



## LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, January 21, 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

Mercurio Martinez Jr, President  
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Vice President  
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D., Secretary  
Cynthia Mares *(participated via Zoom)*  
Jorge "JD" Delgado  
Lupita Zepeda  
Esteban Rangel  
Karina "Kari" Elizondo *(participated via Zoom beginning at 6:11 p.m.)*  
Tita C. Vela *(participated via Zoom beginning at 6:03 p.m.)*

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

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#### OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.  
Rusty Meurer *(participated via Zoom)*  
Michael Gonzalez  
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina  
Heriberto Hernandez  
Donald Hale  
Tracy Humphries  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Obed Guerrero  
Raquel Pena *(participated via Zoom)*  
Prakash Mansinghani  
*(participated via Zoom)*  
Cesar E. Vela Jr.  
Noe Hinojosa *(participated via Zoom)*  
David Arreazola

### 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 OF REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020 AND CANVASSING RUN-OFF ELECTION RESULTS ON DECEMBER 22, 2020

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delgado; motion carried.

Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Vela via Zoom.

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Strategic & External Affairs, stated that the canvassing of the run-off election results took place on December 22, 2020, and swearing-in ceremonies have taken place as well.

### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

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

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, commended the division of academic affairs for adapting during the pandemic and maintaining quality of education. The following programs were highlighted:

- Regional Law Enforcement Academy – Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, announced that the academy has maintained its 12-year 100% state exam passing rate streak. Mr. Donald Hale, Regional Law Enforcement Academy Director, provided details on curriculum changes and performance of the academy.

Ms. Elizondo asked that the record reflect her presence via Zoom. Judge Martinez asked that the record reflect the presence of Ms. Elizondo, Ms. Mares, and Ms. Vela.

- Automotive Technology Program – Mr. Hernandez reported that the program is accredited by the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Foundation and reaccredited for another five years.
- Nursing Program – Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina recognized the A.D.N. program for their accomplishments and the staff – Dr. Dianna Miller, Dean of Health Sciences; Ms. Tracy Humphries, Vocational Nursing faculty member; and Dr. Manuel Gonzalez, Associate Degree Nursing Program faculty member. Ms. Humphries and Dr. Gonzalez provided information on the A.D.N. Program. The A.D.N. program accomplishments are: ranked #1 in the State of Texas for four consecutive years, RNCareers.org has selected LC A.D.N. program as tied for #1 A.D.N. program in the U.S., NursingProcess.org has ranked the A.D.N. program #1 in the state and in the entire Southwest region of the U.S., and has had a 100% passing rate for the past five years. Dr. Gonzalez recognized the following individuals: Dr. Dianna Miller, Connie Madrigal, Melissa Guidry, Dongyeol Yeo, Jeannette Johnson, Michael Martinez, Claudia Del Bosque, David Hill, Norma Martinez, Marissa Parra, Itzamara Aguilar, Patricia Perez, Noehmi Aguilar, and Janette Perez; local partners – Laredo Medical Center, Doctors Hospital, Laredo Specialty Hospital, and Gateway Community Health Center. He thanked the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ricardo Solis, Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, and administration for their support.

Judge Martinez read Senate Proclamation No. 388 by Senator Judith Zaffirini.

Mr. Obed Guerrero, Community and Media Relations Director, and Michael Gonzalez provided results of LC's 2020 marketing survey.

Ms. Raquel Pena, Associate Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator, thanked Dr. Carranza and his wife for their donation of 200 backpacks for students.

Dr. Ricardo Solis, President,

- announced new hires – Itzamara Aguilar, Nursing ADN/BSN Faculty Secretary; Brenda E. Carmona, Technical Support Coordinator; Dr. Christopher N. Jeffries, Assistant Professor of Economics; Sandra K. Laurel, Diagnostic Medical Sonography Instructor/Clinical Coordinator; Patricia Perez, Nursing ADN/BSN Faculty Secretary; Ramiro Rodriguez, Jr., Student Financial Aid & Veterans Affairs Services Analyst; and promotion – Selinda Martinez, Assistant Professor of Biology/Department Chair.
- Announced the retirement of Ms. Carolyn Schmies, Dean of LC South. Mr. Michael Gonzalez presented her a recognition for her service. Ms. Leven-Ramos noted that on behalf of the LC Alumni & Friends Association, Ms. Schmies was presented a gift of appreciation.

#### **FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President:

- Welcomed the new faculty
- Thanked Ms. Carolyn Schmies for her service
- Presented the new Faculty Senate Logo
- Presented the Faculty Senate proposal in reference to Item 8.E. - *Hearing and Approval of Proposed Employee Mid-Year Salary Increases*

#### **ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT**

No report.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF "LAREDO COLLEGE LIMITED TAX REFUNDING BONDS, TAXABLE SERIES**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Chief Financial Officer, acknowledged the presence (via Zoom) of Mr. Noe Hinojosa and Tony Jasso, financial advisors with Estrada Hinojosa, and Dan Martinez, bond counsel. Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve a resolution authorizing the issuance of Laredo College limited tax refunding bonds, taxable series 2021 and delegating the authority to district officials to execute documents related to the sale of

**2021”; DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY TO CERTAIN DISTRICT OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE SALE OF THE BONDS; ENTERING INTO A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT, AN ESCROW AGREEMENT, AND A PAYING AGENT/REGISTRAR AGREEMENT; APPROVING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR USE IN THE MARKETING OF THE BONDS; AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – MR. CESAR VELA**

the bonds. Mr. Hinojosa presented the projected savings and plan of financing. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion. Mr. Hinojosa answered questions from the Board. Judge Martinez called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mares moved to approve the following items under Consent Agenda.

Item 8.C. - *Adopt a Resolution Supporting CS CARGO USA LLC’s Application to Become a Usage-Driven Foreign Trade Zone #94 Designation, Located at 8402 El Gato Rd., Laredo Texas 78045*

Item 8.D. - *November 2020 Financial Report*

Item 8.G. - *Approval of Equipment Purchases*

Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion carried.

**UPDATE ON LAREDO COLLEGE DURING COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY) – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS/DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA**

Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management, provided COVID numbers of employees and students which are all community or household transmissions.

**HEARING AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED EMPLOYEE MID-YEAR SALARY INCREASES – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve a 5% general pay increase for all eligible full-time Laredo College employees. He went over the revenues, source of funds, the public purpose for the increase, and eligibility of employees. He noted that if the Board approves the increase, the Board needs to adopt a resolution which is Agenda Item 8.F. - *Approval of FY 2021 Budget Modification*. Discussion followed. Mr. Meurer recommended the following motion – “that Laredo College Board of Trustees approve of a 5% general pay increase for all eligible full-time employees. The reason the general pay increase in excess of the contractual amounts concerns the revenues Laredo College estimated in August 2020 to fund the fiscal year 2021 expenditures. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainties associated with the pandemic, Laredo College conservatively estimated fiscal year 2021 revenues at the time of budget adoption. Since then, additional unanticipated revenues were received from student tuition as well as the resources that were discussed by Mr. Vela and Dr. Solis. Also savings, additional savings have been identified as discussed by Dr. Solis. The public purpose that will be served by making the excess payment includes compensating full-time employees for the additional duties they have undertaken since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic and to boost full-time employee morale in light of additional burdens the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the institution and its full-time employees”. Mr. Delgado so moved. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Judge Martinez called for the vote; motion carried. Ms. Elizondo asked for a cost analysis expenditure report for the Board meeting in the summer when the FY 2022 budget is discussed.

**APPROVAL OF FY 2021  
BUDGET MODIFICATION –  
MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve the presented resolution to modify the FY 2021 budget due to the mid-year salary increase just passed. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “adopt the resolution to amend the budget for 2020-2021 as discussed and presented and adopted by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College”. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried. (Ms. Elizondo was not present for the vote).

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

None.

**NEW LAREDO COLLEGE  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
STRUCTURE – DR. RICARDO  
J. SOLIS**

Dr. Ricardo Solis reported that there is one minor modification to the organizational structure; the Chief Financial Officer is now the Vice President of Finance due to additional duties.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:00 p.m., Judge Martinez 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 Concerning College President’s Employment Contract

Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE  
ACTION**

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT’S  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:00 p.m. Judge Martinez noted that no decision nor vote was taken in executive session.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the Laredo College Board modify the college president’s employment contract to increase his yearly salary by the percentage discussed by Judge Martinez in executive session”. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried (Ms. Mares and Ms. Vela voted against).

**ELECTION OF BOARD  
OFFICERS AS PER  
BCA(LEGAL): BOARD  
INTERNAL ORGANIZATION –  
BOARD OFFICERS AND  
OFFICIALS**

Mr. Rangel moved to nominate a slate of Board officers – Ms. Lupita Zepeda for President, Mr. JD Delgado for Vice President, and Ms. Jackie Ramos for Secretary. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried (Dr. Carranza voted against).

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:01 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.