



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, April 28, 2022, 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.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Cynthia Mares (*arrived at 6:44 p.m.*)
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.
Esteban Rangel
Karina "Kari" Elizondo

OTHERS

Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, M.S., Ed.D.
Rusty Meurer
Michael Gonzalez
Nora R. Garza, Ph.D.
Dianna Miller, Ed.D.
Fred Solis, Ed.D.
Carmelino Castillo
Andrea Lopez
Martin Villarreal, IV
Prakash Mansinghani
Fatima Ponce
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Ricardo Villarreal
Jose Luis Maldonado
David V. Arreazola, Ed.D.
Andrea Lopez
Diana Y. Ortiz, Ph.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tita C. Vela (*participated via telephone conference call – as per Texas Government Code Sec. 551.122, a Board member participating by telephone conference call is considered absent from the meeting for purposes of Section 130.0845, Education Code*)

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Ms. Leven-Ramos called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 31, 2022, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2022, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2022, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2022, AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2022

Ms. Elizondo asked legal counsel, Mr. Rusty Meurer, about Board members' attendance via phone call and via Zoom. Mr. Meurer explained Board member's participation via phone call. Ms. Elizondo noted for the record that the LC Board is the only Texas governmental body that does not allow participation via videoconference. Mr. Meurer noted that this topic is not an item on the agenda which can be discussed. Ms. Elizondo requested that an item regarding the Texas Government Code Section 551.127 be placed on the next Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Delgado moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Carranza; motion carried. Ms. Elizondo opposed and stated for the record that she opposed due to legal questions that need to be answered.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Ms. Zepeda provided information from Laredo College Board Policy BDB(LOCAL) to clarify the topics presented under public testimony.

"An individual's comments to the Board shall not exceed three minutes per meeting. When there are six or less speakers scheduled, the Board President may extend each speaker's time to five minutes. Time may not be ceded from one speaker to another. The Board President may also limit the total amount of time for public testimony but not to less than thirty minutes. The speaker may not speak on personnel or student matters that refer to individuals by name or title. After a speaker's comments, the Board President shall make whatever response, if any, or take whatever action, if any, is deemed appropriate to handle the matter. Such response or action may include the

following: referring the matter to the College President for action or for further recommendations, referring the matter to a later meeting or to a Board committee for further discussion or study, indicate that the matter shall be taken under advisement. If the Board President determines that a person has not attempted to resolve a matter administratively, the person shall be directed to the appropriate policy for attempted resolution before bringing the matter to the Board.”

Ms. Leslie L. Young, Ms. Esther Firova, and Ms. Sapphire L. Young expressed their opinions of the LC athletics program.

Ms. Veronica V. Orduña commented on the Autism Awareness event that took place at LC South.

**RECOGNITIONS,
COMMUNICATIONS,
INTRODUCTIONS OF
PERSONNEL, AND NEW
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR
THE MONTH
LAREDO COLLEGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CENTER UPDATE - MR.
MICHAEL GONZALEZ**

Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Senior Director of Economic & Resource Development, acknowledged Vice President for Resource Development, Dr. Nora Garza, and Grant Development Coordinator, Mr. Sal Sciaraffa. Mr. Gonzalez provided information on Economic Development Center initiatives, financials, events & training participation, and his Certified Economic Developer certification.

**LATINA
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ACADEMY & EMPOWERED!
EVENT UPDATE - DR. NORA
R. GARZA**

Dr. Garza presented a video of the Latina Entrepreneurship Academy and Empowered! Event. The event was made possibly through a grant the college received.

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE
NURSING RECOGNITION -
DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA/DR. DIANNA
MILLER**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, announced that LC’s A.D.N. program has been named #1 community college nursing program in Texas for five years in a row and #16 in the nation. Dr. Dianna Miller, Dean of Health Sciences, announced the following rankings for the nursing programs: #1 A.D.N. school in Texas by RN Careers, tied for #1 A.D.N. and B.S.N. programs in Texas, and #1 A.D.N. program in Texas by Nursing Process. She recognized the nursing faculty – Michael Martinez, Dr. Manuel Gonzalez, Melissa Guidry, Dongyeol Yeo, Adrian Ramirez, Eva Villarreal, Claudia Del Bosque, Elizabeth Gloria, and Jeannette Johnson.

**WEST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS -
DR. FRED SOLIS**

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment, informed the Board that LC nominated five LC students and who are named West Texas A&M University Scholars. Mr. Carmelino Castillo, Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Athletics, and Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, presented certificates and honor cords to the scholars: Ana Perez Aleman, Julissa Alvarado, Itzel Hinojosa, Ariana Moreno, and Fatima Ponce.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Mares.

**INTRODUCTION OF
PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL
ACTIONS - DR. MARISELA
RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA**

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina announced the promotions/new hires for the month: Sandra Montes, Administrative Teacher; Mateo Ramirez, Network Technician; Anna Gonzalez, Lead Instructional Design Specialist; and Herbert Serna, Emergency Medical Services Instructor/Lab Coordinator.

Mr. Delgado made a motion to move up Item 9.A. - APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MR. MARTIN VILLARREAL, IV, WEBB

COUNTY CHIEF APPRAISER. Ms. Leven-Ramos and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MR. MARTIN
VILLARREAL, IV, WEBB
COUNTY CHIEF APPRAISER
- LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES**

Mr. Martin Villarreal, IV, thanked the Board and the college for all that they do for the community and its students. Ms. Zepeda presented Mr. Villarreal with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of Laredo College. Ms. Zepeda read the resolution.

*RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LAREDO COLLEGE
HONORING RETIRED WEBB COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
CHIEF APPRAISER MR. MARTIN VILLARREAL IV*

WHEREAS, Laredo College wishes to honor a valued member of the Laredo, Texas community, retired Webb County Appraisal District Chief Appraiser, Mr. Martin Villarreal IV;

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin Villarreal IV began his career with the Webb County Appraisal District in March 1992 in various capacities which include: Appraiser in the Real Property & Personal Property Department, Business Finance Officer, and finally Chief Appraiser since 2007;

WHEREAS, after 30 years of dedicated service to the Webb County Appraisal District, Mr. Martin Villarreal IV, Chief Appraiser, retired on March 31, 2022;

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure as Webb County Appraisal District Chief Appraiser, Mr. Martin Villarreal IV has served the taxpayers of Webb County with outstanding leadership and professionalism;

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin Villarreal IV has provided Laredo College District's Certified Appraisal Rolls and taxable value calculation each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the governing Board of Trustees of Laredo College adopts this resolution honoring, recognizing, and acknowledging all of Mr. Martin Villarreal IV services and contributions to Laredo College.

EXECUTED AND APPROVED BY THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES on this 28th day of April, 2022.

Signed by Lupita Zepeda, Board President, and Jackie Leven-Ramos, Board Secretary

Ms. Leven-Ramos noted for the record that the Webb County Appraisal District is not part of Webb County; it is a stand-alone entity with its own Board of Directors.

Ms. Mares moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported on: faculty goals for the presidential candidate; faculty senate elections – Vice President-Ms. Victoria Rodriguez, Senators at large- Amy Arguijio, Ever Lopez, and Manuel Ramirez and the proposals that were passed; recognized the Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning Team – Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Dr. Veronica Martinez, Michelle Perez, Lourdes Gutierrez, Linda Ramirez, Dr. Orlando Patricio, and himself and their work; and recognized faculty – Ana Lu Ramirez and Dr. Orlando Patricio for their work.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT
ORGANIZATION REPORT**

Ms. Fatima Ponce, Associated Student Organization President, thanked the Board for being recognized as a Texas A&M University Scholars, reported on autism mock health care setting event, autism awareness event, and student leadership awards night.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Agenda Item 8.A. - Approval of Oracle Software Licenses and Support Renewal
- Agenda Item 8.B. - Approval of Spectrum Enterprise Internet Circuit and Ethernet Private Line (EPL) One-Year Agreement
- Agenda Item 8.C. - March 2022 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.D. - February 2022 Quarterly Investment Report

Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Rangel moved to approve the following items as they were discussed at committee meeting:

- Agenda Item 9.B. - Approval of Lease with Laredo Orange Crush for Use of Softball and Baseball Field at Fort McIntosh Campus – *Mr. Cesar Vela*
- Agenda Item 9.C. - Approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMAX) of the Raquel González Automotive Technology Center Diesel Shop Expansion Project – *Mr. Cesar Vela/Mr. Homer Paez*
- Agenda Item 9.D. - Approval of Contract for Parking Lot Resurfacing and Repairs – *Mr. Cesar Vela*
- Agenda Item 9.E. - Approval of Contract for Building P-24 Renovations – *Mr. Cesar Vela*
- Agenda Item 9.F. - Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMAX) for Building P-14 Project – *Mr. Cesar Vela*
- Agenda Item 9.H. - Approval of Matching Funds Required for 2022-2023 Texas Workforce Commission JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) Grant Application – *Dr. Nora R. Garza/Ms. Sandra Cortez*
- Agenda Item 9.I. - Approval to Purchase Digital Screen Microscope for Incoming STEM Students Participating in Undergraduate Research as Part of the LEAPS Project – *Dr. Nora R. Garza*

Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, introduced Mr. Ricardo Villarreal, Vice President of the Babe Ruth League, and Mr. Jose Luis Maldonado who thanked the Board for approval for the use of the LC fields.

APPROVAL OF UPDATES ON LAB FEES AND STUDENT LIABILITY INSURANCE FEES
– *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA*

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Interim Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, asked the Board to approve course lab fees for new programs - Fire Protection and Safety Technology Program, Fire Protection and Safety Management Program, Emergency Management Program, and Electronics Technology Program as presented. Mr. Rangel moved to approve the fees as presented. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE UPDATE – *MS. CYNTHIA MARES*

Ms. Mares shared information from the Student Success Committee and briefed the Board on what was discussed at the committee meeting.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PROGRAMS

Agenda Item 10.A.1. - Calendar of Laredo College Events – Dr. Rodriguez Tjerina provided the Board with a listing of upcoming Laredo College events.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE – *MS. ANDREA LOPEZ*

Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, provided an enrollment update for Maymester, Summer Session I, Summer Session II, and Continuing Education Quarter III.

STRATEGIC RECRUITMENT UPDATE – *DR. DIANA Y. ORTIZ*

Dr. Diana Ortiz, Associate Vice President of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, provided an annual recap of recruitment outreach events.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:53 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 11.A. - Closed Session Meeting to Discuss the Selection of a Sole Finalist for the Position of Laredo College President and to Meet with the Laredo College District Attorney to Receive Legal Advice Relating to the Selection Process, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Agenda Item 11.B. - Closed Session Meeting to Discuss Legal Matters Relating to a Proposed License Agreement Between U. S. Customs and Border Protection and Laredo College, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 554.071
- Agenda Item 11.C. - Discussion Concerning Complaints Initiated by Laredo College District Personnel Related to Employment Contract Non-renewals, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:21 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE NAME OF THE SOLE FINALIST THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS CONSIDERING EMPLOYING FOR THE POSITION OF LAREDO COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Mr. Delgado moved “that the Laredo College Board of Trustees select Dr. Maria Minerva “Minita” Ramirez as the sole finalist for the position of Laredo College President and that a meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees be scheduled on May 19, 2022 to take final action in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 552.123 on the employment of Dr. Ramirez for this position”. Judge Martinez and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND LAREDO COLLEGE

Mr. Rangel moved to approve and assign Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina to negotiate the final agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Ms. Mares and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried with one opposed. Ms. Elizondo requested to be part of the meeting with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Laredo College.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INVESTIGATOR FOR COMPLAINTS INITIATED BY LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT PERSONNEL RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT NON-RENEWALS

Mr. Meurer noted that there are two options the Board can take action on: (1) see if the insurance company will cover the claim and retain the services of an investigator or (2) Administration to recommend an independent third-party investigator to the Board for approval. Ms. Mares moved to go with Option 1 – see if the insurance company will cover the claim and if so, proceed. Ms. Leven-Ramos and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:26 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.