



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, July 29, 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 6:06 p.m.*)
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Esteban Rangel (*arrived at 6:48 p.m.*)
Karina "Kari" Elizondo
Tita C. Vela (*arrived at 6:05 p.m.*)

OTHERS

Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
Rusty Meurer
David V. Arreazola
Javier Cano
Nora R. Garza
Sara A. Pompa
Prakash Mansinghani
Patricia Barrera
Maria Elena Morales
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Fred Solis
Carmelino Castillo
Adriana Nunemaker
Diana Ortiz

MEMBERS ABSENT

Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.

Ms. Zepeda requested a moment of silence for an LC retired faculty member, Ms. Norma Moore, who passed away this week.

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 JUNE 24,
2021, SPECIAL BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING OF
JUNE 30, 2021, AND
SPECIAL BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING OF
JULY 1, 2021**

Judge Martinez moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leven-Ramos; motion passed.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

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

- Dr. David V. Arreazola, Interim Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs and Compliance, and Mr. Javier Cano, Safety & Risk Manager, informed the Board of the water distribution drives that took place on July 7th and 11th.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledge the presence of Ms. Vela and Ms. Mares.

- Dr. Nora R. Garza, Vice President of Resource Development and External Affairs, reported on Rent-A-Yenta production, the Be It! Foundation Gala, and LEAPS summer bridge program.

- Ms. Sara A. Pompa, Director of Donor Relations and Special Projects, reported on the IME Becas program and the signing of a memorandum of understanding for \$15,000 for scholarships with a match from Laredo College.
- Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, announced employee promotions, reassignments, new hire, and appointments: Rebecca Blevins, Dual Enrollment Coordinator; Hassan I. Escamilla, Assistant Professor of Electronic; Denise A. Flores, Senior Workforce Development Coordinator; Brenda Martinez, Director of Continuing Education; Ofelia Perez, Academic Records Specialist; Rosa Santos, Dual Enrollment Coordinator; Roberto D. Solis, Associate Registrar; Arnulfo Trevino, Assistant Director of Dual Enrollment; Dr. Diana Y. Ortiz, Associate Dean of Strategic Recruitment; Dr. David V. Arreazola, Interim Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs & Compliance; Dr. Veronica Martinez, Interim Dean of Assessment & Research; Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President; and Tracy A. Humphries, Vocational Nursing Instructor/Vocational Nursing & Nursing Assistant Program Director.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, congratulated Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina and Dr. David Arreazola on their appointments. He gave an update on faculty and courses, requested faculty representation on the presidential search committee, cost of living adjustment, and expressed gratitude to the Board and administration.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Item 7.A. - June 2021 Financial Report
- Item 7.B. - May 2021 Quarterly Investment Report
- Item 7.C. - Approval for Thermal Storage Tank Roof Insulation Repair
- Item 7.D. - Approval for Chill Water Line Pump Replacement at Fort McIntosh Central Plant
- Item 7.E. - Approval for the Purchase of Furniture for Memorial Hall Building Office 211 using Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond Savings
- Item 7.F. - Approval for the Purchase of Equipment through CARES Act
- Item 7.G. - Approval of 48-Month Lease for the Purchase of Dell Computer Equipment
- Item 7.H. - Approval to Use Fiscal Year 2021 Savings to Purchase Equipment for Fiscal Year 2022 Operations

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

DESIGNATION OF OFFICER FOR CALCULATION OF NO NEW REVENUE TAX RATE AND VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, asked the Board to designate Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, as the officer designated for calculating the no new revenue tax rate and voter approval tax rate to comply with Senate Bill 2. Judge Martinez so moved. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Barrera noted that this designation is new and part of Senate Bill 2.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING MATTERS RELATED TO APPRAISAL ROLL AND TAX RATE – MR. CESAR VELA

8.B.1. Approve the 2021 Certification of the Appraisal Roll.
 Ms. Barrera presented the 2021 Certified Appraisal Roll and noted that by Board action, it will become the tax roll for Laredo College. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion. Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, clarified the motion is to approve and accept the 2021 certified tax roll. Ms. Leven-

Ramos modified her motion to approve the 2021 certification of the tax roll. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed.

8.B.2. Approve the Anticipated Collections for 2021 of 100%.

Ms. Barrera reported that due to Senate Bill 2 which takes the lowest percentage of the three previous years, the anticipated collection rate percentage for Laredo College is 104%. Information was distributed. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the anticipated collections for 2021 of 104%. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel.

Ms. Barrera read the certification of excess collections and anticipated collection rate for the record.

I, Patricia A. Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, as Tax Collector for the Laredo College, Hereby certify that the excess collections for Debt Service (Interest and Sinking Fund) for the taxable year 2020 is \$868,738.00 as of July 29, 2021 and said amount is true and correct. I further certify that the Anticipated Collection Rate for taxable year 2021 is 104%.

*This certification is submitted to Laredo College by the duly designated officer who prepared the 2021 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet.
Patricia A. Barrera, RTA*

Ms. Maria Elena Morales, Chief Deputy for Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, explained the excess collections. Judge Martinez complimented Ms. Barrera's staff for their work and made it into a motion. Mr. Meurer noted the item on the posted agenda does not call for action on the excess collections. Ms. Barrera noted that this action can be delayed. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to defer action on the excess collections and *Item 8.B.3. – Take Action on the Tax Rate* until August 4, 2021 Special Board Meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

Judge Martinez noted that his motion is still on the table. Mr. Meurer noted that this item is not on the meeting agenda. No action was taken and may be added to the August 4th meeting.

8.B.3. Take Action on the Tax Rate.

Action will be taken at the August 4th Special Board meeting.

**APPOINTMENT OF
COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE,
SCORE, AND RANK FIRMS
SUBMITTING STATEMENT
OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR
FINANCIAL ADVISORY
SERVICES – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Vela asked the Board to appoint a committee to evaluate, score, and rank the firms submitting statement of qualifications for financial advisory services. He reported that Request for Qualifications was issued and Laredo College received two proposals – Estrada Hinojosa and Tijerina, Galvan, and Lawrence. A committee needs to be appointed and will interview the firms. Ms. Mares and Ms. Elizondo volunteered for the committee. Mr. Vela answered questions from the Board. Mr. Rangel moved to appoint the Finance & Audit Committee members, Ms. Mares, and Ms. Elizondo to the committee. Ms. Vela seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos recommended that the motion state that the

committee is for the financial advisory services. Mr. Rangel so amended his motion; motion carried. The committee meeting will be scheduled for August 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE, SCORE, AND RANK FIRMS SUBMITTING STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to appoint a committee to evaluate, score, and rank the firms submitting statement of qualifications for financial audit services. He reported that Request for Qualifications was issued and Laredo College received two proposals – Garza/Gonzalez & Associates and Carr, Riggs & Ingram. Ms. Mares moved to appoint the same committee, Finance & Audit committee, Ms. Elizondo, and herself, to the committee to evaluate, score, and rank the firms for financial audit services on August 4, 2021. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Vela asked if the committee would want presentations from the firms. Mr. Rangel indicated yes.

APPROVAL OF FALL 2021 ENROLLMENT INCENTIVE(S) – DR. FRED SOLIS

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, presented two proposals for fall incentives for the Board’s consideration – debt forgiveness initiative (ride-off student debt that is owed to Laredo College incurred on or after March 13, 2020) and tuition fee waiver (waive tuition fee portion only of enrollment for fall) which can be recovered from emergency CARES money. He answered questions from the Board. Mr. Delgado moved to approve Fall 2021 enrollment incentives. Ms. Mares, Ms. Leven-Ramos, Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion carried. Dr. Solis recognized Mr. Vela, Ms. Norma Cano, Mr. Steven Aguilar, and Ms. Susana Carreon for their work for these incentives.

APPROVAL TO ALLOW COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT WITH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) FOR LEASE OF BUILDING P-24 – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to authorize the Interim College President to negotiate and enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a highway patrol office at building P-24 on the Laredo College Ft. McIntosh campus. He went over the terms of the agreement. Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH BUILDINGS AT LAREDO COLLEGE FORT MCINTOSH CAMPUS – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, asked the Board to approve removing the instructional program name from the building name yet preserve the last name on the buildings. This is due to the programs moving to LC South Campus. Judge Martinez so moved. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVE MODIFICATION TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY DC(LOCAL): EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS/DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina presented two options for revision of DC(LOCAL) policy where the President has final authority to hire director level and above with prior notification to the Board. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the second option with an underscore of the word “notification”. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PROGRAMS – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

- Mr. Carmelino Castillo, Director of Student Life, presented information on 2021 student orientation program activities.
- Ms. Adriana Nunemaker, Dean of Laredo College South, provided information on Gateway Community Health Center clinic services at LC South campus.

**SUMMER/FALL
ENROLLMENT REPORT –
DR. FRED SOLIS**

Dr. Solis made a presentation on the Summer and Fall 2021 enrollments. Dr. Diana Ortiz, Associate Dean of Recruitment, reported on recruitment strategies.

**NOTIFICATION OF THE
SERVING OF ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES AT THE
CONSEJO MEXICANO DE
COMERCIO EXTERIOR DEL
NORESTE (COMCE) EVENT
AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE
BOARD COMMUNITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS POLICY
GDA(LOCAL): COMMUNITY
USE OF COLLEGE DISTRICT
FACILITIES - CONDUCT ON
COLLEGE DISTRICT
PREMISES – MR. MICHAEL
GONZALEZ**

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina reported that Consejo Mexicano De Comercio Exterior Del Noreste (COMCE) is having their grand opening for their on-campus office and the event will be on August 12th at the Falcon Bank Executive Conference Center. Alcohol will be served at no cost and there is a rental fee being charged. Mr. Delgado asked about insurance and liability. Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that COMCE will be signing a liability form and providing insurance.

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING
LAREDO COLLEGE FOOD
SERVICES PROVIDER – MS.
KARINA ELIZONDO**

Ms. Elizondo requested that vegan options be included in the menu of future food services providers. Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that a Request for Proposals is being worked on and this request will be included. A student group will be invited to take part in the process and will bring proposals to the Board for approval next month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:56 p.m., Ms. Zepeda announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following item:

Closed Session Discussion with the College President Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 Regarding the Employment, Reassignment, and Duties of Employees Due to a Reorganization

Mr. Delgado so moved. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:23 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken in executive session.

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

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that all reports are in the Board packet.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Ms. Zepeda noted the next meeting dates:

Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – committee meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing *(if needed)*
Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing *(if needed)*
Saturday, August 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – Board Retreat at Falcon Bank
Thursday, August 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that the August 12th public hearing will not be needed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:26 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.