



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The special meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, August 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 telephone call.

ROLL CALL	<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
	Lupita Zepeda, President	Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
	Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President	Rusty Meurer
	Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary	Patricia A. Barrera
	Cynthia Mares	Cesar E. Vela Jr.
	Mercurio Martinez, Jr. <i>(participated via telephone call)</i>	Maria Elena Morales
	Esteban Rangel	
	Tita C. Vela <i>(participated via telephone call)</i>	
	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	
	Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.	
	Karina "Kari" Elizondo	

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 No one signed up for public testimony.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF EXCESS COLLECTIONS FOR DEBT SERVICE – MS. PATRICIA BARRERA, DESIGNATED OFFICER Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector/Designated Officer, read the certification of excess collections and anticipated collection rate.

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, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector*

Ms. Barrera read the certification of the unencumbered fund amount.

*Chief Financial Officer, Budget Officer
Or Auditor: Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance*

Hereby certifies that the unencumbered fund amount used to reduce debt is \$5,744,805.60 as of July 29, 2021, and that said amount is true and correct.

This certification is submitted to Patricia A. Barrera, RTA, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector who is Laredo College's Designated Officer to prepare the 2021 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the certification of excess collections for debt service. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

TAKE ACTION ON THE TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2021; TAKE RECORD VOTE AND SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING OR MEETING (AS REQUIRED) – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President for Finance, presented the proposed tax rate for 2021 is \$.319441; the current 2020 tax rate is \$.325509. The tax rate is decreasing but valuations are increasing which requires a public hearing. Mr. Rangel so moved to approve. Judge Martinez seconded the motion. Ms. Maria Elena Morales, Chief Deputy for Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, noted that a public hearing needs to be scheduled to vote on the rate. Mr. Vela informed the Board that the public hearing will be scheduled on August 26, 2021 prior to the regular Board meeting. Mr. Rangel amended his motion to include a public hearing for August 26, 2021. Judge Martinez seconded the motion. Discussion took place. Mr. Rangel called for the question; motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF WEBB COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR – JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR.

Judge Martinez, Ms. Mares, Ms. Vela, and Ms. Zepeda on behalf of the Board complimented Ms. Barrera on her work at the Tax Assessor Collector office.

Mr. Delgado moved to bring up Items 4.F. - *Select Financial Advisory Services Provider and Delegate to College President the Authority to Negotiate a Contract and Fees* and 4.G. - *Select Financial Audit Services Provider and Delegate to College President the Authority to Negotiate a Contract and Fees*. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

SELECT FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES PROVIDER AND DELEGATE TO COLLEGE PRESIDENT THE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT AND FEES – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met at 12:00 noon today to evaluate, score, and rank the financial advisory services provider. The scores were:

Estrada Hinojosa & Company – 252
Tijerina Galvan Lawrence LLC – 256

Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, noted that the Board should approve the scores, select a provider, and if they choose, delegate authority to the president to negotiate a contract. Judge Martinez noted that he did not submit his numbers since he was not able to attend the Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Discussion followed. Mr. Delgado moved to “select Tijerina Galvan Lawrence and authorize the college president to negotiate a contract and fees for Laredo College”. Discussion followed on scores from committee members. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion passed. (Judge Martinez and Mr. Rangel opposed).

SELECT FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES PROVIDER AND DELEGATE TO COLLEGE PRESIDENT THE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE

Mr. Vela reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met at 12:00 noon today to evaluate, score, and rank the financial audit services provider. The scores were:

A CONTRACT AND FEES –
MR. CESAR VELA

Carr Riggs & Ingram – 257
Garza/Gonzalez & Associates – 283

Mr. Delgado moved to approve the results of the committee to select Garza/Gonzalez & Associates and delegate to the college president to negotiate a contract and fees. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

EVALUATE, SCORE, AND RANK PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES AND SELECT OFFEROR – DR.
*MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA*

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that the proposals received were being distributed and Judge Martinez received the proposals at his residence and Ms. Vela received the proposals electronically. Ms. Zepeda noted that the Board will take a 30-minute recess to review. At 6:32 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to recess for 30 minutes. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion. The Board recessed.

At 6:44 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to reconvene from recess. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

EVALUATE, SCORE, AND RANK PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES AND SELECT OFFEROR – DR.
*MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA*

Ms. Zepeda noted that a special Board meeting will be scheduled August 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to evaluate, score, and rank the proposals. Board members may take the proposals to review but they are confidential and should not be shared. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to defer Items 4.D. - *Evaluate, Score, and Rank Proposals Received for Executive Search Services and Select Offeror* and 4.E. - *Formation of Executive Search Committee*. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE SEARCH COMMITTEE – DR.
*MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA*

Deferred.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Ms. Zepeda recommended to delegate to Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina to schedule a Special Board Meeting for Items 4.D. and 4.E. The next meeting dates are:

Saturday, August 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – Board Retreat
Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop
Thursday, August 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:48 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.