



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, January 27, 2022, beginning at 6:17 p.m. at the Harold R. Yearly Library and Executive Conference Center – Falcon Bank Executive Conference Room located at Laredo College Fort McIntosh Campus in Laredo, Texas.

ROLL CALL	<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Lupita Zepeda, President Jorge “JD” Delgado, Vice President Cynthia Mares Mercurio Martinez, Jr. Esteban Rangel (<i>arrived at 6:58 p.m.</i>) Karina “Kari” Elizondo	<u>OTHERS</u> Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, M.S., Ed.D. Rusty Meurer Dr. Esmeralda Vargas Heriberto Hernandez Gabriel Lozano Francisco Ramirez Prakash Mansinghani Cesar E. Vela Jr. Eli Mendoza (<i>participated via Zoom</i>) Sara Pompa Andrea Lopez
	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u> Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary <i>(At 7:51 p.m., 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)</i> Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D. Tita C. Vela (<i>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</i>)	
CALL TO ORDER	Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Mr. Delgado 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 BOARD WORKSHOP OF NOVEMBER 29, 2021, REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 30, 2021, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2021, AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 28, 2021	Judge Martinez moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delgado; motion carried unanimously.	
PUBLIC TESTIMONY	No one signed up for public testimony.	
RECOGNITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND NEW PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH		

**LAREDO COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST
ASSISTANT PROGRAM
ACCREDITATION** – DR.
*DIANNA MILLER/DR.
ESMERALDA VARGAS*

Dr. Esmeralda Vargas, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director/Professor, announced that the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education deemed that Laredo College’s PTA program fulfilled all of the standards and elements required for accreditation.

**LAREDO COLLEGE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** –
MR. HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ

Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, announced that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved Laredo College’s proposals for Associate in Applied Science Degree in Emergency Response Management, Associate in Applied Science Degree in Fire Protection & Safety. In addition, Laredo College has been approved as a training facility by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

**JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR
TEXANS (JET) GRANT** – DR.
*NORA R. GARZA/MR.
GABRIEL LOZANO/MR.
FRANCISCO RAMIREZ*

Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Grant Writer, and Mr. Francisco Ramirez, Transportation Technology Department Chair, announced that Laredo College is the recipient of the Jobs and Education for Texans Grant from the Texas Workforce Commission in the amount of \$304,836. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the Diesel Mechanic Program.

**LATINA
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ACADEMY GRANT FROM
LULAC INSTITUTE INC. AND
COCA-COLA** – DR. *NORA R.
GARZA/MR. GABRIEL LOZANO*

Mr. Lozano announced that Laredo College is the recipient of the Latina Entrepreneurship Academy Grant from LULAC Institute Inc. and Coca-Cola in the amount of \$7,000. This grant will provide entrepreneurship training to 40 Hispanic women.

**INTRODUCTIONS OF
PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL
ACTIONS** – DR. *MARISELA
RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA*

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, introduced the new Dean of South Campus, Ms. Priscilla Medina. She also introduced the promotions, and new hires for the month: Bianca E. Brewster, Environmental Science Center Director; Emanuel Villanueva, Lead Lab Coordinator; Miguel E. Flores, Workforce Development Coordinator; Monica I. Santa Cruz, Workforce Development Coordinator; Angelica A. Cabral, Faculty Secretary – Homeland Security Studies/Cybersecurity Institute; Nancy Colchado, Allied Health Lab Coordinator; Brenda Y. Diaz, Upward Bound Academic Advisor; Juan M. Garcia, Electrical Technology Lab Coordinator; Elizabeth Gloria, Associate Degree Nursing Instructor; Matthew Jessie, Art Instructor; Maria I. Martinez, Academic and Career Advisor; Anissa D. Moreno, Faculty Secretary – Nursing A.D.N./B.S.N.; and David Ramirez, Automotive Collision Repair Instructor.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, reported on: Memorial brick project, outstanding teaching awards. and outstanding service awards. He also thanked Dr. David Arreazola, Interim Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs for working with faculty and Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina for her leadership during the difficult times Laredo College has faced.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT
ORGANIZATION REPORT**

No report.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF
COUNCIL REPORT**

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Mares moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 9.A. - November 2021 Financial Report

- Agenda Item 9.B. - Approval for the Purchase of Computer Equipment for the Computer Technology Department
- Agenda Item 9.C. - Approval of Contract with Strata Information Group, Inc. for Degree Works Consulting Services
- Agenda Item 9.D. - Renewal of Interlocal Agreement Between Webb County and the Laredo College for the Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes
- Agenda Item 9.E. - Approval of Purchase of Furniture for the Memorial Hall Building for the Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership Program Office and Student Space
- Agenda Item 9.F. - Approval to Enter into a Contract with SHI International Corp. for Information Security Services Compliance Required by Texas Administrative Code Chapter 202
- Agenda Item 9.G. - Approval for Purchase and Implementation of the Ellucian Experience Portal

Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2021 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, introduced Mr. Eli Mendoza from Garza, Gonzalez, and Associates. Mr. Mendoza presented the results of the audit. Mr. Vela answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel.

Ms. Mares moved to approve the report. Judge Martinez seconded the motion. Ms. Zepeda requested Administration to bring back a plan of action regarding the property inventory item. Mr. Vela noted that all items from the audit will be brought back to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY CAK(LOCAL): APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE SOURCES - INVESTMENTS – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela presented the modifications to CAK(LOCAL) policy and read the resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD REGARDING REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, Section 2256.005(e) of the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 2256) requires the Board of Trustees of Laredo College District to (a) review the District's investment policy and investment strategies [set forth in CAK(LOCAL)] not less than annually and (b) adopt this resolution reflecting the Board's review and recording any changes made to the investment policy or strategies;

WHEREAS, the District's investment policy for fiscal year 2021-2022 has been presented to the Board for its consideration and approval, as required by the Act; and

WHEREAS, the District's investment policy for fiscal year 2021-2022 includes:

1. Modifications to Section 5.1 – Designation of Investment Officer
2. Modifications to Section 6.1 – Open Meeting
3. Modifications to Section 6.2 – Effective Date

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees of Laredo College District has reviewed the District's investment policy, and hereby adopts the policy for fiscal year 2021-2022 in compliance with the Public Funds Investment Act. Adopted this 27th day of January 2022 by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Mares moved to approve the modifications to the policy and the resolution. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF VARIOUS ROOM PLAQUES AT THE LAREDO COLLEGE SOUTH

Ms. Sara Pompa, Director of Donor Relations & Special Projects, provided background information on the room plaques. She asked that

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING – DR. NORA R. GARZA/MS. SARA A. POMPA

the Board approve the four plaques for naming various rooms at the LC South College of Health Sciences Building. Judge Martinez moved to approve the plaques. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

STATUS OF LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS' REQUIRED TRAININGS AS PER TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 61.084, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.005 AND 2054.5191, AND LEGAL POLICIES BBD(LEGAL): BOARD MEMBERS ORIENTATION AND TRAINING AND BI(LEGAL): REPORTS – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina provided the status of Board members' training requirements as governed by policies BBD(LEGAL) and BI(LEGAL). Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBER(S) TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICIES BBG(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS, COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES, AND BBH(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS, CONVENTIONS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS – BOARD OF TRUSTEES INSTITUTE – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina presented information on the Board of Trustees Institute for anyone interested in attending. She indicated that the estimate for reimbursable expenses is less than \$150.00. Mr. Delgado moved to approve two Board members interested in attending. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING APPLICATIONS TO BECOME A USAGE-DRIVEN FOREIGN TRADE ZONE #94 DESIGNATION – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Mr. Delgado asked to defer the item for the following applications until a presentation on Foreign Trade Zones from the Webb County Appraisal District is made.

- Unimex Trade & Logistics LLC. located at 13604 Interstate 35 Frontage Rd., Laredo Texas
- Transplace Mexico located at 107 Ross Khaledi Rd., Laredo, Texas

Ms. Mares so moved. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS LAREDO CLEAN AIR COALITION UPDATE – MS. TRICIA CORTEZ

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina reported that Ms. Cortez will not be making a presentation to the Board under Information Items this evening.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE – MS. ANDREA LOPEZ

Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management, provided enrollment update for the Spring 2022 semester and continuing education. Ms. Mares reported that the Student Success Committee heard Ms. Lopez's report on student success and the information will be shared with the Board at the next Board meeting.

NOTIFICATION OF THE WEBB COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina announced that Mr. Delgado received 519 votes and was elected to the Webb County Appraisal District (WCAD) Board of Directors. His term is January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. Mr. Delgado noted that the first meeting was held last week and he was

elected secretary for the WCAD Board. They will be selecting a new Chief Appraiser.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 12.A. - Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, Closed Session Discussion for Consideration of Approval of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Request for Right of Entry on Laredo College Property for Survey and Site Assessment
- Agenda Item 12.B. - Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, Closed Session Consultation with Legal Counsel to Discuss a Matter in which the Texas Disciplinary Rules Conflict with the Provisions of Chapter 551 of the Government Code
- Agenda Item 12.C. - Discussion with Laredo College District Attorney Concerning Laredo College President's Recommendation to Terminate the Employment of a Laredo College Tenure-Track Faculty Member as Per Board Policy DMAA(LOCAL): TERM CONTRACTS-TERMINATION MID-CONTRACT and DMAA(LEGAL): TERM CONTRACTS-TERMINATION MID-CONTRACT. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Agenda Item 12.D. - Discuss Legal Issues with Laredo College Attorney Regarding Real Property Donation Agreement Incident to Laredo College's Participation in The City of Laredo Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) No. 2, Also Known as The Coves at Winfield, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.072
- Agenda Item 12.E. - Closed Session Meeting Concerning the Status of the Process to Fill the Laredo College Chief of Police Position, Including a Discussion of Legal Issues with Laredo College Attorney, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:28 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session and that Ms. Leven-Ramos had joined the meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION REQUEST FOR RIGHT OF ENTRY ON LAREDO COLLEGE PROPERTY FOR SURVEY AND SITE ASSESSMENT

Ms. Mares moved to "authorize legal counsel and college president to proceed as discussed in executive session". Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO WAIVE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH A TITLE IX INVESTIGATION

Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, recommended that the Board "move to authorize counsel, Craig Wood, to provide legal advice to the interim college president in regards to the Title IX investigation". Ms. Mares so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

LAREDO COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO TERMINATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A LAREDO COLLEGE TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBER AS PER BOARD POLICY DMAA(LOCAL): TERM CONTRACTS-TERMINATION

Mr. Delgado so moved. Ms. Mares seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7 to 1.

**MID-CONTRACT AND
DMAA(LEGAL): TERM
CONTRACTS-TERMINATION
MID-CONTRACT**

**APPROVAL OF REAL
PROPERTY DONATION
AGREEMENT INCIDENT TO
THE PARTICIPATION OF
LAREDO COLLEGE IN THE
CITY OF LAREDO TAX
INCREMENT
REINVESTMENT ZONE
(TIRZ) NO. 2, ALSO KNOWN
AS THE COVES AT
WINFIELD**

Mr. Delgado moved to approve. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried with a vote of 7 to 1.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:33 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.