



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, beginning at 6:05 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
Jorge "JD" Delgado
Lupita Zepeda
Esteban Rangel
Tita C. Vela

MEMBERS ABSENT

Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary
Cynthia Mares
Michelle De La Peña

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Nora R. Garza
Luciano Ramon
Hillary Gleason
Gerry Schwebel
Marco Arredondo
Cesar Vela
Orlando Zepeda
Horacio Salinas
Eli Mendoza

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Martinez called the meeting to order. Ms. Leven-Ramos called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER
13, 2019**

Mr. Rangel moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leven-Ramos; motion carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

**RECOGNITIONS,
COMMUNICATIONS,
INTRODUCTIONS OF
PERSONNEL, AND NEW
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR
THE MONTH**

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, noted that:

- Police Academy graduation is today and for the 11th time, the Academy has received 100% passing rate.
- DPS headquarters on campus will be operational in the near future

Dr. Nora R. Garza, Vice President for Resource Development, announced that LC has received a USDA grant, PROMISE Scholars, for \$275,000 for five years.

Mr. Luciano Ramon, Information Technology & Safety Officer, reported that the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement audit noted no deficiencies. He recognized Chief Ray Cortez.

Dr. Ricardo Solis announced:

- a soft opening for the Palomino Café at the Yeary Library was held
- new employees: Tracey Ramos, Advisor-Title V Building Scholars; Daniela Trevino, Project Advisement Coordinator Advocate; Carlos G. Macias, Payroll Clerk; Ricardo A. Rodriguez, Laboratory Technician Assistant; and Cynthia Y. Rodriguez, Library Director.
- Highlights of the year.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Dr. Hillary Gleason, Faculty Senate Vice President, reported on: (1) dual enrollment committee and (2) evaluation committee.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF
COUNCIL REPORT**

No report.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to bring up Item 23 - *Discuss and Approve Naming a Room in the Yearly Library and Executive Conference Center as per Laredo College Board Policy CLA(LOCAL): FACILITIES PLANNING - FACILITIES STANDARDS* and move Item 16 - *FY 2019 Annual Audited Financial Report* after Item 22. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE NAMING A ROOM IN THE YEARLY LIBRARY AND EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE CENTER AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY CLA(LOCAL): FACILITIES PLANNING - FACILITIES STANDARDS – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Dr. Ricardo Solis asked that the front part of the Yearly Library be named the IBC Leadership Center in return for their donation to be used for student-related and library-related activities. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the naming of the Palomino Café and East quarter in the Yearly Library and Executive Conference Center the IBC Leadership Center. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gerry Schwebel of IBC expressed his appreciation on this partnership.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Vela moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Item 8 - October 2019 Monthly Financial Report
- Item 9 - Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for the Physical Plant Department and Campus Police
- Item 10 - Approval for Tennis Court Repairs
- Item 11 - Approval to Use Student Activities Fund Balance to Cover Travel Expenses for Title IX Training and Certification Courses
- Item 12 - Approval of Contract for Trash Collection Services
- Item 13 - Approval of Contract for Elevator Maintenance Services
- Item 14 - Approval of Purchase of Network Infrastructure Equipment for the Health Science Center – South Campus
- Item 15 - Approval of Purchase of Simulation Lab Equipment/Software for the Health Science Center – South Campus

Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH RETAIL ELECTRICITY PROVIDER – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, asked the Board for approval to enter into a contractual agreement with a retail electricity provider which is recommended by an evaluation committee and Mr. Marco Arredondo, professional utility rating energy consultant. Mr. Arredondo presented a history of rates, usage, and some details of the RFP. Mr. Orlando Zepeda, Director of Plant Operations and Maintenance, provided information on electricity control systems. Mr. Delgado moved to approve the entering into a contractual agreement with a retail electricity provider. Ms. Leven-Ramos asked about the retail electricity provider. Mr. Arredondo noted that the provider will not be known until closing. Ms. Zepeda seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION FOR VILORE FOODS COMPANY, INC. LOCATED AT 8220 SAN LORENZO, LAREDO, TEXAS – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis noted that the city and the county have already approved the foreign trade zone request. Mr. Rangel moved to adopt the resolution presented. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ANNEXATION OF NEW PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN ANNEXED BY THE CITY OF LAREDO – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela asked the Board to approve a resolution to adopt the annexation of the following 7 tracts of land into the tax rolls.

Tract 1 – MRMD Development Co. LLC

Annexing additional territory of 26.61 Acres, more or less, located north of Wormser Rd. and east of Cuatro Vientos Rd/Loop 20.

Tract 2 - Cuatro Vientos South, LTD #2

Annexing additional territory of 328.98 Acres, more or less, located south of Wormser Rd. and east of Cuatro Vientos Rd/Loop 20.

Tract 3 - El Retiro

Annexing additional territory of 6.26 Acres, more or less, located North of FM 1742 and west of Copper Mine Rd.

Tract 4 - Holman and Vasquez

Annexing additional territory of 76.22 Acres, more or less, located north of FM 1472 west of FM 3338/Las Tiendas Rd.

Tract 5 - Mandel Tract

Annexing additional territory of 24.43 Acres, more or less, located east of Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course and west of FM 1472.

Tract 6 - L20, B2, Pinto Valle Industrial Park, Phase 1

Annexing additional territory of 1.5 Acres, more or less, located north of FM 1472 and east of Lampazos Loop.

Tract 7 - COT Properties

Annexing additional territory of 8.87 Acres, more or less, located north of Anahuac Dr. and east of Pinto Valle Dr.

Mr. Delgado so moved to approve. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Vela was not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PLAN - MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela presented the Voluntary Separation Plan and asked the Board to approve the voluntary separation plan as presented and the use of \$1.5 million from the General Operating Fund Balance to fund the voluntary separation plan. Mr. Vela answered questions from the Board. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the voluntary separation plan as presented. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF LC BOARD POLICY CAK(LOCAL): APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE SOURCES - INVESTMENTS - MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela noted that it is required by Texas Government Code Chapter 2256 to bring this policy annually for review and approval. He presented the modifications to the policy. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt LC Board Policy CAK(LOCAL) as presented. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE NAMING A ROOM IN THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY CLA(LOCAL): FACILITIES PLANNING - FACILITIES STANDARDS - DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ/DR. HORACIO SALINAS

Dr. Horacio Salinas, Dean of Arts & Sciences, asked the Board to approve the naming of the ceramics studio classroom in the Visual & Performing Arts Building Room 134 after Mr. Dale Short, Art Instructor. He indicated that a scholarship account in his name will be established. Ms. Leven-Ramos noted for the record that "Mr. Short is employed at Laredo College. He is a member of the Visual Arts Department and he holds an Associate of Arts from Odessa College, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Corpus Christi State University, a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Texas - San Antonio. His teaching experience includes art instructor and art department chair from the Fall of 1996 to present and he served as department chair from 2000 - 2012. He has taught courses ARTS 1301, art appreciation at the college and high schools as well, ARTS 2326, ARTS 2366, ARTS 2367, sculpture 1 & 2, and watercolor 1 & 2. He has excellent evaluations from both supervisors as chair and dean and students. His commitment to teaching to the success of his students and he is highly committed to the mission of the college. As a department chair, he oversaw the transition of the visual & performing arts department into the Martinez Fine Arts and the visual & performing arts center. He is an excellent supervisor who mentored and met his

faculty through hard work, dedication, and commitment to the college. And, overall, he has donated and sold many of his personal hand-made ceramic items at school sales to raise money for art students scholarships, which they will also now benefit from a scholarship in his name.” Mr. Delgado so moved to approve. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

**FY 2019 ANNUAL AUDITED
FINANCIAL REPORT – MR.
CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela introduced Mr. Eli Mendoza, auditor with Garza, Gonzalez, & Associates. Mr. Mendoza went over the financial report and audit findings in accordance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board standards. Mr. Rangel moved to acknowledge the report. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

**STATUS OF LAREDO
COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD
MEMBERS’ REQUIRED
TRAINING AS PER TEXAS
EDUCATION CODE,
SECTION 61.084, LEGAL
POLICIES BBD(LLEGAL):
BOARD MEMBERS
ORIENTATION AND
TRAINING AND BI(LLEGAL):
REPORTS – DR. RICARDO J.
SOLIS**

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis noted for the record that all but one Board member have completed the required training. The Board member is in the process of completing the training.

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

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis and Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, reported on the SACSCOC visit.

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez announced that Laredo College has applied for the Aspen Award.

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis announced that he and three students will be visiting Sweet Briar College for a possible opportunity to attend.

Judge Martinez read a letter from the Secretary of State commissioning Dr. Ricardo J. Solis a member of the Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs.

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis announced that the Apple Corporation has invited him to attend an event fully paid.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, January 30, 2020 – Regular Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:38 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.