



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Laredo, Texas

The special meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, beginning at 6:02 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  
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.  
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.  
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.  
Rusty Meurer  
Maria Elena Morales  
Cesar E. Vela, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cynthia Mares (*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*)

Esteban Rangel  
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**

**DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON THE TAX RATE**  
– MR. CESAR VELA

Ms. Maria Elena Morales, Chief Deputy for Webb County Tax Office, gave an overview of the tax rate calculation and posting requirements to proceed with setting the tax rate. She handed out to the Board the 2022 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet which was posted on all applicable websites on August 4, 2022 with verification of these postings distributed to the Laredo College Board Chair, College President secretary, legal counsel, and Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance.

Mr. Vela indicated that the proposed tax rate is the voter-approved tax rate of 0.287836, a 3¢ decrease from the current rate of 0.319441. The total tax levy on all properties if the proposed 2022 tax rate is adopted is \$53,253,278. Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, noted that the language in the property tax code requires that the tax rate that is being adopted is increasing the taxes. The rate may have gone down but the tax revenue is increasing. Mr. Delgado moved “that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed 2022 property tax rate to be set at the

voter approval rate of 0.287836 cents per 100 dollar valuation as presented by Mr. Cesar Vela and Ms. Maria Elena Morales in accordance with the Truth in Taxation calculations”. Dr. Carranza and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion. Ms. Zepeda announced that a record vote needs to be taken. The record vote, as the motion passed, with Board members Dr. Carranza, Ms. Vela, Ms. Leven-Ramos, Mr. Delgado, Mr. Martinez, Ms. Mares, and Ms. Zepeda voting in favor and none voting against.

Mr. Delgado moved “that the Laredo College schedules one public hearing to discuss the proposed 2022 property tax rate, which is the voter approval rate, and a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on August 25, 2022 to adopt the proposed 2022 property tax rate”. Mr. Martinez and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:17 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Closed Session Discussion Concerning the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMAX) for Laredo College South Campus Raquel Gonzalez Automotive Technology Center Diesel Shop Expansion Project, Including Possible Amendments to the GMAX, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.
- Closed Session Consultation with the College District's Attorney Concerning Retaining Law Firm for Upcoming Hearings Initiated by Laredo College District Personnel Related to Employment Contract Non-Renewals, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.074

Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMAX) FOR LAREDO COLLEGE SOUTH CAMPUS RAQUEL GONZALEZ AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER DIESEL SHOP EXPANSION PROJECT**

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the Board of Trustees authorize the College President to negotiate the amended Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Raquel Gonzalez Automotive Technology Center with the contract and to execute the Guaranteed Maximum Price contract along with the Board President”. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

**RETAIN LAW FIRM FOR UPCOMING HEARINGS INITIATED BY LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT PERSONNEL RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT NON-RENEWALS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the Board of Trustees authorize the College President to retain counsel as discussed in executive session for the subject grievances”. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**NOTIFICATION OF THE SERVING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE AUGUST 15, 2022 GARDEN RECEPTION AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE POLICY GDA(LOCAL): COMMUNITY USE OF COLLEGE DISTRICT FACILITIES - CONDUCT ON COLLEGE DISTRICT PREMISES – DR. MINITA RAMIREZ**

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President, notified the Board that as part of the investiture and convocation activities scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>, a reception for employees will be held at the Commander’s home. The Laredo College Foundation is sponsoring the alcoholic beverages for the event.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Saturday, August 20, 2022, 8:00 a.m. – Board Retreat

Thursday, August 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:54 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.