



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, March 31, 2022, beginning at 6:01 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 6:35 p.m.*)
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.
Esteban Rangel (*arrived at 6:51 p.m.*)
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, M.S., Ed.D.
Rusty Meurer
Obed Guerrero
Dr. David V. Arreazola
Javier Cano
Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez
Dr. Fred Solis
Bianca Brewster
Prakash Mansinghani
Fatima Ponce
Cesar E. Vela Jr.
Albert Chavez
Andrea Lopez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karina “Kari” Elizondo (*participated via telephone conference call until 7:49 p.m. – 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. 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
FEBRUARY 24, 2022 AND
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF MARCH 22, 2022**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delgado; motion carried.

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: 1) referring the matter to the College President for action or for further recommendations, 2) 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. Kristi Lansford expressed her opinion of the athletics program.

**RECOGNITIONS,
COMMUNICATIONS,
INTRODUCTIONS OF**

**PERSONNEL, AND NEW
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR
THE MONTH
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
MARKETING & PUBLIC
RELATIONS PARAGON
AWARDS CONFERENCE –
MR. OBED GUERRERO**

Dr. Nora R. Garza, Vice President for Resource Development, introduced Mr. Obed Guerrero, Community and Media Relations Director, who presented to the Board the two awards the college received at the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations Paragon Awards Conference.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY
OPERATIONS CENTER
UPDATE – DR. DAVID V.
ARREAZOLA**

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Interim Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, recognized the staff, who were displaced by the closing of the Camilo Prada Child Development Center about 22 months ago and were assigned to either the eLearning Department or the Health and Safety Operations Center (HSOC). The staff will return to the Center for re-opening tomorrow. Mr. Javier Cano recognized the HSOC staff: Jaime Don Juan, Stephanie Moreno, Vilma Flores, Maria de Jesus Chapa, Deborah Gonzalez, Maricela Santos, Amanda Orozco, Casandra Arredondo, Kristi Lansford, and Juan de Dios Ibarra. Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Dean of Academic Innovation & Technology, recognized the 6 staff assigned to the eLearning Center.

**LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
CENTER PERSONNEL
RECOGNITION – DR.
MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA**

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment, recognized the work done at the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center (LBVESC). He recognized Dean Raquel Pena and the new LBVESC Director, Ms. Bianca Brewster. Ms. Brewster introduced her staff Linda Tays, Valeria Juarez, Cesar Soto, Ricardo Rodriguez, and Juan Tovar.

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

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, announced Mr. Emmanuel Trevino as the new Academic Records Specialist (promotion), and Ms. Ruby Moreno as the new Faculty Secretary Computer Technology (new hire).

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President: (1) thanked the HSOC staff and the elearning team; (2) announced the Faculty Senate leadership team – Leticia Spillane, secretary; himself, president; and Victoria Rodriguez, vice president; (3) elections are currently taking place; (4) thanked the Board for faculty's participation in the presidential search; (5) introduced the center of teaching excellence & learning committee – Ms. Lourdes Gutierrez, Professor of Psychology; Ms. Michelle Perez, Professor of Government; Ms. Linda Ramirez, Associate Professor of Government; Dr. Orlando Patricio, Professor of Physics; Dr. Veronica Martinez; Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez; and Mr. Prakash Mansinghani and went over the workshops offered; and (6) highlighted Ms. Leticia Spillane's nomination for the Jefferson Awards and recognized Dr. Qingguo Meng as a trailblazer at Laredo College for his contributions.

Ms. Zepeda recognized the presence of Ms. Mares.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT
ORGANIZATION REPORT**

Ms. Fatima Ponce, Associated Student Organization President: (1) noted the involvement with Presidential Search Committee and (2) participation in STEM day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Delgado moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

Agenda Item 8.A. – Approval of the Purchase of Computer Equipment for the Center of Teaching Excellence and Learning

Agenda Item 8.B. – February 2022 Financial Report

- Agenda Item 8.C. – Approval of a One (1) Year License Subscription and Implementation Services with Identity Automation for their RapidIdentity Identity & Access Management (IAM) Solution
- Agenda Item 8.D. – Approval of a Five (5) Year License Subscription and Implementation Services with TeamDynamix for their IT Service Management (ITSM) Solution
- Agenda Item 8.E. – Approval to Amend the Current Interlocal Participation Agreement with Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund Pursuant to the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code
- Agenda Item 8.F.– Approval to Purchase Computer Laptops for Incoming STEM Students Participating Undergraduate Research as Part of the LEAPS Project
- Agenda Item 8.G. – Approval of Regular Scholarship Matching Funds as Per Donor Request

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

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS LAREDO COLLEGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Mr. Delgado read the resolution:

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS LAREDO COLLEGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

WHEREAS, there are over one thousand of community and technical colleges, public and private, in the United States that have contributed enormously to the richness and accessibility of American higher education. Nearly half of all undergraduate college students in the Nation today are enrolled in community college; and

WHEREAS, by providing educational opportunities at costs and locations accessible to all who are qualified, community and technical colleges have greatly enhanced the opportunity for every ambitious student, young or old, to enter a postsecondary school program. As community-based institutions, our schools provide varied programs and offer specialized training for more than one thousand occupations; and

WHEREAS, this community is served well by Laredo College since 1947. Laredo College has been recognized by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for its reaffirmed accreditation and as a Level II institution; and

WHEREAS, Laredo College is a learner-centered institution transforming students’ lives through educational programs and services to fulfill the dynamic needs of its local, regional, national, and global community. Laredo College aspires to cultivate a learning, teaching, and working environment that facilitates student success and promotes institutional excellence. Laredo College offers credit and non-credit certificates, associate and baccalaureate degrees; and

WHEREAS, Laredo College has reached a 32.2% graduation rate, one of the highest records for LC as well as reduced the average time for students to complete their associate degrees. Laredo College aligns with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board 60x30 plan, Texas Success Center Texas Pathway Project, and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Pathways Project. In addition, our Quality Enhancement Plan which focuses on digital learning including adaptive learning, implementing Co-Requisite Models including Dana Center Math Pathways, and creating an equitable, diversified, and inclusive environment; and

WHEREAS, Laredo College has received numerous recognitions amongst our educational programs and services. Laredo College has been ranked by Bestcolleges.com as the #1 best Community College in Texas. In addition, Laredo College Associate Degree Nursing program has been further recognized as ranked #1 in the State of Texas for four consecutive years, RNCareers.org has selected the LC A.D.N. program as tied for #1 A.D.N. program in the U.S., NursingProcess.org has ranked the A.D.N. program #1 in the state and in the entire Southwest region of the U.S., and has had a 100% passing rate for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the important contribution of community and technical colleges to our total educational system, in 1985 the Congress authorized and requested then President Ronald Reagan to issue Proclamation 5418 establishing a National Community College Month.

Judge Martinez moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Mares seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR METAL ROOF RESTORATION AND BELL TOWER IMPROVEMENTS – A FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PHASE III PROJECT – MR. CESAR VELA/MR. HOMER PAEZ

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, asked the Board to approve a contract in the amount of \$745,950.00 with American Contracting & Roofing, LLC for metal roof restoration and bell tower improvements at the South Campus. He answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel. Ms. Mares moved to approve.

Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BBH(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS - CONVENTIONS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Ramos presented the modifications to BBH(LOCAL) policy. Ms. Mares moved to approve the modifications presented. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COMMITMENT TO ACTION PLAN TO THE TEXAS SUCCESS CENTER – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that she and Mr. Rangel attended the Texas Success Center conference and noted that Ms. Leven-Ramos and Ms. Mares also attended another conference that aligned with the Texas Success Center. An action plan was developed and presented for approval. Mr. Rangel moved to approve the action plan. Judge Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CRANE WORLDWIDE LOGISTICS LLC APPLICATION TO BECOME A USAGE-DRIVEN FOREIGN TRADE ZONE #94 DESIGNATION, LOCATED AT 835 HALLMARK DR., LAREDO TEXAS 78045 – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina presented an application from Crane Worldwide Logistics LLC to become a usage-driven foreign trade zone #94 designation for approval. Dr. Carranza moved to approve. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried with one opposed.

DISCUSSION ON LAREDO COLLEGE WEBSITE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL

Mr. Rangel noted that the college website needs to be up-to-date and user-friendly. Mr. Albert Chavez, Senior Director of Information Technology, provided the process for updating the website and presented a template of the new website design. He answered questions from the Board. The plan is to go live late July/early August. The item will be brought back to the Board in May.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ENROLLMENT UPDATE – MS. ANDREA LOPEZ

Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, provided enrollment update for Second Start Spring, Maymester, Summer, & Fall registration, Continuing Education Quarter III enrollment, and March/April student events.

LAREDO COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos invited everyone to visit the Library for Library Week and noted that over 75 photos have been collected from the 75th anniversary photography contest and will continue to collect photos throughout the year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:49 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 11.A. – Discuss New Proposal Relating to Athletics Program Personnel including the Re-Implementation of the Laredo College Athletics Program. Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Agenda Item 11.B. – Closed Session Discussion with the College President Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 Regarding the Employment, Reassignment, and Duties of Certain Employees Due to a Reorganization

Mr. Delgado seconded the motion. Ms. Elizondo moved to reschedule these items for April 4. Mr. Delgado noted that there was already a motion and a second on the floor. A vote was taken on the first motion; motion carried with 6 votes.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:54 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

APPROVAL OF THE NEW PROPOSAL FOR THE RE-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE ATHLETICS PROGRAM, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF DISBANDING ONE OR MORE ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the Board adopt and approve Option 1 for the re-implementation of the Laredo College Athletics Program which involves implementing eSports and disbanding the Women’s and Men’s tennis, soccer, softball, baseball, and volleyball programs”. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 against.

POSSIBLE NON-RENEWALS OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OF LAREDO COLLEGE ATHLETICS PROGRAM PERSONNEL IN RELATION TO THE RE-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE ATHLETICS PROGRAM

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the Board of Trustees non-renew the employment contracts of the athletics program contract employees identified in executive session as part of the disbanding of the sports programs identified in the previous motion”. Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 against.

EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENT, AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES DUE TO A REORGANIZATION

Ms. Mares moved to approve as presented in executive session. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that there will also be a Special Board meeting on April 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. She also reminded the Board of the Community College Month Proclamation event for tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Yeary Library.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- Monday, April 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – Special Board of Trustees Meeting
- Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – Special Board of Trustees Meeting
- Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – Special Board of Trustees Meeting
- Thursday, April 7, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – Special Board of Trustees Meeting
- Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:59 p.m., Ms. Mares moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.