



## LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The special Board meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, August 3, 2023, beginning at 5:36 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. Zepeda called roll.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
Lupita Zepeda, President	Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President	Rusty Meurer
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary	Cesar E. Vela, Jr.
Erica Benavides Garcia	Patricia Barrera
Esteban Rangel ( <i>arrived at 5:42 p.m.</i> )	Maria Elena Morales
Karina "Kari" Elizondo	
Tita C. Vela	

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Cindy Liendo  
Mercurio Martinez, Jr. (*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*)

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

### **4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**4.A. DESIGNATION OF MS. PATRICIA A. BARRERA, RTA, THE WEBB COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR TO PREPARE THE 2023 TAX RATE CALCULATION WORKSHEET – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance & Administration, asked the Board to approve the designation of Ms. Patricia A. Barrera RTA, Webb County Tax Assessor-Collector, as the individual responsible for preparing the 2023 tax rate calculation worksheet. Mr. Delgado moved that the Laredo College Board of Trustees designate Ms. Patricia A. Barrera to prepare the 2023 tax rate calculation worksheet. Ms. Leven-Ramos and Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.

**4.B. APPROVE THE 2023 CERTIFICATION OF THE TAX ROLL – MR. CESAR VELA**

Ms. Barrera presented the 2023 Certified Tax Roll. Mr. Delgado asked that the Homestead Cap Loss be read for the record. Ms. Barrera read the amount.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved "that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve the 2023 certification of the Tax Roll as presented". Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

**4.C. APPROVE THE ANTICIPATED COLLECTIONS FOR 2023 OF 105% AND THE EXCESS DEBT COLLECTIONS FOR 2023**  
- MR. CESAR VELA

Ms. Barrera reported that the anticipated collection rate percentage for Laredo College is 105%. She read the certification of excess collections and anticipated collection rate for the record.

*I, Patricia A. Barrera, Webb County Tax Collector, as Tax Collector for Laredo College, hereby certify that the excess collections for debt service (interest and sinking fund) for the taxable year 2022 is \$542,128 as of June 30, 2023, and said amount is true and correct. I further certify that the anticipated collection rate for taxable year 2023 is 105%.*

Ms. Vela moved “that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve the anticipated collections for 2023 of 105% and the excess debt collections for 2023”. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

**4.D. TAKE ACTION ON TAX RATE TO DISCUSS, TAKE A RECORD VOTE, SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING TO ADOPT A TAX RATE**  
- MR. CESAR VELA

Ms. Maria Elena Morales, Chief Deputy for Webb County Tax Assessor-Collector Office, presented the 2023 Planning Calendar. She noted for the record that the Truth in Taxation worksheet was published on August 1, 2023. She went over the worksheet.

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved “that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve the proposed tax rate as presented by the Webb County Tax Assessor Collector and schedule the public hearing on the proposed property tax rate and a meeting to adopt the property tax rate. The public hearing will take place on August 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting to adopt the 2023 property tax will take place on August 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.”. Ms. Leven-Ramos and Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. Mr. Vela indicated that the proposed tax rate for the next fiscal year is .267675 per \$100 valuation. The rate is approximately 1.4¢ above the no-new-revenue tax rate and 1.52¢ below the voter-approval tax rate. Dr. Minita Ramirez, President, noted that LC is lowering the tax rate, but LC has no control on property appraisals. Ms. Benavides Garcia amended her motion to include the proposed tax rate for the next fiscal year is .267675 per \$100 valuation. Ms. Leven-Ramos, Mr. Delgado, and Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried. A record vote was taken.

FOR the proposal  
Karina Elizondo  
Jackie Leven-Ramos  
Jorge “JD” Delgado  
Esteban Rangel

Ernestina “Tita” Cantu Vela  
Lupita Zepeda  
Erica Benavides Garcia  
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

AGAINST the proposal  
—

PRESENT and not voting.  
—

ABSENT  
Cindy Liendo

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**  
**5.A. TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD DRAFT FORMULA FUNDING MODELS FOR FY 2024** - DR. MINITA RAMIREZ

Dr. Ramirez briefed the Board on the formula funding models.

**6. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS** – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Dr. Ramírez reported on:

- Preparations for the new academic year
- New student orientations
- Enrollment numbers
- Marketing

**7. NEXT MEETING DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Monday, August 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – Congressman Henry Cuellar's Press Conference: LC's Veteran's Center of Excellence

Friday, August 11, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – Commencement

Friday, August 11, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – Commencement

Monday, August 14, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – Convocation

Monday, August 14, 2023, 4:30 p.m. – Employee Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, August 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Board Budget Workshop

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Property Tax Rate and Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – PNC Marker Unveiling

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:24 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried.