



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, April 8, 2021, 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

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
(participated via Zoom)
Cynthia Mares *(participated via Zoom at 6:09 p.m.)*
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D. *(arrived at 6:06 p.m.)*
Estephan Rangel
Karina "Kari" Elizondo *(participated via Zoom)*
Tita C. Vela

MEMBERS ABSENT

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OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Obed Guerrero
Michael Gonzalez
Dianna Miller, Ed.D.
Laura Ramirez *(participated via Zoom)*
Prakash Mansinghani
(participated via Zoom)
Sandra Cortez
Heriberto Hernandez
Jesus Conrado Galaviz
(participated via Zoom)
Fred Solis, Ed.D.
Yesenia Sandoval
Cesar E. Vela, Jr.
Carmelino Castillo
David Arreazola, Ed.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Ms. Leven-Ramos called the roll. Ms. Zepeda announced that a quorum of the members was present, that this meeting was duly called, and that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES FOR REGULAR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF MARCH 4,
2021 AND SPECIAL BOARD
OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF
MARCH 10, 2021**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

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

- Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of External Affairs, announced that Laredo College received three national-level awards for marketing from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations. Mr. Obed Guerrero, Director of Community and Media Relations, presented the awards.

Ms. Zepeda announced that Dr. Carranza and Ms. Mares joined the meeting.

- Dr. Dianna Miller, Dean of Health Sciences, announced the passing of Mr. Arturo Navarro, Jr., Nursing Assistant Instructor at Laredo College for 25 years and his many accomplishments. Judge Martinez recommended a resolution acknowledging all of Mr. Navarro's accomplishments. Ms. Leven-Ramos asked for a moment of silence.
- Mr. Michael Gonzalez announced the recent donations from Laredo International Fair & Exposition for \$22,000 for scholarships and from the Laredo Licensed U S Customs Brokers Association for \$3,000 for the Economic Development Center and scholarships.
- Mr. Esteban Rangel congratulated all employees working the LC vaccine drives.
- Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, announced that on April 15 the college will have the annual Employee Recognition Ceremony.
- Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education, announced an initiative with Border Patrol agents for bus driver training.
- Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, announced a partnership with Border Patrol and Customs for EMT training.
- Dr. Ricardo Solis announced promotions: Guadalupe Castillo, eLearning & Instructional Design Specialist, and Veronica Juarez, eLearning & Instructional Design Specialist; and new hires: Juan P. Garcia, Jr., Financial Aid Technician II, and Orlando Gomez, Information Security Officer.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Ms. Laura Ramirez, Assistant Professor - Business Department Instructor and Co-Chair for the Faculty Senate Elections Committee, announced the election results – Prakash Mansinghani, President; Leticia Spillane, Secretary; and Dr. Joseph Crabtree, Maritza Morris, and Armando Moreno for senators-at-large.

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, expressed condolences to the Arturo Navarro, Jr. family; congratulated the new executive team of the faculty assembly and newly elected senators; expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees for the recent employee salary increase; and thanked the administration, Dr. Ricardo Solis, Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Dr. Fred Solis, faculty and staff for inclusion in the decision process.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT

Jesus Conrado Galaviz, Associated Student Organization President, reported on: community service – District 8 I Love Laredo Campaign, New Vision Community Church partnership, COVID-19 vaccine drives; an A.S.O. donation to the Trading Station, and a workshop for students on obtaining jobs.

Ms. Leven-Ramos made a motion to move up Item 10.B. - *Information on United Independent School District Early College Academy*. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed.

INFORMATION ON UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY – DR. FRED SOLIS/MR. DAVID H. GONZALEZ/MS. ANGELICA SANCHEZ/MS. YESENIA SANDOVAL

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, introduced Ms. Yesenia Sandoval, Dean for Early College at United Independent School District at LBJ and Biotechnology and Life Sciences Innovative Academy, to discuss the new initiative between LC and UISD beginning Fall 2021. Ms. Sandoval presented information (enrollment, graduates, college credit hours, United South High School Early College Academy, UISD and LC partnership) on the Early College High School

(ECHS) and Biotechnology and Life Sciences Innovative Academy (BLSIA). She answered questions from the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Judge Martinez moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Item 8.A. - Approval of Purchases of Equipment through CARES Act Funds:
 - Approval for Audio-Visual Equipment and Installation Purchases from Audio Visual Aids-San Antonio
 - Approval of Purchase of Equipment for Transportation Technology Labs
 - Approval of Purchase of Equipment for Industrial Technology Labs
 - Approval of Purchase of Equipment for Law Enforcement Academy
- Item 8.B. - Approval of Oracle Licenses and Support Renewal
- Item 8.C. - February 2021 Financial Report

Dr. Carranza seconded the motion. Mr. Delgado asked, if possible, for the items to be purchased locally. Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, indicated that local vendors will be contacted. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 LAREDO COLLEGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR - DR. FRED SOLIS

Dr. Fred Solis asked the Board to approve the 2021 – 2022 academic calendar as presented. Mr. Rangel so moved. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF HVAC REPAIRS FOR THE CIGARROA SCIENCE COMPLEX - MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, asked the Board to ratify the contract in the amount of \$194,700.00 with Trane for HVAC Equipment repairs at the Cigarroa Science Complex which resulted in equipment damages caused by the February winter storm. An insurance reimbursement of about \$225,000 and FEMA claim of \$25,000 is expected. Ms. Mares so moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PHASE III – ROOF IMPROVEMENTS AND SOFFIT AND LED LIGHTING UPGRADES PROJECT - MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve a contract with American Contracting and Roofing in the amount of \$3,863,800.00 for South Campus Building roof improvements, soffit and lighting upgrades, and for roof improvements at the Fort McIntosh Bookstore Building and the use of \$226,000.00 from the Bookstore Fund Balance to make roof improvements to the Fort McIntosh Bookstore Building. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

TERMINATION OF NINE MONTH FACULTY POSITION AND REASSIGNMENT OF TENURED FACULTY MEMBER PURSUANT TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICIES DMB(LOCAL): TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT – TENURE AND DMC(LOCAL): TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT – REDUCTION IN FORCE

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis asked that the Board approve the reassignment of a faculty member. The faculty member is aware and in agreement of the reassignment. Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A TEMPORARY LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAREDO COLLEGE AND ABOUT TIME, INC. - DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis noted that the owners of the Laredo Heat/About Time, Inc. are interested in the temporary lease of the soccer field at LC South. Mr. Delgado provided additional information. Dr. Carranza so moved to approve. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

RESCIND RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Zepeda indicated that the resolution passed in 2020 authorizing Dr. Ricardo Solis to make emergency decisions due to COVID be rescinded

**OF LAREDO COLLEGE
COVID-19 VIRUS**

and return authority to its original state. Dr. Carranza so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Dr. Ricardo Solis asked Dr. Fred Solis to provide an update on graduation. Dr. Fred Solis announced that graduation ceremonies will be in-person, outdoors at the UISD Student Activity Center on May 7, 2021 with rehearsal on May 6 following social distancing requirements.

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
UPDATE – MR. CARMELINO
CASTILLO**

Mr. Carmelino Castillo, Director of Student Life, presented LC leadership academy (mission, presentations, speaker series, Palomino Talk, and virtual activities).

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

Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance & Risk Management, provided an update on the Health & Safety Operations Center, vaccine drives, and COVID cases.

**BOND REFUNDING UPDATE
– DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS/MR.
CESAR VELA**

Dr. Ricardo Solis indicated that \$56 million was refinanced and refunded with a savings of \$4.7 million.

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

Mr. Vela provided an update on the Voluntary Separation Plan (number of applicants, the amount of payout, and potential annual savings). Another update will be provided at the April 29, 2021 Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:41 p.m., Ms. Zepeda announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following item:

- Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 with Laredo College Attorney Concerning Updates on Pending Litigations Filed Against Laredo College

Mr. Delgado so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION**

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:07 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken in executive session.

**UPDATES ON PENDING
LITIGATIONS FILED
AGAINST LAREDO COLLEGE**

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

**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, April 29, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.

Mr. Delgado acknowledged National Library Week and thanked library staff and Ms. Ramos.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:08 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.