



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, April 27, 2023, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL Ms. Leven-Ramos called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge “JD” Delgado, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Erica Benavides Garcia
Cindy Liendo
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Esteban Rangel
Karina “Kari” Elizondo (*arrived at 6:13 p.m.*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Maricela Lopez
Carmelino Castillo, Jr.
David V. Arreazola, Ed.D.
Javier Cano
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
Patricia Godines
Prakash Mansinghani
Julio Reyes
Robert Burrier
Yesenia Sandoval
Claudia Gonzalez
Cesar E. Vela, Jr.
Priscilla Medina
Homer Paez
Albert Chavez

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.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2023

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

4. PUBLIC TESTIMONY No one signed up for public testimony.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to bring up the following Items:

- Item 7 – Associated Student Organization Report
- Item 10.C. – Laredo College Esports Season
- Item 10.E. – Student Interns–Building Layouts for Laredo College Emergency Plan

Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion carried.

7. ASSOCIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION REPORT – MS. MARICELA LOPEZ

Ms. Maricela Lopez, Associated Student Organization (A.S.O.) President, expressed her appreciation to serve as A.S.O. President. She provided a brief summary of A.S.O accomplished goals and activities, and congratulated the A.S.O. team for their work.

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President, and the Board presented Ms. Lopez with a certificate of appreciation for her service as A.S.O. President.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.C. LAREDO COLLEGE ESPORTS SEASON – MR. CARMELINO CASTILLO, JR.

Mr. Carmelino Castillo, Jr., Associate Vice President for Student Life and Engagement, announced that Laredo College ESports teams participated at the national level and provided information on the season. The team members who participated at the national playoffs are: Valorant team: Diego Castillo – 2nd Round; Francisco Jaramillo – 2nd Round; Hector Rico – 2nd Round; Roxana Cruz – 2nd Round; and Rosabel Rodulfo Huerta – 2nd Round and for the Super Smash Bros Ultimate team: Jesus A. Rodriguez – 4th Round and Francisco Pacheco – National Champion. Mr. Castillo announced a new ESport, Rocket League, starting in the fall if Rocket League and introduced the part-time coach, Rick Cruz, and team – Luis Nava, Julio Reyes III, and Anthony Sanchez.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Elizondo.

Mr. Castillo answered questions from the Board. Certificates of achievement were presented to the team members.

10.E. STUDENT INTERNS-BUILDING LAYOUTS FOR LAREDO COLLEGE EMERGENCY PLAN – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MR. JAVIER CANO

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance & Risk Management, gave an overview of the building layouts project. Mr. Javier Cano, Safety & Risk Management Manager, presented the internship project which involved the AutoCAD program students. He introduced two students from the internship – Jorge Sandoval and Rogelio Guerra Montemayor.

5. RECOGNITIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND NEW PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH

5.A. TEXAS TRANSFER FRAMEWORK FIELD OF STUDY DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HISTORY AND ENGLISH SELECTIONS – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, announced the faculty selected to serve on the Texas Transfer Advisor Committee Discipline-Specific Subcommittees – Maritza Morris for History discipline and Humberto Cardenas for English discipline. Certificates of recognition were presented to the faculty members.

5.B. LAREDO COLLEGE SCHOOL BELL AWARD WINNER – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina provided the criteria for the award and announced the Laredo College School Bell award winner – Graciela Y. Gonzales, Medical Assisting Program Director.

5.C. LAREDO COLLEGE NISOD WINNERS – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina provided the criteria for the award and announced the Laredo College NISOD winners – Dr. Quingguo Meng, Professor of Chemistry, Brenda A. Esquivel, Professor of Mathematics, and Hortencia D. Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging and Program Director.

5.D. LAREDO COLLEGE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD NOMINEE – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina provided the criteria for the award and announced the Laredo College Golden Apple Award nominee – Rene Montemayor, English & Communications Department Chair and Professor of English, Spanish, and Speech.

5.E. LAREDO COLLEGE MINNIE STEVENS PIPER AWARD NOMINEE – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TJERINA

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina provided the criteria for the award and announced the Laredo College Minnie Stevens Piper Award nominee – Laura Ramirez Cruz, Professor of History & Government and Honors Program Director. Certificates of recognition were presented to the faculty members announced.

5.F. "CHICAGO" THE MUSICAL STUDENT FIELD TRIP – MS. PATRICIA GODINES/MS. CHRISTINA GRECO

Ms. Patricia Godines, Associate Professor of Dance, informed the Board of the dance class trip to San Antonio to see "Chicago" the musical at the Majestic Theatre. She thanked Ms. Erica Benavides Garcia for her generous donation for the trip, and the college, Dr. Minita Ramirez, Ms. Karina Elizondo, and Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina for their support. Two students – Brianna Martinez and Destiny Cerda – commented on their experience while attending the musical.

5.G. RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT – MR. PRAKASH MANSINGHANI

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Assembly President and Professor of Government, provided an update on Laredo College's participation at the Relay for Life Cancer Walk. He acknowledged LC's team: Dr. Minita Ramirez, Dr. Diana Ortiz, Diana Espinoza, Leticia Spillane, Mary Mendiola, Cynthia Rodriguez, Salvador Sciaraffa, Andrea Lopez, Lisa Gonzalez-Romo, Rosemary Aguero, Jorge Dimas, Julio Reyes, Jessica Treviño, Beatriz Gutierrez, Carmelino Castillo, Pedro Rivera, Elva Boubel, Joanna Santillan, Christian Ocampo, Angelita Nunez Gomez, Nora Sandoval, Suzanne Ramirez, Ernestina Perez, Patricia Perez, and Prakash Mansinghani.

5.H. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/ PERSONNEL ACTIONS – DR. MINITA RAMIREZ

Dr. Ramirez introduced the new hires for the month: Jonathan C. Gonzalez, General Repairperson II, and Leslie Ayala, Teacher Assistant.

6. FACULTY SENATE REPORT – MR. PRAKASH MANSINGHANI

Mr. Mansinghani reported on: faculty retirement awards luncheon, Faculty Senate memorial brick project, election process, and commencement ceremony. He thanked the faculty for their work.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 8.A. – March 2023 Financial Report
- 8.B. – February 2023 Quarterly Investment Report
- 8.C. – Approval of Dell Server Purchase for Main Campus Data Center

Mr. Martinez and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

9.A. LYNDON B. JOHNSON EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (ECHS) AND BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATIVE ACADEMY (BLSIA) UPDATE – MS. YESENIA SANDOVAL, DEAN OF THE EARLY COLLEGE; MS. CLAUDIA GONZALEZ, UISD CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR; AND MS. ANGELICA SANCHEZ, UISD CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Ms. Zepeda indicated that this is an informational item. Mr. Julio Reyes, Director of Recruitment and Dual Enrollment, introduced U.I.S.D. officials who will be presenting Early College High School (ECHS). Mr. Robert Burrier, Dean of Early College at United South High School, presented information on ECHS at UISD. Ms. Yesenia Sandoval, Dean of Early College High School at LBJ high school, presented information on the ECHS at LBJ high school. They and Claudia Gonzalez, CT coordinator, answered questions from the Board.

9.B. RATIFICATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LAREDO COLLEGE AND CITY OF LAREDO HEALTH

Dr. Ramirez that the memorandum of understanding between Laredo College and the City of Laredo Health Department has been updated; therefore, it needs to be ratified by the Board. Mr. Rangel so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT – MS.
LUPITA ZEPEDA/DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ

**9.C. APPROVAL OF
GUARANTEED MAXIMUM
PRICE FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING CENTER
PROJECT** – MR. CESAR
VELA

Mr. Rangel moved to approve the guaranteed maximum price. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos requested more information on this item before voting. Mr. Vela went over the work to be performed for this project. Mr. Rangel called for the question. Ms. Zepeda called for the vote; motion passed. Mr. Delgado abstained and Ms. Liendo was not present for the vote. Mr. Delgado asked for a more competitive, transparent process for construction projects.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

**10.A. UPDATE ON
STUDENT SUCCESS
COMMITTEE** – MS. ERICA
BENAVIDES GARCIA

Ms. Benavides Garcia provided a brief summary of the information presented at the Student Success Committee meeting. The Board was provided with the presentations given at the committee meeting.

**10.B. LAREDO COLLEGE
MEAL PLAN** – MR.
CARMELINO CASTILLO, JR.

Mr. Castillo provided information on the meal plan initiative that began on March 30th for Spring semester non-dual enrolled, non-online LC students, which was funded through HEERF funds. He answered questions from the Board.

**10.D. LAREDO COLLEGE
CARS, KITES, & COOK-
OFF FESTIVAL** – MS.
PRISCILLA MEDINA

Ms. Priscilla Medina, Dean of LC South, gave an update on the April 15th Cars, Kites, and Cook-Off event that took place at LC South.

**10.F. CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS UPDATE** – MR.
HOMER PAEZ

Mr. Homer Paez, Construction Project Manager, presented updates on the following projects:

LC South Campus

- CDL Driving Pad – Dedication Plaque and Sign Construction
- Diesel and Auto Collision Shop Expansion Project
- Protective Service Facility Renovations and Building C 2nd Floor Office Renovations and Commercial Driving Simulated Rooms

LC Fort McIntosh Campus

- Asphalt Seal Coat and Parking Lot Repairs
- MFA HVAC and Chill Water Line/Plant Upgrade Project
- P4 Facility Renovations by Other
- P14 Facility Renovations – Imaginarium Project
- P24 Facility Renovations – DPS Office
- PNC Bank Donation of Items and Relocation to the LC Ft. Mc. Campus
- Ruben Garcia Facility Interior Renovations and Roofing Improvement Project
- Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Renovations and Facility Addition Project
- Arechiga Facility Interior and Exterior Renovation Project
- Moore Building – Covered Structure in Welding Courtyard Project
- Old Facilities Recommended for Demolition due to Life Safety (Bakery and P7 &8)
- Laredo College Surveillance and Fiber Optic Project Updates – update provided by Mr. Albert Chavez, Associate Vice President of Information Technology

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:55 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- 11.A. – Possible Movement of Property Donated to Laredo College to a New Location Within the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) No. 2 also Known as The Coves at Winfield, Including Consultation with the College District’s Attorney. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.072.
- 11.B. – Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 with Laredo College Attorney Concerning Update on Pending Litigations Filed Against Laredo College

Mr. Delgado and Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 10:33 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**12.A. POSSIBLE
MOVEMENT OF
PROPERTY DONATED TO
LAREDO COLLEGE TO A
NEW LOCATION WITHIN
THE TAX INCREMENT
REINVESTMENT ZONE
(TIRZ) NO. 2 ALSO
KNOWN AS THE COVES
AT WINFIELD**

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved “to approve the movement of property donated to Laredo College to a new location within the tax increment reinvestment zone (TIRZ) No. 2 also known as The Coves”. Mr. Martinez, Mr. Delgado, and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.

**12.B. UPDATE ON
PENDING LITIGATIONS
FILED AGAINST LAREDO
COLLEGE, INCLUDING
APPROVAL OF
PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “that the Board of Trustees approve of the settlement presented in executive session pertaining to United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Civil Action No. 5:20-CV-189”. Mr. Rangel and Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

13. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

**13.A. CAMPUS POLICE,
PERSONNEL, AND
TRAVEL REPORTS – DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez indicated that the reports are in the Board’s meeting packets.

**13.B. PRESIDENT’S
REMARKS – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez reported on the following: calendar of LC events, MOU signing which took place today with Texas State University, Texas Women’s University signing will be taking place soon, Laredo Philharmonic concert, graduation ceremonies, legislative update (HB 8), FY 2024 budget, strategic plan, and master plan for both campuses.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:43 p.m., Mr. Rangel, Mr. Delgado and Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion carried.