



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, May 19, 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 6:19 p.m.*)  
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.  
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.  
Esteban Rangel (*arrived at 6:25 p.m.*)  
Tita C. Vela  
Karina “Kari” Elizondo

OTHERS

Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, M.S., Ed.D.  
Rusty Meurer  
Raquel Pena  
Prakash Mansinghani  
Sara A. Pompa  
Andrea Lopez  
Cesar E. Vela Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

—

**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 APRIL  
28, 2022**

Mr. Martinez moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delgado and Ms. Leven-Ramos; 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: 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; indicating 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.”

The following individuals expressed their opinions on LC athletics: Ms. JoAnne DeHoyos; Mr. Alejandro Montante and presented videos from Mr. Shashi Vaswani and Mr. Jesse Gonzalez; Ms. Esther Firova and presented videos from Mr. Eduardo Garza and Mr. Henry Estrella; Mr. Juan Gamez; and Mr. Ramon H. Dovalina, Jr.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Mares and Mr. Rangel.

**RECOGNITIONS,  
COMMUNICATIONS,  
INTRODUCTIONS OF  
PERSONNEL, AND NEW  
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR  
THE MONTH**

**LAREDO COLLEGE  
GRADUATIONS – MS.  
RAQUEL PENA**

Ms. Raquel Pena, Associate Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator, provided a recap of LC's 75<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremonies that took place which had 912 graduates.

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

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Interim President, introduced promotions and new hires: Ms. Mitchelliz Mendoza, Administrative Teacher – Camilo Prada Child Development Center; Ms. Amanda L. Orozco, Faculty Secretary Camilo Prada Child Development Center; Ms. Cassandra N. Reyes, Faculty Secretary Allied Health; Ms. Gladys Cepeda, Teacher Assistant – Camilo Prada Child Development Center; and Ms. Stephanie Moreno, Teacher – Camilo Prada Child Development Center.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, thanked Dr. Tijerina for her work as LC's interim president and he congratulated the sole presidential finalist. He reported: three faculty will be attending the Teaching Professors Conference and the graduation ceremonies.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT  
ORGANIZATION REPORT**

No report.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE  
ACTION**

**IMPLEMENTATION AND  
FULL COMPLIANCE OF  
TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS  
ACT SECTION 551.127  
WHICH AUTHORIZES A  
GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO  
HOLD AN OPEN OR CLOSED  
MEETING BY  
VIDEOCONFERENCE CALL –  
MS. KARINA "KARI"  
ELIZONDO**

Ms. Elizondo requested that Laredo College fully comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act Section 551.127. Discussion followed. Ms. Elizondo noted for the record that videoconference call has been a state mandate since September 1, 2021. Ms. Zepeda noted that videoconference call will be available to any Board member. Mr. Rusty Meurer, college attorney, explained the section of the Texas Opens Meeting Act. Ms. Elizondo moved that the Board adhere to Section 551.127 of the Texas Opens Meeting Act. Mr. Rangel and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ms. Mares moved to bring up the following items:

- Approval of Regular Scholarship Matching Funds as Per Donor Request
- Enrollment Update
- Community College Association of Texas Trustees Annual Conference

Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR  
SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING  
FUNDS AS PER DONOR  
REQUEST – MS. SARA A.  
POMPA**

Ms. Sara A. Pompa, Director of Donor Relations & Special Projects, requested approval to establish a new scholarship at Laredo College, at donor's request, for U.I.S.D. graduates entering career/technical program with a yearly cash match of \$5,000. Mr. Rangel move to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Leven-Ramos was not present for the vote.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ENROLLMENT UPDATE –  
MS. ANDREA LOPEZ**

Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, provided enrollment figures for Maymester, Summer Session I, Summer Session II, Fall 2022, and Continuing Education Quarter III. She answered questions from the Board. Dr. Rodriguez

Tijerina noted that HEERF funds may be able to be used for possible incentives and will be brought to the Finance & Audit Committee and the Board next month.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
TRUSTEES ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE - DR.  
MARISELA RODRIGUEZ  
TIJERINA**

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina noted that two Board members are interested in attending this conference and this item is being presented as information as this conference is listed as an approved conference as per Board policy.

**REINSTATING AND/OR  
ADDING ONE OR MORE  
SPORTS TO THE LAREDO  
COLLEGE ATHLETICS  
PROGRAM. POSSIBLE  
CLOSED SESSION  
PURSUANT TO TEXAS  
GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTION 551.071 AND  
551.074 - MR. MERCURIO  
MARTINEZ, JR.**

Mr. Martinez moved to reinstate the programs of soccer, volleyball, and tennis and proposed to use the fund balance to finance the programs with the possibility to add more later. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion. Discussion took place. Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance, reported that the fund balance has liabilities to the State which can become due upon request. If this were to happen, the college would have to borrow approximately \$2.5 million to cover the liabilities owed. Ms. Elizondo noted for the record that there is a position for Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Athletics to oversee esports. Ms. Zepeda called for the vote. Motion failed with 3 votes for and 6 votes against.

Mr. Rangel moved to “allow the new president to assess, do an evaluation, bring back this item no later than May of next year” and give the Board a plan if it is feasible to bring back. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried with 7 votes for and 2 votes against. Ms. Elizondo stated for the record that she voted against because people continue to wait on an outcome. Ms. Zepeda stated for the record that she also gets asked about this item.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:46 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Closed Session Meeting to Discuss the Employment Contract of the Sole Finalist Selected for Laredo College President, Dr. Maria Minerva Ramirez, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Closed Session Consultation with the College District's Attorney Concerning Retaining Investigator for Complaints 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, Ms. Vela, and Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:15 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE  
ACTION  
ENTER INTO AN  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT  
TO EMPLOY DR. MARIA  
MINERVA RAMIREZ FOR  
THE POSITION OF LAREDO  
COLLEGE PRESIDENT,  
PURSUANT TO TEXAS  
GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTIONS 551.071 AND  
551.074**

Mr. Delgado moved “that the Laredo College Board of Trustees employ sole finalist, Dr. Maria Minerva Minita Ramirez, as the Laredo College President under the terms and conditions reflected in the written contract negotiated by Trustee Jorge “JD” Delgado with the assistance of legal counsel, and Dr. Ramirez”. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

Dr. Ramirez thanked the Board and search committee for the opportunity and expressed continued commitment to excellence at Laredo College.

**RETAIN INVESTIGATOR  
FOR COMPLAINTS  
INITIATED BY LAREDO  
COLLEGE DISTRICT  
PERSONNEL RELATED TO  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT  
NON-RENEWALS**

Mr. Delgado moved “to approve the law firm Thompson & Horton as the investigator for complaints initiated by Laredo College District Personnel related to employment contract non-renewals”. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

The reports were provided for information purposes.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Thursday, June 2, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop  
Thursday, June 30, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:37 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.