



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The special meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Monday, August 5, 2019, beginning at 12:05 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
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary
Jorge “JD” Delgado
Lupita Zepeda
Esteban Rangel
Tita C. Vela (*arrived at 12:05 p.m.*)

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Rosa M. Cuellar

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Mares
Michelle De La Peña

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Martinez called the meeting to order. Dr. Carranza called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

FY 2020 BUDGET UPDATE –
MR. CESAR VELA

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect that Ms. Vela has joined the meeting.

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY2020 Budget Update which included expenditures, revenues, salaries, general pay increase costs, benefit package information, 2019 property valuations, tax rate comparison, and the Budget Committee’s recommendations. Discussion took place on TASB salary recommendations. Ms. Leven-Ramos requested to add an executive session item to the next meeting to review the salary recommendations. Mr. Meurer mentioned that he would speak to Dr. Ricardo Solis and Ms. Leven-Ramos as there are limitations under the Open Meetings Act in which boards can discuss items in executive session.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING MATTERS RELATED TO THE APPRAISAL ROLL AND THE PROPOSED 2019 TAX RATE:

– MR. CESAR VELA

- a. **APPROVE THE 2019 CERTIFICATION OF THE APPRAISAL ROLL**
- b. **APPROVE THE ANTICIPATED DEBT COLLECTIONS FOR 2019 OF 100%**
- c. **TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE: IF PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL EXCEED THE EFFECTIVE TAX**

Judge Martinez welcomed Ms. Rosa M. Cuellar, Webb County Tax Assessor-Collector, to the meeting. Ms. Cuellar provided the Board with the 2019 certified appraisal roll, certificate of valuations under protest, accounts, exemptions, total net taxable value, worksheet, and certified totals. She noted that collections for Laredo College are at 97.70%. Dr. Carranza so moved to approve the 2019 certification of the appraisal roll. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ms. Cuellar asked that the Board approve the anticipated debt collection for 2019 of 100%. Dr. Carranza so moved. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ms. Cuellar went over changes for next year and the notice of effective tax rate was published on Saturday. Ms. Leven-Ramos asked Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, if Laredo College would fall under “schools” or “other entities” for the purpose of these changes. Mr. Meurer indicated

**RATE, TAKE RECORD
VOTE (TO CONSIDER
THE TAX INCREASE)
AND SCHEDULE PUBLIC
HEARINGS (DATE, TIME
AND PLACE)**

“other entities”. Mr. Meurer explained the process. Judge Martinez asked for a motion to take action on the proposed tax rate, if proposed tax rate will exceed the effective tax rate, take record vote and schedule public hearings. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion. Mr. Meurer asked that Mr. Vela provide the dates of the public hearings before the Board moves to take action on this item. Mr. Vela asked the Board to vote on the proposed rate of .255067 which exceeds the effective tax rate, 1st proposed public hearing for August 15, 2019 at 12:00 noon, and 2nd proposed public hearing for August 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Carranza so moved. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Vela clarified that the .255067 is the maintenance & operations rate and the debt rate is .073576. Dr. Carranza moved to acknowledge. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved; motion carried. Ms. Vela asked for confirmation that a quorum is not needed for the two public hearings. Mr. Meurer confirmed that this is correct but to adopt, it does require a quorum.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE
BLEACHER SYSTEM FOR
MARAVILLO GYM – MR.
CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela asked that the Board approve the purchase of a bleacher system for the Maravillo Gym in the amount of \$63,370. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the purchase. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:46 p.m., Judge Martinez announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following items:

- Hear Oral Arguments Regarding Recommendation to Terminate the Employment of a Laredo College Tenured Faculty Member. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Closed Session Pursuant to Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to Inform the Employment, Reassignment and Duties of Certain Employees due to Minor Reorganization related to the Resignation of the Executive Director of Strategic and External Initiatives

Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Meurer asked to provide the Board with legal advice in executive session prior to inviting individuals for the oral arguments item.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO
TERMINATE THE
EMPLOYMENT OF A
LAREDO COLLEGE
TENURED FACULTY
MEMBER**

The Board reconvened to open session at 2:53 p.m. Judge Martinez noted that no action was taken in executive session.

Judge Martinez asked for a motion “to approve the recommendation to dismiss Dr. Cynthia Aradillas and to terminate her employment with Laredo College effective immediately”. Mr. Rangel so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Judge Martinez noted the next meeting dates:

Thursday, August 15, 2019, 12:00 p.m. – 1st Public Hearing on 2019 Tax Rate
Thursday, August 22, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – 2nd Public Hearing on 2019 Tax Rate
Thursday, August 29, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:53 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.