La Viña so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**MARKETING ACTIVITIES UPDATE – MR. RODNEY H. RODRIGUEZ**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CYBERSECURITY CAREER CERTIFICATION UPDATE – MR. RODNEY H. RODRIGUEZ**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORTS CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, TRAVEL, AND OTHER REPORTS**

The reports were provided for information purposes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Judge Martinez acknowledged that the next meeting is Thursday, September 21, 2017 – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:05 p.m., Mr. De La Viña moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Tijerina seconded. Motion carried.