



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, March 4, 2021, beginning at 6:03 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
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D. (*left the meeting at 6:49 p.m.*)
Cynthia Mares (*participated via Zoom at 6:11 p.m.*)
Esteban Rangel
Karina "Kari" Elizondo
Tita C. Vela (*participated via Zoom*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

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OTHERS

Ricardo J. Solis, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Michael Gonzalez
Raquel Pena (*participated via Zoom*)
Nora Garza, Ph.D. (*participated via Zoom*)
Sara A. Pompa (*participated via Zoom*)
Manuel Ramirez
Sandra Cortez
Prakash Mansinghani (*participated via Zoom*)
Rosario Dominguez (*participated via Zoom*)
Hector Perez
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, M.S., Ed.D.
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 FOR REGULAR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF JANUARY 21,
2021**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Strategic & External Affairs, read aloud the comments received via email from Ms. Tina Perez and Mr. Robert Ramirez, who expressed their support of Laredo College athletics.

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

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

Ms. Cynthia Mares joined the meeting via Zoom.

Dr. Nora Garza, Vice President for Resource Development & External Affairs, introduced Ms. Sara Pompa for an announcement of a donation. Ms. Sara Pompa, Director of Donor Relations & Special Projects, announced the receipt of a \$4,000 donation from Laredo Rotary Charitable Foundation for student tuition. She also announced the following major donors who also provided donations for a total of \$1,316,000 – South Texas Outreach Foundation, Guadalupe & Lilia Martinez Foundation, Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust, South Texas Academic Rising Scholars, IME Becas, and Laredo Rotary Charitable Foundation. Dr. Garza also announced the receipt of the State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship grant for \$10,000 with \$5,000 going to the Palomino Station.

Mr. Manuel Ramirez, EMS Program Director, reported that LC EMS program has received reaccreditation status from the successful virtual EMS site visit. He thanked Dr. Dianna Miller, Ms. Adriana Nunemaker, Mr. Mauro Ramon, Mr. Gregorio Salas, Mr. Hugo Rodriguez, Ms. Miriam Hinojosa, Ms. Stephanie Rodriguez, Ms. Sandra Rodriguez, Information Technology Department, LC TV, Media Center, Library, Physical Plant, and EMS students & graduates for their help.

Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education, announced that the Adult Education & Literacy Program received the Texas Workforce Commission Best in Class Award in February.

Dr. Ricardo Solis exhibited a certificate that will be given to the A.D.N. and V.N. programs for their #1 rankings and also announced the promotion of Ms. Adriana Nunemaker to Dean of South Campus.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, congratulated: Ms. Vela, Ms. Leven-Ramos, and Ms. Elizondo on their re-election/election to the Board; the new officers of the Board – Ms. Zepeda, Mr. Delgado, and Ms. Leven-Ramos; and the candidates up for tenure. He thanked Dr. Ricardo Solis and the Board for the salary increase. Mr. Mansinghani announced that Faculty Senate elections for president, secretary, and three senators at large will take place this month.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT

No report.

CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Rosario Dominguez, Classified Staff Council President, thanked the Board and Dr. Ricardo Solis for the salary increase.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO LEASE LAREDO COLLEGE PROPERTY TO THE IMAGINARIUM OF SOUTH TEXAS, INCLUDING TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND RENOVATIONS TO COLLEGE PROPERTY – DR. RICARDO J. SOLIS/MS. LUPITA ZEPEDA

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to enter into an agreement with the Imaginarium of South Texas with the terms negotiated by the Finance Committee and Dr. Ricardo Solis and approval by the Board. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Discussion took place. Ms. Mares raised a point of order noting that discussion needs to take place prior to the vote. Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, noted that voting on the motion was in the process of being done and he is unclear if the process may have been interrupted to have discussion but did note that if the vote was completed then it would be a correct point of order. Ms. Zepeda noted that the voted was in the process and the vote was interrupted. Ms. Leven-Ramos noted her intent of her motion. Ms. Mares called for the vote. Motion passed. Mr. Hector Perez, Imaginarium Board President, thanked the Board for the opportunity.

TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented the tenure recommendations listed below:

- Linda R. Ramirez, Assistant Professor of Business and Management
- Holly Ann Dykstra, Assistant Professor of English and Writing Center Director
- Maritza Morris, Assistant Professor of History
- Diana De Lourdes Pescador, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Adrian Ramirez, Assistant Professor of Vocational Nursing
- Dr. Jorge Coronado, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
- Juan Carlos Molina, Assistant Professor of History

Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved to accept the recommendations. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion passed.

JANUARY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, reviewed the following financial information for the report as of January 31, 2021: revenue is \$47.4 million; expenditures are \$22 million; state appropriations revenues are \$84,411 and expenditures are \$81,923; restricted funds revenue are \$14 million and

expenditures are \$14 million; some expenditures will be reclassified to the CARES Act fund; auxiliary services revenues are \$1.5 million and expenditures are \$357,291; tax collections are \$29.8 million, Facilities Master Plan III has \$24 million available; and total investments are \$87.5 million.

**NOVEMBER 2020
QUARTERLY INVESTMENT
REPORT – MR. CESAR VELA**

Reported in previous item.

Ms. Mares moved to approve the January 2021 Financial Report and the November 2020 Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF HVAC
REPAIRS AND UPGRADES
FOR THE FORT MCINTOSH
CENTRAL PLANT THERMAL
STORAGE TANK – MR.
CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela asked that the Board approve a contract with TRANE for HVAC repairs and upgrades at the Ft. McIntosh Central Plant Thermal Storage tank in the amount of \$61,400.00 and that the amount come from the Physical Plant Fund Balance. Ms. Elizondo moved to approve. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF FURNITURE
PURCHASE FOR LAREDO
COLLEGE SOUTH CAMPUS
GAME ROOM – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Vela asked that the Board approve the purchase of furniture for the Laredo College South Game Room in the amount of \$28,721.84 with funding coming from the Facilities Master Plan Phase III bond. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Ms. Zepeda called for the vote; motion passed. Ms. Leven-Ramos, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Delgado voted against.

**APPROVAL OF LAB
EQUIPMENT FOR
ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Vela asked that the Board approve the purchase of Lab Equipment for the Electrical Technology Program. The total cost of the equipment, installation and setup is \$67,778.64 with funding coming from the CARES Act. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL
FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY
SEPARATION PLAN – MR.
CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela asked that the Board approve the use of an additional \$266,803 from the General Operating Fund balance to cover cost for all applicants who have requested to participate in the Fiscal Year 2021 voluntary separation plan. He answered questions from the Board. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**RATIFICATION OF
PURCHASE FOR COMPUTER
EQUIPMENT FROM DELL,
INC., AND RATIFICATION
OF PURCHASE OF
UNLIMITED BROADBAND
SERVICES FROM T-MOBILE
USA INC. – MR. LUCIANO
RAMON**

Mr. Luciano Ramon, Information Technology Officer, asked that the Board ratify the purchase of computer equipment-laptops, from Dell Inc. in the amount of \$750,825.00 and the purchase of Unlimited Broadband Services from T-Mobile USA Inc., in the amount of \$90,000.00 with funding coming from the CARES Act. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed.

**CONSIDERATION OF
LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD
ATTENDANCE AT THE 2021
ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRUSTEES VIRTUAL
GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE – MS. JACKIE
LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos asked that the Board consider attending the 2021 Association of Community College Trustees Virtual Governance Leadership Institute March 30th – April 1st from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (ET) for \$199 per member. Mr. Delgado so moved. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

**CONSIDERATION OF
MEMBERSHIP FOR THE
LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD
TO THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
ELECTED OFFICIALS – MS.
JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos asked that the Board consider \$100 annual membership for trustees. Ms. Mares moved to approve. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Dr. Ricardo Solis reported on the COVID vaccine drives at LC South. Ms. Leven-Ramos recognized Dr. Solis and Dr. David Arreazola for working on the vaccine drives.

**APPOINTMENT OF BOARD
COMMITTEES – MS. LUPITA
ZEPEDA**

Ms. Zepeda announced the appointment of the Board committees.

BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Esteban Rangel, Chair
Lupita Zepeda, Co-Chair
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Jorge “JD” Delgado

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Jorge “JD” Delgado, Chair
Mercurio Martinez, Jr., Co-Chair
Ernestina “Tita” Cantu Vela
Esteban Rangel

PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE:

Jackie Leven-Ramos, Chair
Henry S. Carranza, Co-Chair
Karina “Kari” Elizondo
Cynthia Mares

She noted that any member of the Board can attend committee meetings but if they are not a member of the committee, they cannot participate in discussions.

**FY 2022 BUDGET UPDATE –
MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Vela announced that the FY 2022 budget process will begin next week. He provided the budget calendar and the members of the budget committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 p.m., Ms. Zepeda announced that the Board would go into executive session for the following item:

- Closed Session Discussion Concerning Personnel of a Non-Instructional Laredo College Program and Related Matters, Including Legal Issues, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:38 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken in executive session.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Ms. Zepeda noted that the next meeting will be Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:39 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.