



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The Public Hearing on the Proposed 2021 Budget of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, August 27, 2020, 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. Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, this meeting was also conducted by videoconference or telephone call, pursuant to Governor Greg Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020. Some of Laredo College Board members participated by Zoom videoconference or telephone call.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary
Jorge "JD" Delgado *(participated via Zoom)*
Lupita Zepeda *(participated via Zoom)*
Esteban Rangel
Michelle De La Peña *(participated via Zoom)*
Tita C. Vela *(participated via Zoom)*

OTHERS

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Mares

CALL TO ORDER

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

**PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, indicated that this item is to allow members of the community to express their opinion on the proposed 2021 budget. He announced that if anyone wanting to speak before the Board may do so now.

There being no speakers, Mr. Vela indicated that the public hearing may be closed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:12 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the public hearing. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Regular Board meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened at 6:12 p.m., immediately following the public hearing on the Proposed 2021 Budget.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary
(left the meeting after executive session)
Cynthia Mares *(joined the meeting during executive session via Zoom)*
Jorge “JD” Delgado *(participated via Zoom)*
Lupita Zepeda *(participated via Zoom)*
Esteban Rangel
Michelle De La Peña *(participated via Zoom)*
Tita C. Vela *(participated via Zoom)*

MEMBERS ABSENT

—

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Michael Gonzalez
Nora R. Garza, Ph.D.
Prakash Mansinghani
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Rosie Cuellar
Marisela Rodriguez
Marissa Guerrero
Heriberto Hernandez
David Arreazola
Fred Solis

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 FOR REGULAR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF JULY 30, 2020**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

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

“An individual’s comments to the Board shall not exceed three minutes per meeting. When there are six or less speakers 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, to 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, and 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.”

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Strategic & External Affairs, read aloud the public comments submitted by email. The following individuals expressed their support for the college president.

Rene De La Vina
Laura C. Lopez, Ph.D.
Leticia Cantu

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

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, announced the new hires - Dr. Michael M. Bailey, Homeland Security Studies Instructor; Ernesto J. Garza, Assistant Professor of Culinary Arts; Mauro Ramon, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medical Services/Clinical Coordinator; and Gregorio A. Salas, Emergency Medical Services Instructor.

Dr. Nora R. Garza, Vice President for Resource Development, announced receipt of JET grant for nursing and the item on the agenda for the purchase of health sciences equipment is using LEAPS grant funds. The Title V grant is still pending and although LC is not

funded, LC is in funding with Texas A&M University – Kingsville for a degree in engineering which is a \$50,000 planning grant.

Mr. Michael Gonzalez gave updates on the Laredo Cares, Laredo Cares book distribution car parade, and Board elections.

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis asked the Board that instead of deliberating on his contract salary increase to consider revisiting the budget for a possibility of an increase in the future for employees if the circumstances change.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported on: 1) Quality Matters; 2) budget and salary adjustment; and 3) thanked the Administration and Board for their leadership.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Item 7 - June 2020 Financial Report
- Item 8 - Approval of May 2020 Quarterly Investment Report
- Item 9 - Ratification for the Purchase of Computer Equipment for the Computer Technology Department
- Item 10 - Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for the College of Health Sciences Building
- Item 11 - Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for the Cigarroa Science Complex
- Item 12 - Ratification for Repairs at the Fort McIntosh Central Plant

Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET AND 2020 PROPERTY TAX RATE: – MR. CESAR E. VELA, JR.

Mr. Cesar E. Vela, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed 2020 budget including planning factors - revenues, expenditures, and tax rate. Ms. Leven-Ramos requested an analysis of contracted services expenditures and savings at the end of the semester. Mr. Vela noted that there are three resolutions that the Board needs to adopt.

A. RESOLUTION ADOPTING FY 2021 BUDGET

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt the FY 2021 Budget. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

B. RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2020 PROPERTY TAX RATE

Dr. Carranza moved to adopt the 2020 Property Tax Rate. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Rosie Cuellar, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, asked for a record vote. Ms. Leven-Ramos indicated the Board members who voted. Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, noted that all 8 members voted in favor.

C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COLLECTION OF “GENERAL USE FEE” AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FY 2021

Mr. Rangel moved to authorize collection of ‘General Use Fee’ and expenditure of funds for FY 2021. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP (BASORGL) – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ AND DR. MARISSA GUERRERO

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, thanked Dr. David Arreazola, Dr. Veronica Martinez, Dr. Horacio Salinas, Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Ms. Linda Ramirez, and Dr. Marissa Guerrero for their work on this degree. Dr. Marissa Guerrero, English and Communications Department Chair, presented information on the proposed degree. Dr. Rodriguez answered questions from the Board. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Organizational Leadership. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN U.S. BORDER
PATROL AND LAREDO
COLLEGE FOR TRAINING
COURSES – DR. MARISELA
RODRIGUEZ AND MR.
HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez noted that Laredo College has received the official approval letter from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a certificate I, a certificate II, and an associate's degree in homeland studies and is now pending approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College.

Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, asked the Board to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Border Patrol and Laredo College for training through continuing education courses by authorizing the college president to finalize pending issues with input from legal counsel and execute the final version of the MOU. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Dr. Solis noted that this project is different from the other project that is being worked on with Homeland Security.

**SCHEDULE DATE FOR
LEVEL THREE GRIEVANCE
HEARING FILED BY AN
ADJUNCT FACULTY
MEMBER – DR. RICARDO J.
SOLIS**

Mr. Rusty Meurer noted that an adjunct faculty member whose services was terminated is requesting an appeal (Level 3 Grievance). The Board can provide dates to schedule the grievance or have Dr. Solis coordinate a date with the Board. Judge Martinez asked for a motion authorizing Dr. Solis to coordinate a date for the grievance. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

Dr. Solis recognized Mr. Bobby Ochoa on his retirement after 48 years of service to the College.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President for Compliance and Risk Management, and Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, provided updates on Laredo College's response to COVID-19.

**NEW LAREDO COLLEGE
ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURE – DR. RICARDO
J. SOLIS**

Dr. Solis noted that the new organizational structure was submitted to the Board for their information (subject to changes).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 p.m., Judge Martinez announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following items:

- Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning College President's 2019 – 2020 Annual Evaluation
- Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning College President's Employment Contract

Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION**

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:21 p.m. Judge Martinez noted that no action was taken in executive session. *(Dr. Carranza did not return from executive session.)*

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S
2019 – 2020 ANNUAL
EVALUATION**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to accept the 2019-2020 annual performance evaluation for the president as discussed in executive session. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

Ms. Leven-Ramos noted that no action will be taken on this item.

Dr. Solis commended the employees for their hard work during this pandemic.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, September 24, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.