



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, October 29, 2020, beginning at 6:00 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 and pursuant to Governor Greg Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, some of Laredo College Board members participated via Zoom videoconference.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President  
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President  
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary  
Cynthia Mares (*participated via Zoom at 6:06 p.m.*)  
Jorge "JD" Delgado  
Lupita Zepeda  
Esteban Rangel (*participated via Zoom*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michelle De La Peña  
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.  
Rusty Meurer  
Marisela Rodriguez  
David Arreazola  
Prakash Mansinghani  
Jesus Conrado Galaviz  
Rosario Dominguez  
Orlando Zepeda  
Hector Perez  
Elmo Lopez  
Lauro Garcia

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Judge Martinez acknowledged the presence of District Judge Becky Palomo, Bill Green of Laredo Morning Times, Mr. Canales, and Mr. Lopez.

**APPROVAL OF THE  
MINUTES FOR REGULAR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER  
24, 2020**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Carranza; 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,

- introduced the new hire – Rosa A. Santos, Community Outreach Specialist; promotion – Roberto D. Solis, Registrar Services Coordinator; reorganization – Alberto Hernandez, Associate Dean of Dual Enrollment; and faculty degree advancements – Dongyeol Yeo, Professor of Associate Degree Nursing; and Jodie M. Sandel, Professor of Occupational Therapy Assistant/Program Director.
- Went over the college's accomplishments – reaccreditation by SACSCOC, #1 ranking of the Nursing program in Texas for the last three years, and #1 college with the lowest student debt.

- Announced Laredo College's #1 ranking from BestColleges.com. Dr. Marisela Rodriguez, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management, provided background information of the ranking data and BestColleges.com. Dr. Ricardo Solis announced that Senator Judith Zaffirini will present a proclamation to the Senate for the ranking.

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Mares.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported on: (1) virtual Board Candidate forum. He thanked faculty – Victoria Rodriguez, Christina Ramos, Michelle Perez, Laura Ramirez-Cruz, Joseph Crabtree, and student moderators – Elsa Alvarez, Sebastian Avila, Liliana Gonzalez, Natalia Henry, Simone Liddell, Jackelyne Montemayor, Emmanuel Reyes, Javier Reyna, Julio Taboada, Ruby Vela, and Mariela Vidaurri for their work on the forum; (2) World Teachers' Day. He thanked Dr. Ricardo Solis and Dr. Marisela Rodriguez for celebrating this day; (3) thanked the Board, administration, and Dr. Ricardo Solis for keeping the college safe during this time; (4) met with new Bachelor's of Nursing student cohort; (5) thanked the faculty for converting courses to virtual courses; and (6) commended college's #1 ranking.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT**

Jesus Conrado Galaviz, Associated Student Organization President, reported on: (1) their first meeting held October 10; (2) organization officers appointed are: Fatima Ponce - Vice President, Jenifer Resendiz - Senator Pro Tempore of the South, Andrea Salinas - Treasurer, Justin A. Guardiola - Sergeant at Arms, Frida Uribe - Senator, Samantha M. Garza - Senator; (3) budget; (4) events; and (5) drive-in movie today.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT**

Rosario Dominguez, Classified Staff Council President, reported on: (1) future projects, and (2) presented Ms. Carolyn Schmies, chair of the United Way Campaign with a \$250 donation for the the Kidney Foundation and Children's Advocacy Foundation of Laredo, Webb County.

Judge Martinez indicated that Item 10.A. - *Discussion of Concept and Possibility of Imaginarium of South Texas Locating to Laredo College* will be moved up in the agenda.

**DISCUSSION OF CONCEPT AND POSSIBILITY OF IMAGINARIUM OF SOUTH TEXAS LOCATING TO LAREDO COLLEGE - IMAGINARIUM OF SOUTH TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Orlando Zepeda, Director for Plant Operations and Maintenance and member of Imaginarium Board, recognized Laura Cavazos Ramirez, Imaginarium Director, and introduced Hector Perez, Imaginarium Board President. Mr. Perez provided a presentation of the possibility to move the Imaginarium to Laredo College Building P-14. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved on the possibility of the Imaginarium of South Texas locating to Laredo College and continue discussions. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

**GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC. CLINIC UPDATE - MR. ELMO LOPEZ**

Mr. Elmo Lopez, Jr., CEO of Gateway Community Health Center, provided background on the center and an update on the clinic at LC South. He introduced Mr. Lauro Garcia, Gateway Community Health Center Board Chair, who confirmed their commitment for health care for the community.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Item 9.A. – Approval of Acquisition of Serials and Periodicals as Approved by the FY 2021 Budget
- Item 9.B. – Approval of Annual Maintenance Renewal for Library’s Symphony Software
- Item 9.C. – Approval for Purchase of Two (2) GE Voluson S8 Ultrasound Machines
- Item 9.D. – Ratification of Annual Contract for Athletic Field Maintenance Program
- Item 9.E. – Approval to Enter into 3 Year Agreement with DocuSign for Contract Life Management Cycle (CLM) Solution
- Item 9.F. – Adopt a Resolution Supporting DHL Global Forwarding’s Application to Become a Usage-Driven Foreign Trade Zone #94 Designation, Located at 302 Grand Central Blvd., Laredo, Texas

Ms. Zepeda seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Dr. Ricardo Solis announced that there will be a Homeland Security Studies Program informational session on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. and recognized Ms. Carolyn Schmies for assisting Gateway Community Health Center Clinic at LC South.

**COVID-19 UPDATE – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA**

Dr. Arreazola reported that employees will return to campus on November 2. He provided the measures that the Health and Safety Operations Center are taking in keeping the campuses safe, which is reporting zero active cases.

Ms. Zepeda asked if the construction monies for P-14 are still available. Dr. Ricardo Solis indicated that the monies are still available.

**CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, TRAVEL, AND TITLE IX REPORTS**

The reports were provided for information purposes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Judge Martinez noted that the next meeting date will be Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Ricardo Solis noted that in the event that a run-off election is needed, a special Board meeting will need to be scheduled in November. Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, reported that, as per a question from a previous Board meeting regarding the need for run-off elections, the Texas legislature would have to change the law [Texas Higher Education Code §130.082(g)] regarding run-off elections.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:15 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.