



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, beginning at 6:06 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
(arrived at 6:24 p.m.)
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary
Jorge “JD” Delgado
Lupita Zepeda
Esteban Rangel
Michelle De La Peña *(arrived at 6:12 p.m.)*
Tita C. Vela

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Mares *(participated via conference call at 7:08 p.m.)*

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Nora R. Garza
Marisela Rodriguez
Carolyn Schmies
Prakash Mansinghani
Wilma Guzman
Cesar Vela
Obed Guerrero
David V. Arreazola
Carolyn Schmies

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 29, 2019

Dr. Carranza moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rangel; motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Judge Martinez provided information from the Board Policy BDB(LOCAL) to clarify the topics presented under public testimony.

“Each person shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board. When there are six or less speakers that are scheduled, the Board President may extend each speaker’s time to five minutes. Time may not be ceded from one speaker to another. The Board President may also limit the total amount of time for public testimony but not to less than thirty minutes. The speaker may not speak on personnel or student matters that refer to individuals by name or title. After a speaker’s comments, the Board President shall make whatever response, if any, or take whatever action, if any, is deemed appropriate to handle the matter. Such response or action may include the following: 1) referring the matter to the College President for action or for further recommendations, 2) referring the matter to a later meeting or to a Board committee for further discussion or study, 3) indicating that the matter shall be taken under advisement. If the Board President determines that a person has not attempted to resolve a matter administratively, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy for attempted resolution before bringing the matter to the Board.”

The following individuals addressed the Board to express their support of Items 27 - *College President’s 2018 – 2019 Annual Evaluation* and 28 - *College President’s Employment Contract*:

- Dr. Tayo Penosen (Items 27 and 28)
- Mr. Prakash K. Mansinghani (Item 28)
- Dr. Hillary Gleason (Item 27)

RECOGNITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND NEW

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, announced:

- New employee – Ms. Tracy E. Riojas, Campus Police Coordinator.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH

- \$250,000 awarded to Gateway Health Clinic to be used for dental equipment at the LC South Clinic.
- Selection of Senior Director of Strategic and External Initiatives is being finalized.

Dr. Nora R. Garza, Vice President for Resource Development, announced that LC is receiving a \$150,000 supplement to the \$6 million LEAPS grant by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced:

- Diesel technology program has been reaccredited by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) for a maximum of 5 years.
- Cybersecurity institute grand opening is scheduled for October 1st.

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Vela, Ms. Leven-Ramos, and Ms. De La Peña.

Ms. Carolyn Schmies, Dean of South Campus, presented a brief video of the 2nd annual Fall Fest & 15th anniversary event at LC South scheduled for October 12th from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. She thanked Ms. Beatriz Gutierrez, Mr. Obed Guerrero, Mr. Eliud Valdez, and Mr. Carmelino Castillo for their help with this event.

Dr. Ricardo Solis indicated that a list of personnel actions were distributed to the Board.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported on: (1) gratitude for faculty pay; (2) creation of two committees for faculty evaluation instruments and dual enrollment; (3) faculty ranks & titles, and (4) morale.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT

Ms. Vilma Guzman, Associated Student Organization President, reported on: (1) active shooter awareness training for student organizations; (2) workstudy training; (3) presentation of a video on trading station outreach. She introduced Trading Station student manager, Alysse Lara and thanked Dr. Carranza for his donations; (4) Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education professional chapter for coordinating food donations from the South Texas Food Bank; and (5) see something, say something campaign.

Dr. Ricardo Solis and Mr. Rangel reported on the first meeting with local ISDs, TAMIU, city, county, and government agencies regarding safety awareness action plan.

CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Carranza moved to approve all the items under Consent Agenda.

- Item 9 – Approval of Information Technology Support and Maintenance Expenditures as Approved by the FY 2020 Budget
- Item 10 – Preliminary August 2019 Financial Report Approval of Annual Athletic Fields Maintenance Program
- Item 11 – Approval of Annual Athletic Fields Maintenance Program
- Item 12 – Approval for a Five (5) Year Service Agreement with TRANE for HVAC Water Treatment Services
- Item 13 – Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for the Transportation Technology Department
- Item 14 – Approval of Acquisition of Serials and Periodicals as Approved by FY 2020 Budget

- Item 15 – Approval of Library Annual Periodical Database Subscriptions from GOBI as Approved by the FY 2020 Budget

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

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OF GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE FOR WILLIAM N. “BILLY” HALL STUDENT CENTER ROOFING PROJECT – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, asked that the Board approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$403,421.07 for the LC South Billy Hall Roof Restoration Project, a component of Phase III of Laredo College’s Facilities Master Plan. Dr. Carranza moved to approve the item. Ms. De La Peña seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL FOR REMOVAL, RELOCATION, AND UPGRADE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER AT WILLIAM N. “BILLY” HALL STUDENT CENTER – MR. LUCIANO RAMON/MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela asked that the Board approve the removal, relocation and upgrade of the telecommunications tower by Rz Communications in the amount of \$36,743.98. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD NOMINEES OF CANDIDATES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Ms. Leven-Ramos expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Mr. Rangel so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion. Mr. Meurer recommended adding to the motion that Ms. Leven-Ramos continues to serve on the Board and to approve the resolution naming the Laredo College District candidate. Mr. Rangel so amended his motion. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PROGRAMS – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Mr. Obed Guerrero, Community and Public Relations Director, presented a video on the See Something, Say Something campaign.

UPDATE ON TEXAS PATHWAY PROJECT – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, announced that Laredo College’s application for Round 2 of the Texas Pathways Project has been accepted. The institute will be November 6 – 8 in San Antonio.

UPDATE ON LAREDO COLLEGE REAFFIRMATION COMMITTEE ON-SITE REVIEW VISIT – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research/SACSCOC Liaison, distributed information on the SACSCOC on-site reaffirmation visit. Mr. Meurer informed the Board that he could give them legal advice in executive session under Texas Government Code 551.071 regarding Open Meetings Act issues that may arise due to the visiting team meeting with Board members. Judge Martinez asked for a motion to acknowledge the presentation. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

At 7:08 p.m., Ms. Mares joined the meeting via conference call and identified herself for the record.

LAREDO COLLEGE MARKETING UPDATE – MS. CAROLYN SCHMIES/MR. OBED GUERRERO

Ms. Carolyn Schmies, Dean of South Campus, introduced Mr. Obed Guerrero to present the marketing update. Mr. Guerrero presented the marketing goal, campaign, target audience, growth and retention success cycle, stages of the enrollment decision process, objectives, brand awareness in the community, data driven decisions, advertising coverage map, outdoor advertising locations, online advertising, print advertising, television advertising, radio advertising, other advertising & promotion, and college advertising survey results.

**SUMMARY OF 2019 TEXAS
LEGISLATIVE CHANGES –
MR. RUSTY MEURER**

Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, briefly presented a summary of the 2019 Texas legislative changes on HB 2840, SB 1640, SB 944, HB 1962, HB 305, SB 1978, HB 3834, SB 943, HB 449, SB 212, HB 1735, SB 18, HB 2826, SB 988, SB 662, and SB 1494. He will email the presentation to the Board.

**USE OF ROBERT'S RULES
OF ORDER FOR EFFECTIVE
AND EFFICIENT BOARD
MEETINGS – MR. RUSTY
MEURER/DR. RICARDO J.
SOLIS**

Judge Martinez asked for a motion to table this item. Mr. Rangel so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:51 p.m., Judge Martinez announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following items:

- Item 25 - Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning College President's 2018 – 2019 Annual Evaluation
- Item 26 - Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning College President's Employment Contract

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to obtain legal advice on Item 21 - *Update on Laredo College Reaffirmation Committee On-Site Review Visit* in executive session. Mr. Rangel so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Mr. Meurer stated that Item 21 discussion in executive session is under Texas Government Code 551.071.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION**

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:16 p.m. Judge Martinez noted that no action was taken in executive session. Ms. Mares joined the meeting via conference call.

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S
2018 – 2019 ANNUAL
EVALUATION**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “accept the president’s evaluation as discussed in executive session”. Mr. Rangel and Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the college president’s contract be extended by two years and his salary be raised by 8%”. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried by majority vote. Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect that Ms. Vela and Ms. Mares voted against.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Dr. Ricardo Solis indicated that a poll will be sent to the Board for Wednesday, October 30th, or Thursday, October 31st, as the next Board meeting date.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 p.m., Dr. Carranza moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.