



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, May 7, 2020, beginning at 12:02 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  
Cynthia Mares *(via conference call)*  
Jorge "JD" Delgado  
Lupita Zepeda *(via conference call)*  
Esteban Rangel  
Michelle De La Peña *(via conference call)*  
Tita C. Vela *(via conference call)*

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.  
Rusty Meurer  
David V. Arreazola  
Fred Solis  
Cesar E. Vela Jr.  
Marisela Rodriguez  
Carolyn Schmies

MEMBERS ABSENT

—

**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 FEBRUARY 27,  
2020, EMERGENCY BOARD  
OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF  
MARCH 20, 2020, AND  
EMERGENCY BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES MEETING OF  
APRIL 3, 2020**

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

**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. Time may not be ceded from one speaker to another. The Board President may also limit the total amount of time for public testimony. The speaker may not speak on personnel or student matters that refer to individuals by name or by 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."

The following individuals addressed the Board to express their opinion of Item 12 - *Suspension of Athletics Programs for One Year*.

Mr. Benjamin Garcia

Mr. John Hundsnurscher

**RECOGNITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, presented the Employee Recognition Program. He highlighted some of the recipients of some of the awards: Golden Apple Award – Daniel Benavides; Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Award Nominee – Joe Molina; NISOD Excellence Award Recipients – Dr. Armando I. Perez, Nestor Serrato, Jose Luis Santos, and Veronica Martinez; School Bell Award Nominee – Juliana Kelley; Laredo College Excellence Award Teamwork Award – QEP Committee.

Dr. David Arreazola, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Research, explained the role of the QEP Committee.

Dr. Ricardo Solis, President, indicated that a few people are in attendance who arrived late who wish to speak under Public Testimony. Dr. Carranza moved to bring back Item 4 – *Public Testimony*. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion. Judge Martinez called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Judge Martinez provided information from the Board Policy BDB(LOCAL) again.

The following individuals addressed the Board to express their opinion of Item 12 - *Suspension of Athletics Programs for One Year*.

Ms. Tina Trevino  
Mr. Joe McCarry  
Ms. Alejandra Sanchez

**RECOGNITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Dr. Ricardo Solis recognized the Network Technology-Edu Roam team as the recipient of the Innovation Award.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President of Student Success & Enrollment, reported that the Palomino Trading Post will resume operations.

**UPDATE ON VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PLAN – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, reported that 25 employees will participate in the plan. He provided comparisons between current year and previous years.

**PRESENTATION OF 2020 – 2021 STUDENT HANDBOOKS FOR: HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (B.S.N.) DEGREE, ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING, VOCATIONAL NURSING, NURSING ASSISTANT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY, MEDICAL ASSISTANT, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT, PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY; HONORS PROGRAM; REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY; CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM; ELEARNING & INSTRUCTIONAL**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, indicated that the only new handbook is for Diagnostic Medical Sonography and there are no major changes in the other handbooks. All handbooks have disclaimers included due to COVID situation.

**INNOVATION CENTER;  
COSMETOLOGY; ADULT  
EDUCATION & LITERACY;  
ACCELERATE TEXAS (ATX) -  
CONTINUING EDUCATION -  
DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ**

**COVID-19 UPDATES -  
DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS**

Dr. Ricardo Solis reported on changes due to COVID-19: extending Spring Break, Board approving administrative authority during pandemic, virtual classes for summer, blended methods of delivery for classes in the fall, and enrollments for Maymester and summer.

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez went over the Executive Order GA18 which limits face-to-face instruction for summer with only a few exceptions. She recognized Mr. Javier Cano and faculty for their efforts during this time. Ms. Leven-Ramos inquired about the CARES funding and asked for a spreadsheet of online and face-to-face courses.

Dr. Fred Solis reported on: the Student Services and Finance divisions are working remotely; 3,000 students have registered for summer sessions and fall; \$4.4 million of CARES Act funding are earmarked for qualifying students; Maymester begins on Monday; summer academy and summer session enrollment and proposing enrollment incentives; and graduation.

Dr. Ricardo Solis asked that the Faculty Senate President be allowed to speak. Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, advised the Board to bring an item on the agenda to allow the presentation to be made. Judge Martinez moved to bring back Item 4 - *Public Testimony*. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President/Associate Professor of Government, thanked the advising staff, Dr. Fred Solis, and Ms. Andrea Lopez for Maymester enrollments; thanked the Board, Dr. Ricardo Solis, Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, and Dr. Fred Solis for moving to online classes; congratulated graduates; recognized 17 faculty retirees – Virginia Avila, Gary Brown, Rajakumari Chekuri, Sylvia Elizondo, Carlos Flores, Raymundo Fuentes, Angelica Garcia, Enrique Garcia, Rosalinda Herrera, Nancy Herschap, Roger Johnston, Jacinto Juarez, Fernando Prince, Jose Rico, Manuel Rios, Ramiro Rodriguez, and Dale Short; online transition; and Item 14 - *Nonrenewal of Employment Contracts of Laredo College Faculty Members*.

Judge Martinez thanked Dr. Ricardo Solis, Dr. Fred Solis, Mr. Cesar Vela and all administration in dealing with the COVID situation. Mr. Delgado also thanked faculty and classified staff. Dr. Ricardo Solis also thanked administration, operations, finance, facilities, students, instruction, and Dr. Marisela Rodriguez. He also reported that WiFi is available in the parking lots for students and laptops have been distributed to students.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 1:31 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 to Discuss the Athletics Program Personnel and Related Legal Issues in Connection with a Proposal to Suspend the Program for One Year
- Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 to Discuss Recommendation for the Nonrenewal of Employment

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

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Board reconvened to open session at 2:42 p.m. Judge Martinez noted that no action was taken in executive session and called on Dr. Ricardo Solis for comments.

Dr. Ricardo Solis read a statement on the COVID-19 pandemic that was distributed to the media.

Dr. Fred Solis recognized Mr. Luciano Ramon and Information Technology staff for providing all the technology and means for transition.

Ms. Carolyn Schmies, Dean of South Campus, reported that \$29,309.91 was raised for United Way. She recognized contributors and team – Beatriz Gutierrez, Dimitri Garcia, Alicia Quiroz, Sara Pompa, Marissa Longoria, Monica Cuellar, Ramiro Hernandez, Rosa Rios, and Gloria Ortiz.

**SUSPENSION OF ATHLETICS PROGRAMS FOR ONE YEAR**

Judge Martinez called on Mr. Meurer for the motion. Mr. Meurer indicated that based on instructions from the Board, he provided the following motion: “I move that the Laredo College Board of Trustees suspend the Athletics Program for one year commencing on May 8, 2020 for the reasons discussed in executive session and authorize administration to implement the suspension according to the terms discussed in executive session”. Dr. Carranza so moved. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Ms. Mares asked that the motion include the caveat that the Board will revisit this issue when the need arises. Mr. Rangel so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion. Mr. Rangel indicated that this is by no means a termination of the program; it is only a suspension for the current school year with a revisit on the matter. Ms. Mares called for the question. Motion carried; Ms. Zepeda voted against.

**PERSONNEL ACTION RELATING TO ATHLETICS EMPLOYEES**

Judge Martinez called on legal counsel. Mr. Meurer indicated that based on the motion passed by the Board in Item 12 - *Suspension of Athletics Programs for One Year*, there is no action needed on this item.

**NONRENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OF LAREDO COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBERS**

Judge Martinez called on legal counsel. Mr. Meurer indicated that based on instructions from the Board, he provided the following motion: “I move that the Laredo College Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the College President and non-renew the employment contracts of the five faculty members identified by the College President in executive session for the reasons presented by Administration”. Mr. Rangel so moved. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Judge Martinez noted that the next meeting date will be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:55 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.