



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2023 budget and 2022 property tax rate of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, August 25, 2022, beginning at 6:06 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	<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
	Lupita Zepeda, President Jorge “JD” Delgado, Vice President <i>(participated via Zoom)</i> Mercurio Martinez, Jr. Esteban Rangel Tita C. Vela <i>(arrived at 6:09 p.m.)</i>	Minita Ramirez, Ph.D. Rusty Meurer
	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	
	Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary Cynthia Mares Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D. Karina “Kari” Elizondo	

CALL TO ORDER Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Mr. Rangel called the roll.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET AND 2022 PROPERTY TAX RATE – MR. CESAR E. VELA, JR. Ms. Zepeda presided as Chair of the Public Hearing and provided background information. She reported that the Laredo College 2022 property tax rate is proposed to be set at \$0.287836 per \$100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which \$0.230196 shall be for maintenance and operations and \$0.057640 shall be for debt retirement. She announced that if anyone wanting to express their views on the proposed 2022 property tax rate and proposed fiscal year 2023 budget may do so now.

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President, asked that the record reflect that Ms. Vela has joined the meeting.

There being no speakers, Ms. Zepeda indicated that the public hearing is concluded.

ADJOURNMENT At 6:11 p.m., Mr. Martinez moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

The regular Board meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened at 6:11 p.m., immediately following the public hearing on the proposed 2023 budget and 2022 property tax rate.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge “JD” Delgado, Vice President
(participated via Zoom)
Cynthia Mares
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Esteban Rangel *(left the meeting at 6:29 p.m.)*
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Prakash Mansinghani
Albert Chavez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.
Karina “Kari” Elizondo

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Mr. Rangel 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 THE REGULAR
BOARD MEETING OF JULY
28, 2022, SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING OF AUGUST 5,
2022, AND SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING OF AUGUST 9,
2022**

Mr. Martinez moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rangel; motion carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

Mr. Rangel moved to bring up agenda items under *Consent Agenda* and moved to approve all of the following items under *Consent Agenda*.

- Agenda Item 7.A. – July 2022 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 7. B. – Approval for the Purchase of Annual Insurance Coverages
- Agenda Item 7. C. – Ratification for the Purchase of Laredo College Campus Police Vehicles
- Agenda Item 7. D. – Approval to Enter into a Contract with Ellucian for SaaS ERP Essential Cloud Software using Texas Connection Consortium 2022 Master Agreement
- Agenda Item 7. E. – Approval to Extend Bank Depository Contract
- Agenda Item 7. F. – Approval to Enter into a Contract with Ruffalo Noel Levitz for Consulting Services
- Agenda Item 7. G. – Approval of Time Extension for Truck Driving Pad and Roofing Projects
- Agenda Item 7. H. – Approval to Purchase Network Switches for the Laredo College South Campus Security Upgrade Project

Mr. Delgado asked if Item 7.F. – *Approval to Enter into a Contract with Ruffalo Noel Levitz for Consulting Services* was ready to be approved. Dr. Ramirez indicated that a sole-source contract was received and everything is in order. Ms. Zepeda called for the vote; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION**

**FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET
AND 2022 PROPERTY TAX
RATE – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, indicated that the Board received a copy of the proposed FY 2023 Budget.

Agenda Item 8.A.1. – Resolution Adopting FY 2023 Budget

Mr. Rangel moved that “the Board of Trustees approves and adopts the resolution adopting the Fiscal Year 2023 budget”. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

Agenda Item 8.A.2. – Resolution Adopting 2022 Property Tax Rate

Mr. Vela reported that the proposed property tax rate for FY2023 fiscal year is \$0.287836 which will raise more tax revenue. Mr. Rangel moved “that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.287836 per \$100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which \$0.230196 shall be for maintenance and operations and \$0.057640 shall be for debt retirement which is effectively a 3.5 increase in the tax rate, and that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the resolution which adopts the tax year 2022 property tax rate”.

Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, indicated that the Board is required to read the resolution before the Board takes action on the motion and a record vote will need to be taken. Ms. Mares seconded the motion. Ms. Zepeda read the resolution.

Resolution of Laredo College District Board
of Trustees Adopting Property Tax Rate for
Fiscal Year 2023

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District, in order to levy ad valorem taxes, is required to set and establish a tax rate each year;

WHEREAS, said Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on August 25, 2022, on the property tax rate in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Tax Code; and

WHEREAS, such Board of Trustees has considered this matter and desires to set the 2022 property tax rate;

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, that on August 25, 2022, the 2022 property tax rate be, and the same is hereby set at \$0.287836 per \$100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which \$0.230196 shall be for maintenance and operations and \$0.057640 shall be for debt retirement.

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR’S TAX RATE.

THE TAX RATE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE RAISED BY THREE AND A HALF PERCENT (3.5%) AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY NEGATIVE THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND SIXTY-ONE CENTS (-\$31.61).

Such taxes are to be assessed and collected by the tax officials designated by Laredo College.

Adopted on this 25th day of August, 2022, by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Martinez, Mr. Rangel, Ms. Mares, Ms. Zepeda, Ms. Vela, and Mr. Delgado voted in favor with none voting against; motion carried. Mr. Martinez noted that the tax rate decreased.

Agenda Item 8.A.3. – Authorizing Collection of General Use Fee and Expenditure of Funds for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Vela asked that the Board adopt the resolution authorizing the collection of general use fee and expenditure of funds for FY 2023. Ms. Zepeda read the resolution.

Resolution Authorizing Collection of
“General Use Fee” and Expenditure of Funds
for Fiscal Year 2023

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District is authorized to fix and collect tuition and fees from students for the use of its property, buildings, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, such Board of Trustees has deemed it necessary and advisable to collect a “General Use Fee” from students for the use of its property, buildings and facilities and to apply such proceeds to the payment of principal and interest of certain revenue bonds issued and sold in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2020 for expenses generally associated with construction, reconstruction, remodeling, and repair of its property, buildings, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, such Board of Trustees has determined that such “General Use Fee” should be set at \$50.00 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2023, to be used as follows:

1. Approximately \$ 4,324,367.00 for revenue bond debt service;
2. Approximately \$ 500,000.00 to be retained as general revenue for expenses related to physical plant operations and maintenance;
3. The balance for payment of construction, reconstruction, remodeling, and repair of property, buildings, and facilities;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that a “General Use Fee” be collected from students at the time of registration, in the amount of \$50.00 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2023.

Adopted on this 25th day of August, 2022, by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Rangel moved “that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve and adopt the resolution authorizing the collection of a general use fee and expenditure of funds for fiscal year 2022”. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Meurer informed the Board that the resolution for 8.A.1. – *Resolution Adopting FY 2023 Budget* was not read. Mr. Meurer read the resolution for the record.

Resolution Adopting Budget for
Fiscal Year 2023

WHEREAS, each year the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District is required to have a budget prepared, showing the estimated revenue and proposed expenditures for the succeeding school year, and to cause the same to be filed in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Board; and

WHEREAS, such a budget has been prepared and the public has been given notice that such budget would be presented for discussion and adoption on August 25, 2022, at the time and place specified in such notice; and
WHEREAS, such budget has been discussed and a majority of the Board of Trustees wish to adopt same for Fiscal Year 2023;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that such budget be adopted and same is hereby adopted in all things.

Adopted on this 25th day of August, 2022, by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Zepeda moved to defer the following executive session items.

- Agenda Item 10.A. – Level III Grievance Hearing Filed by a Professional Employee as per Board Policy DGBA(LOCAL): PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS -

EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

- Agenda Item 10.B. – Level III Grievance Hearing Filed by a Professional Employee as per Board Policy DGBA(LOCAL): PERSONNEL-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS - EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Meurer will work with Dr. Ramirez on rescheduling the items. He noted that Agenda Items 11.A. - *Level III Grievance Hearing Filed By A Professional Employee* and 11.B. – *Level III Grievance Hearing Filed By A Professional Employee* need to be deferred. Mr. Martinez moved to defer Agenda Items 11.A. and 11.B. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

**RECOGNITIONS,
COMMUNICATIONS,
INTRODUCTIONS OF
PERSONNEL, AND NEW
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR
THE MONTH
INTRODUCTION OF
PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL
ACTIONS – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez introduced the new hires, promotions, and personnel actions for the month – Casandra R. Arredondo, Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator; Miguel A. Contreras Martinez, Mathematics Instructor; David Dimas, Homeland Security Studies Instructor; Linda Gamez, Assessment & QEP Coordinator; Alfredo Garcia, Jr., Auto Body Collision & Paint Technology Instructor; Dr. Marissa Jimenez, Professor of Bachelors of Science in Nursing and Program Director; Dr. Michael Martinez, Assistant Professor of Associate Degree Nursing & Program Director; Alma L. Edwards, Fire Science Instructor; Rafael A. Limon, Writing Support Specialist; and Alejandro I. Casillas, Culinary Arts Instructor.

Dr. Ramirez announced that the bench dedication for Dr. Sara Carrasco took place this morning and the fall semester has begun. She thanked everyone for their help organizing the bench dedication and kicking off the fall semester.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, congratulated Dr. Ramirez on her investiture ceremony; commended faculty on teaching students on campus and at the high schools; thanked the Board for considering the budget and asked for a consideration of an addendum to the budget.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**LAREDO COLLEGE WEBSITE
UPDATE – MR. ALBERT
CHAVEZ**

Mr. Albert Chavez, Senior Director of Information Technology, provided an update on the college website and indicated that the deadline for all departments to transfer content is September 12.

**CAMPUS POLICE,
PERSONNEL, TRAVEL, AND
OTHER REPORTS**

Dr. Ramirez provided the reports for informational purposes.

**ENROLLMENT REPORT –
DR. FRED SOLIS**

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment, presented enrollment numbers for Fall 2022 and Continuing Education Quarter 4. Quarter 1 registration has begun.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, September 29, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

Mr. Delgado asked that the record reflect that he changed his vote on Agenda Item 8.A.1. – *Resolution Adopting FY 2023 Budget* from a yes to a no. Mr. Meurer confirmed that there are still enough votes for the motion to pass.

Dr. Ramirez thanked the Board for adopting the budget and tax rate which included a 3% increase for all eligible employees and as Mr. Martinez noted, that the tax rate has decreased.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:58 p.m., Ms. Vela moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.