



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Laredo, Texas

The special meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, beginning at 6:01 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

Lupita Zepeda, President  
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President  
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary  
Cynthia Mares (*arrived at 6:25 p.m.*)  
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.  
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.  
Esteban Rangel (*participated via telephone call at the beginning of the meeting and arrived in person at 6:16 p.m.*)  
Karina "Kari" Elizondo  
Tita C. Vela (*arrived at 6:12 p.m.*)

OTHERS

Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, M.S., Ed.D.  
Rusty Meurer

MEMBERS ABSENT

—

**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.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Ms. Zepeda provided information from Laredo College 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, or take whatever action, if any, is deemed appropriate to handle the matter. Such response or action may include the following: referring the matter to the College President for action or for further recommendations, referring the matter to a later meeting or to a Board committee for further discussion or study, indicate 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."

Dr. Hillary Gleason, Ms. Kristi Lansford, Mr. Prakash K. Mansinghani, Ms. Maria Castro, Mr. Alan Cantu, and Ms. Selena Rubio expressed their opinions and concerns of the athletics program.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the respective arrivals of Ms. Vela, Mr. Rangel, and Ms. Mares during public testimony.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATING TO THE**

Ms. Elizondo moved to "reinstate athletics". Discussion took place about going into executive session. Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney,

**STATUS OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE ATHLETICS PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DISBANDING THE PROGRAM, OR REINSTATING SOME OR ALL OF THE SPORTS IN THE PROGRAM. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071**

noted that the legal issue to address with the Board depends on the motion/action for this item regarding Title IX issues. Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, went over the three options for the athletics program that were presented at the November 29, 2021 Board Workshop and stated that the Administration is recommending Option 1 – disband athletics.

Mr. Meurer noted that Ms. Elizondo’s motion did not receive a second; therefore, it is not on the table for action.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:53 p.m., Ms. Mares moved to go into executive session. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Mr. Meurer advised the Board to specify that they are going into executive session for Items 4.A. - *Discussion and Possible Action Relating to the Status of the Laredo College Athletics Program, Including but not Limited to Disbanding the Program, or Reinstating Some or All of the Sports in the Program* pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 4.B. - *Discussion and Possible Personnel Action Relating to Laredo College Athletics Program Employees* pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074. Ms. Mares so amended her motion. Mr. Rangel seconded; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:38 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken in executive session.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE ATHLETICS PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DISBANDING THE PROGRAM, OR REINSTATING SOME OR ALL OF THE SPORTS IN THE PROGRAM. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071**

Ms. Zepeda moved to disband the LC athletics program. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion failed with only two voting in favor.

Ms. Elizondo moved to “reinstate some of the athletic programs effective 2022-2023 and to direct administration to present an implementation plan”. Judge Martinez seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos amended the motion “to analyze the relevant issues pertaining to some of the athletic programs”. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed on the amendment with seven voting in favor. A vote took place on Ms. Elizondo’s motion; motion passed with seven voting in favor.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE PERSONNEL ACTION RELATING TO LAREDO COLLEGE ATHLETICS PROGRAM EMPLOYEES. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 551.071 AND 551.074**

Ms. Zepeda moved to table this item. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:41 p.m., Dr. Carranza moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.