



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, April 29, 2021, beginning at 6:02 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

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President
(participated via Zoom)
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
(arrived at 6:05 p.m.)
Cynthia Mares *(participated via Zoom at 6:18 p.m.)*
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D. *(did not return after executive session)*
Esteban Rangel
Karina "Kari" Elizondo
Tita C. Vela

MEMBERS ABSENT

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OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Michael Gonzalez
Laura Ramirez Cruz *(participated via Zoom)*
Carolina Ramos *(participated via Zoom)*
Dianna Miller
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina
Prakash Mansinghani
(participated via Zoom)
Fred Solis
Jesus Conrado Galaviz
Rosario Dominguez
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Luciano Ramon
Heriberto Hernandez
Valeria Juarez
Cesar Soto

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Mr. Delgado called the roll. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES FOR REGULAR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2021,
SPECIAL BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING OF
APRIL 20, 2021, AND
SPECIAL BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING OF
APRIL 21, 2021**

Mr. Rangel moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Martinez; motion carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Strategic & External Affairs, read aloud the comments received via email from KGNS-Ashley Soriano and Toni L. Ruiz regarding the athletics program.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Leven-Ramos.

**RECOGNITIONS,
COMMUNICATIONS,
INTRODUCTIONS OF
PERSONNEL, AND NEW**

- Ms. Laura Ramirez Cruz and Dr. Carolina Ramos, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) faculty advisors, thanked the Board, administration, and Ms. Raquel Pena for their support of LC PTK. Ms. Ramirez Cruz

PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH

provided background information on PTK. Dr. Carolina Ramos announced the awards/recognition PTK has received the past two years.

- Dr. Dianna Miller, Dean of Health Sciences, announced that there will be a nursing resolution ceremony on May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at LC South College of Health Sciences foyer.
- Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, announced plans for the opening of Gateway Community Center on May 5th. He also announced that an official opening of the College of Health Sciences building for this summer.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Mares via Zoom.

- Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, announced that all student services are open, all workforce and health science instruction is on campus, health sciences beginning face-to-face instruction with Maymester, and all instruction beginning face-to-face or hybrid instruction beginning May 31st.
- Mr. Michael Gonzalez announced a donation from BBVA for \$10,000 to the Economic Development Center (EDC). Check presentation will be on May 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room. He thanked the Board, BBVA and EDC for their support.
- Dr. Ricardo Solis announced new hire – Edgar Guerrero, General Repairperson II; and reassignments – Tracy A. Humphries, Vocational Nursing Instructor/Program Director; and promotions – Everardo Perez, Lead Simulation Lab Technician, Miriam Hinojosa, Accreditation Secretary, and Marisa Parra, Accreditation Secretary.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President recognized the faculty who retired – Gerardo Martinez, Maria Madrigal, James McCarry, Raul Enriquez, Dr. Jim Goetze, Arturo Navarro†, Joe Ruiz, Ramiro Martinez, David Hill, Mark Johnson, Mauricio Gonzalez, Dr. Cin Bickel, Mary Sue Galindo, and Dr. Margaret Wintersole. He congratulated, on behalf of the faculty, all of the employees who received recognition at the Employee Recognition Ceremony. Mr. Mansinghani noted the upcoming graduation.

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, provided information for the graduation ceremony scheduled for May 7th at 7:00 p.m.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT

Mr. Jesus Conrado Galaviz, Associated Student Organization (ASO) President, reported on: Chick-fil-A combo give away and thanked ASO Vice President Fatima Ponce for spearheading the event, drive-in movie, budget workshop, speaker presentations, and recognized Dr. Ricardo Solis, Mr. Carmelino Castillo, and Ms. Raquel Pena for their help throughout his presidency.

CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Rosario Dominguez, Classified Staff Council (CSC) President, reported on: meetings with staff on reopening and CSC t-shirts and masks.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER FACULTY MEMBER MR. ARTURO NAVARRO, JR. – LC BOARD OF TRUSTEES/DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Dr. Miller introduced Mr. Navarro’s wife, Lupita Navarro – V.N. faculty member, his children, and sisters. She provided some information on his LC career.

Ms. Zepeda read the resolution.

*RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT HONORING FORMER FACULTY MEMBER
MR. ARTURO NAVARRO*

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2021, the Laredo Community College lost a valued and esteemed former member of the Nursing Program with the passing of Mr. Arturo Navarro.

WHEREAS, Mr. Arturo Navarro, a Nursing Assistant Instructor, Vocational Nurse, role model for students, and advocate for education;

WHEREAS, Mr. Arturo Navarro, resided in Laredo and graduated from Laredo College in 1994;

WHEREAS, Mr. Arturo Navarro worked at Laredo Medical Center from 1982 — 2019 as a Nurse Assistant and Vocational Nurse in the Emergency Room, Oncology Unit, and the Medical Surgical Unit for a total of 37 years;

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Arturo Navarro initiated the first dual enrollment program between Laredo College Nurse Assistant Program and Lyndon B. Johnson High School;

WHEREAS, in 2013, Mr. Arturo Navarro initiated another dual enrollment program between Laredo College Nurse Assistant Program and Zapata High School;

WHEREAS, in 2010, Mr. Arturo Navarro received the NISOD Award, where he proudly worn the medallion during each graduation ceremony at Laredo College;

WHEREAS, Mr. Arturo Navarro, a gifted instructor, who had a strong work ethic enriched those who have known and worked with him, including the members of the Laredo College family.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governing Board of the Laredo College District adopts this resolution honoring, recognizing, and acknowledging all of the service and contributions of Mr. Arturo Navarro to Laredo College District.

EXECUTED AND APPROVED BY THE LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES on this 29th day of April, 2021.

Signed by President of LC Board of Trustees, Ms. Lupita Zepeda; Secretary of LC Board of Trustees, Ms. Jackie L. Ramos; LC Board of Trustee, Mr. Jorge Delgado; and LC President, Dr. Ricardo Solis

Judge Martinez moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion passed.

MARCH 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, reviewed the following financial information for the report as of March 2021: revenues of \$54,134,438; expenditures are \$30,076,368; special appropriations revenue is \$84,411 and expenditures of \$114,595; auxiliary services revenue is \$1.1 million and expenditures of \$493,221; restricted funds revenue and expenditures are \$21.8 million; Facilities Master Plan balance is \$23,933,053; and tax collections are at 95%. He answered questions from the Board. Discussion took place on the bonds/Facilities Master Plan projects. Ms. Mares moved to acknowledge and approve *Item 9.B. – March 2021 Financial Report and Item 9.C. – February 2021 Quarterly Investment Report*. Judge Martinez seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos asked to hear the presentation for Item 9.C.

**FEBRUARY 2021
QUARTERLY INVESTMENT
REPORT – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela reported total investments of \$118,384,065.

Motion carried.

**APPROVAL FOR
NETWORKING EQUIPMENT
PURCHASE FROM
COMPUTER SOLUTIONS
THROUGH CARES ACT
FUNDS – MR. LUCIANO
RAMON**

Mr. Luciano Ramon, Information Technology Officer, asked that the Board approve the purchase of networking equipment from Computer Solutions in the amount of \$123,379 for student learning environment redundancy at the South Campus. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL TO USE
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
PHASE II SAVINGS FOR
INTERIOR RENOVATION
AND REPAIR COSTS FOR
BUILDING P-14 AND
DELEGATING AUTHORITY
TO COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATION TO
NEGOTIATE A BUILDING
LEASE AGREEMENT WITH
THE IMAGINARIUM OF
SOUTH TEXAS – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Vela asked that the Board approve the use of \$78,000.00 from Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond savings to cover additional funds needed to complete interior renovations and repairs to Building P-14 and to delegate the authority to College administration to negotiate the terms for a building lease agreement with the Imaginarium of South Texas. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve to use Facilities Master Plan Phase II savings for interior renovation and repair costs for Building P-14 and delegating authority to college administration to negotiate a building lease agreement with the Imaginarium of South Texas with the caveat that the Board be notified of the terms of the agreement. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion. Mr. Vela answered questions from the Board. Ms. Mares and Mr. Vela called for the question. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Carmelino Castillo, Director of Student Life, made a presentation on the Trading Station (visits, graduation rates of visitors, online store, donations, and the team).

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

Mr. Vela reported that there are currently 11 applicants participating. The total payout is \$461,188 for all 11 applicants. Projected annual savings are \$201,729. Ms. Leven-Ramos asked about leave amounts that need to be paid out on these employees. Mr. Vela indicated that he will email the amounts to the Board.

**CARES ACT FUNDING
UPDATE – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela provided information on emergency relief funding (funding allocations by agency, student aid, institutional purchases). Discussion followed. Dr. Fred Solis answered questions on promoting these funds to students. He also thanked Mr. Luciano Ramon and Mr. Cesar Vela on making the technology/funds available.

**LAREDO COLLEGE AND U.S.
CUSTOMS AND BORDER
PROTECTION AGREEMENT –
MR. HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ**

Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, provided an update on the temporary use of a section of LC Fort McIntosh nursing building for use by Border Patrol.

**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES –
MS. RAQUEL PENA**

Dr. Fred Solis introduced staff from the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center – Ms. Valeria Juarez, class coordinator, and Mr. Cesar Soto, lab technician, who went over the Earth Day activities (tree planting, trail clean up, virtual tours, and introduced Bobby [Texas Indigo snake]). Mr. Rangel asked about allocating bond money for the Environmental Science Center.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MONTH – MR. MICHAEL
GONZALEZ**

Mr. Gonzalez noted that April is community college month and LC's social media campaign.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:16 p.m., Ms. Zepeda announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following items:

- Closed Session Discussion with College President and College Attorney Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning the Camilo Prada Child Development Center Personnel and Related Legal Issues in Connection with a Proposal to Suspend the Center's Operations for One Year and to Re-evaluate the Status of the Center in Fall 2021 Semester
- Closed Session Discussion with College President and College Attorney Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning the Athletics Program Personnel and Related Legal Issues in Connection with a Proposal for the Program

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

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

SUSPENSION OF CAMILO PRADA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OPERATIONS FOR ONE YEAR AND A RE-EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF THE CENTER IN FALL 2021 SEMESTER

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:50 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken in executive session.

Judge Martinez so moved. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion passed.

PERSONNEL ACTION RELATING TO CAMILO PRADA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EMPLOYEES

Ms. Zepeda noted that no action is needed on this item.

ALLOCATION OF STUDENT FEE REVENUES PERTAINING TO THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM AND THE FUTURE OF THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “temporarily reinstate the soccer program for the 2021 – 2022 school year and provide a men’s and women’s team representing Laredo College in the Region 14 conference with a program audit conducted at the end of the 2021 – 2022 school year and a review of finances in Spring of 2022. Furthermore, implementing a wellness program to benefit the community college and review periodically utilizing the student activity fund”. Ms. Vela seconded the motion. Ms. Zepeda called for the question; motion carried. Mr. Delgado and Ms. Mares voted against.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “direct administration to return to the Ad Hoc Committee and work out the logistics of the soccer program for the 2021 – 2022 school year and include the contract, program revenue allocations, budget, fundraising, student success, number of credit hours earned, academic achievement, summer camps among some of the items that will be discussed when administration meets with the Ad Hoc Committee”. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “continue the suspension of the following sports for the 2021 – 2022 school year: tennis, volleyball, baseball, and softball until the Spring of 2022 when the Board will reconvene once again and review the finances, program audit for the soccer program, and other programs with periodic updates throughout the 2021-2022 school year”. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion failed (Mr. Rangel, Ms. Elizondo, Ms. Mares, and Mr. Delgado opposed).

Ms. Elizondo moved to bring back this item to consider other sources of funding for the other sports. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos clarified her previous motion. Ms. Zepeda called for the

vote; motion passed. (Mr. Delgado opposed and Judge Martinez abstained).

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Ms. Zepeda noted that the next meeting date is Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for a Regular Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:09 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.