



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, June 24, 2021, beginning at 12:00 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
Cynthia Mares
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D. *(left the meeting during executive session)*
Esteban Rangel *(participated via Zoom)*
Tita C. Vela *(participated via Zoom at 12:12 p.m.)*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karina "Kari" Elizondo

OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Michael Gonzalez
Sandra Cortez
Heriberto Hernandez
Albert Hernandez
Prakash Mansinghani *(participated via Zoom)*
Rosario Dominguez
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Luciano Ramon

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 OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 27, 2021, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2021, AND BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2021

Judge Martinez moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Carranza; 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 is ranked #1 Hispanic serving institution in 2-year school category in the U.S. by Affordable Colleges.

Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education, reported on the Border Patrol bus driver training.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Vela.

Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, provided an update on the cybersecurity camp and workforce promotions.

Mr. Albert Hernandez, Associate Dean of Dual Enrollment and Recruitment, reported that LBJ High School's 1st LC Early College cohort is 1 of 33 programs across the State graduating over 50% of their class and is represented in top 50% of schools reaching the milestone according to the Texas College & Career Readiness School Models (CCRSM) Leadership Summit.

Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, President, announced the following promotions – Sandra Rodriguez, Arely Lara, Alicia Reed, Dr. Elizabeth C. Rodriguez, Viridiana Tamez, Reyna Alvarez, reassignment - Joe Pena, and new hire – Priscilla Chavez.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported on: faculty update (conversion of courses to online, semester contact hours taught), requested that the Faculty Senate President and two additional faculty members be included in the President Search Committee, salary capping policy, cost of living adjustment, and expressed gratitude for the inclusion of faculty in committees and decision-making.

CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Rosario Dominguez, Classified Staff Council President, reported on the sale of CSC t-shirts and complimentary masks, COVID-19 regulations, election of officers for 2021-2022, and congratulated Dr. Solis on his new endeavor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, reviewed the following financial information for the report as of May 31, 2021: general operating revenues are \$60,242,357; tuition & fees revenue has a shortfall of \$1.8 million pending Summer Session II. The shortfall is offset by \$1.1 million in additional tax revenue. Expenditures are \$38,497,860. Mr. Vela answered questions from the Board.

APPROVAL TO EXTEND CONTRACT WITH BM TECHNOLOGIES FOR INSTITUTIONAL DISBURSEMENT SERVICES – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve the one-year extension of the contract with BM Technologies for institutional disbursement services. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. FOR FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PHASE III LC SOUTH CAMPUS SECURITY UPGRADE PROJECT – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve a contract with Graybar Electric Company in the amount of \$595,320.00 for the installation of security cameras and talk-a-phones at the Laredo College South Campus as part of the Facilities Master Plan Phase III. Mr. Luciano Ramon, Information Technology Officer, went over equipment and the process for location of equipment. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A DUAL CREDIT PARTNERSHIP WITH HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE – DR. FRED SOLIS/MR. ALBERT HERNANDEZ

Mr. Hernandez asked that the Board approve the dual credit partnership with Harmony School of Excellence to offer dual credit. He answered questions from the Board. Ms. Mares moved to approve the agreement. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Dr. Solis announced the Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduation is today at 6:00 p.m. at the Martinez Fine Arts Center and on Tuesday, is the grand opening of the College of Health Sciences.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLY ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LAREDO CONCERNING VARIOUS ATHLETICS FACILITIES – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS

Dr. Solis reported that there was a preliminary meeting with the City on the possibility of leasing athletic facilities for one-year. Laredo College will provide maintenance and the City will handle the operations. Discussion followed. Ms. Zepeda asked that a Board member be advised of the meetings.

UPDATE ON BBVA CONTRACT-NAME CHANGE – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela reported that BBVA USA will be acquired by The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

UPDATE ON FRANK ARCHITECTS, INC. CONTRACT-NAME CHANGE – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela reported that Frank Architects, Inc. and Hickey Peña Architects have merged to create a new company, Able City LLC. Both firms are under contract for LC's Facilities Master Plan Phase III projects. Frank Architects will complete pending work under Frank Architects.

BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING FACE TO FACE IN BOARD MEETINGS

Ms. Zepeda announced that effective July, Zoom will no longer be available to Board members for meetings. Board members need to attend in person or call in to the meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:10 p.m., Ms. Zepeda announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following items:

- Discussion to Review the Board Self-Evaluation Results as Required by Board Policy BCG(LOCAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION BOARD EVALUATION and by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Principles of Accreditation. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Concerning College President's 2020 – 2021 Annual Evaluation

Ms. Mares so moved. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

The Board reconvened to open session at 1:46 p.m. Ms. Zepeda clarified that Zoom will still be available for public viewing of meetings.

REVIEW THE BOARD SELF-EVALUATION RESULTS AS REQUIRED BY BOARD POLICY BCG(LOCAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION BOARD EVALUATION AND BY SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSCOC) PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “accept the Board self-evaluation results as discussed in executive session to comply with Board policy BCG(LOCAL)”. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT’S 2020 – 2021 ANNUAL EVALUATION

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “accept the College President’s 2020-2021 annual evaluation as discussed in executive session to comply with policy”. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

Dr. Ricardo Solis thanked everyone for all their work in the achievements that the College has received.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Ms. Zepeda noted that a special Board meeting needs to be scheduled on July 1st or 2nd. After polling the Board, a Special Board meeting will tentatively be scheduled for Thursday, July 1st, at 4:00 p.m. She announced the next meetings are a Special Board meeting on June 30th at 1:00 p.m. and a Regular Board meeting on July 29th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:54 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.