



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Friday, December 16, 2022, beginning at 12:01 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
Erica Benavides Garcia
Henry S. Carranza, Ph.D.
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Esteban Rangel (*arrived at 12:05 p.m.*)
Karina “Kari” Elizondo (*arrived at 1:00 p.m.*)
Tita C. Vela

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Manuel Ramirez
Sandra Cortez
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
Veronica Martinez, Ph.D.
Prakash Mansinghani
Maricela Lopez
Cesar E. Vela Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

—

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Zepeda called the meeting to order. Ms. Leven-Ramos called the roll. A quorum of the members was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
BOARD MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 3, 2022 AND
CANVASSING ELECTION
RETURNS OF NOVEMBER
16, 2022**

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

**RECOGNITIONS,
INTRODUCTIONS OF
PERSONNEL, AND NEW
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR
THE MONTH
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES STUDENT CLUB
1ST ANNUAL “THE MUDDY
AMIGOS” MUD RUN – MR.
MANUEL RAMIREZ**

Mr. Manuel Ramirez, Emergency Medical Services Program Director, provided an update on the first EMS Club Mud Run.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel.

**ADULT EDUCATION AND
LITERACY AWARD – MS.
SANDRA CORTEZ**

Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education, announced that Laredo College was awarded 2nd place and a \$50,000 check in the Best in Class category at the Texas Workforce annual conference for meeting measurable skills.

**STUDENT SUCCESS
ACCELERATION PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT –
DR. ELIZABETH**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, on behalf of Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez introduced Dr. Veronica Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional

RODRIGUEZ/DR. VERONICA
MARTINEZ

Effectiveness. Dr. Martinez announced that Laredo College was awarded the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Student Success Accelerate Program Implementation Grant for \$300,000 to enhance student and faculty engagement. A press conference is scheduled for January 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF
PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL
ACTIONS – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, introduced the new hires and promotions for the month: Joana E. Santillan, Public Relations Specialist II; Nora Sandoval, Administrative Assistant I Student Success & Support Services; Ramiro Rodriguez Jr., Programmer/Analyst; Rina Benavides, Workforce Development Coordinator; Christian A. Ocampo, Public Relations Specialist I; Oscar A. Perez, Recruiter; Ana K. Granados, Recruiter; Juan P. Garcia Jr., Advising Coordinator; and Alejandro Soto, Theater Aide.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT
– MR. PRAKASH
MANSINGHANI**

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President, congratulated Ms. Benavides Garcia and Mr. Martinez on their elections and thanked Dr. Carranza for his service. He thanked the individuals involved in securing the announced grants for the college. He reported on: Board of Trustees candidate forums; Faculty Senate committees, the Center of Teaching Excellence & Learning workshops/initiatives; Faculty Senate newsletter; Faculty Senate mixer; and Faculty Senate backpack drive.

Dr. Ramirez reported that 25 parking spaces have been designated for faculty parking behind Memorial Hall.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENT
ORGANIZATION REPORT –
MS. MARICELA LOPEZ**

Ms. Maricela Lopez, Associated Student Organization President, reported on student activities – speaker presentations, Christmas cookie decoration activity, faculty/staff vs. students volleyball game, La Posada, and Tamalada.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Agenda Item 8.A. - Approval to Add the Moore Vocational Welding Lab Improvements to the Facilities Master Plan Phase III Bond Projects and Assignment of Architect for Said Project

Agenda Item 8.B. - Approval of Ruben Garcia Roof Improvements and Building Renovations (Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond Project)

Agenda Item 8.C. - Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Project

Agenda Item 8.D. - Approval of Laredo College South Campus Driving Pad

Agenda Item 8.E. - Ratification of Change Order for Maravillo Gym Plumbing Repairs

Agenda Item 8.F. - October 2022 Financial Report

Agenda Item 8.G. - Ratification of Campus Logic Agreement for Scholarship Universe Annual Licenses

Agenda Item 8.H. - Approval of a Laredo Housing Authority Pilot Agreement

Agenda Item 8.I. - Approval to Purchase Communication Equipment for Campus Police

Agenda Item 8.J. - Approval of Building Lease Agreement Between Association of Logistics and Forwarding Agents, Inc. (ALFA) and Laredo College

Agenda Item 8.K. - Approval to Enter into a Two (2) Year Agreement with Columbia Advisory Group for Information Security Officer ("ISO") Support Services

Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Ms. Zepeda asked that Agenda Item 8.D. be deferred. Dr. Ramirez asked that Agenda Item 8.C. also be deferred. Mr. Martinez amended his motion to exclude Agenda Items 8.C. and 8.D. Mr. Delgado had questions on Agenda Item 8.B. Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President for Finance and Administration, answered his questions. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AS PER BCA(LEGAL): BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION – BOARD OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS – MS. LUPITA ZEPEDA

Ms. Zepeda noted that it is time to select Board officers. Mr. Rusty Meurer, College attorney, explained the process for electing officers. Ms. Vela moved to nominate Ms. Zepeda for President, Mr. Delgado for Vice President, and Ms. Leven-Ramos for Secretary. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion carried. Dr. Carranza abstained.

ANNEXATION OF NEW PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN ANNEXED BY THE CITY OF LAREDO – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve a resolution to adopt the annexation of the following 4 tracts of land into the tax rolls. Mr. Meurer recommended a motion “to approve of the annexation of property that is referenced in the resolutions before you for community college purposes”.

TRACT 3 – USATSM TRACT

An 8.00-acre tract of land more or less, being all of Lots 5-8, Pinto Valle Industrial Park, Phase I, recorded in Volume 10, Pages 19-22, Map Records, Webb County, Texas said tract being more particularly described by the attached metes and bounds.

TRACT 4 – EMA COMMERCIAL TRACT

5.03 acres, more or less, situated in Porcion 25, Abstract 50, Juan F. Garcia, Original Grantee, Webb County, Texas, being out of a 14.98-acre tract described in Cash Warranty Deed recorded in volume 553, pages 874-877, Webb County Deed Records, conveyed to M.D. David H. Cruz and Sandra P. Cruz, recorded in volume 1095, page 372, document #737117, Official Public Records of Webb County, Texas, and being more particularly described by the attached metes and bounds.

TRACT 6 – REUTHINGER TRACT

A 276.0840 ACRE parcel of land, being out of tract 3, recorded in volume 336, pages 1-4, deed records of Webb County, Texas. Herein described parcel, situated in porcion 11, abstract 279, original grantee T. Sanches and porcion 12, abstract 278, original grantee S. Sanchez, Webb County, Texas. Being more particularly described by the attached metes and bounds.

TRACT 7 – GILPIN TRACT

A 29.6653-acre parcel of land, being out of tract C (174.3812 acres) and tract D (61.7915 acres), recorded in volume 4553, pages 501-513, official public records of Webb County, Texas, and tract E (26.2752 acres), situated in porcion 12, abstract 278, original grantee S. Sancez, and porcion 13, abstract 51, original grantee J.M. Garcia, Webb County, Texas. Being more particularly described by the attached metes and bounds.

Mr. Rangel so moved. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

ADOPT A REVISED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UNI-TRADE BROKERS, L.C. APPLICATION TO BECOME A USAGE-DRIVEN FOREIGN TRADE ZONE #94 DESIGNATION, LOCATED AT 101 NORTH AMERICA

Dr. Ramirez noted that a resolution was already approved but this is a revised request for a reduction in space for a Foreign Trade Zone designation. Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Delgado and Mr. Martinez abstained.

**INDUSTRIAL PARK, LAREDO
TEXAS 78045 (NORTH
AMERICA INDUSTRIAL
PARK, BLOCK 4, LOT 1,
PHASE I) – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

**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.
MINITA RAMÍREZ**

**INFORMATION ITEMS
APPOINTMENT OF BOARD
COMMITTEES**

Dr. Ramirez provided the status of Board members' training requirements as governed by policies BBD(LEGAL) and BI(LEGAL). New Board members' orientation will be scheduled in January. She reminded those members pending their cybersecurity training.

Ms. Zepeda announced the committee appointments based on the members' interests.

BUILDING COMMITTEE:
Mercurio Martinez, Jr., Chair
Lupita Zepeda
Jorge "JD" Delgado
Esteban Rangel

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE:
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Chair
Esteban Rangel
Karina "Kari" Elizondo
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela

PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE:
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Chair
Erica Benavides Garcia
Cindy Liendo
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE:
Erica Benavides Garcia, Chair
Jackie Leven-Ramos
Cindy Liendo
Karina "Kari" Elizondo

Ms. Leven-Ramos noted for the record that she has confidence in Ms. Benavides Garcia chairing the Student Success Committee and offered her assistance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:01 p.m., Mr. Martinez moved to go into executive session on the following items:

Agenda Item 11.A. - Discussion with Laredo College District Attorney Concerning Laredo College President's Recommendation to Terminate the Employment of a Laredo College Tenured 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 11.B. - Closed Session Discussion with Laredo College District Board and Attorney for Consideration and Possible Acceptance of Real Property to be Donated to Laredo College, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.073

Agenda Item 11.C. - 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

Agenda Item 11.D. - Discussion to Evaluate Board Member(s) Requests of 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, Including Possible Legal Issues. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

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

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Elizondo before going into executive session.

The Board reconvened to open session at 2:50 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

LAREDO COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO TERMINATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A LAREDO COLLEGE TENURED FACULTY MEMBER AS PER BOARD POLICY DMAA(LOCAL): TERM CONTRACTS-TERMINATION MID-CONTRACT AND DMAA(LEGAL): TERM CONTRACTS-TERMINATION MID-CONTRACT

Mr. Delgado moved to “terminate the employment of the faculty member discussed in executive session . . . for the reasons set forth in the letter of recommendation for termination”. Mr. Rangel and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Benavides Garcia was not present for the vote.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY DONATED TO LAREDO COLLEGE

Mr. Martinez moved to accept the donation of property. Mr. Delgado and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Benavides Garcia was not present for the vote.

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

Mr. Delgado “moved to approve the reorganization presented to the Board during executive session”. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion. Ms. Elizondo expressed her opinions on recruitment and dual enrollment. Ms. Zepeda called for the vote; motion carried.

APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL IMPORT/EXPORT LOGISTICS CENTER – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramirez noted that in keeping with the legislature special item, Laredo College is re-establishing the Global Import and Export Logistics Center which will be housed at the De La Garza Building. Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramirez asked for approval to establish a Workforce/Industry Development Center which will provide soft skills and job placement to students. Ms. Elizondo moved to approve. Mr. Rangel and Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBER(S) TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICIES

Dr. Ramirez asked the Board to consider having representation at the opening of the legislative session and community college day. Mr. Rangel moved to approve the list of travels that was provided during executive session including Laredo Days. Mr. Delgado and Dr. Carranza seconded the motion; motion carried.

BBG(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS, COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES, AND BBH(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS, CONVENTIONS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

PRESIDENT’S REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS ENROLLMENT REPORT – DR. FRED SOLIS

Mr. Rangel moved to defer the report to January. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried. Dr. Ramírez noted that a copy of the enrollment report was provided to the Board.

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

Dr. Ramírez provided information on in-service, Winter Dance, SACSCOC annual conference and 5th year review, ACCT complimentary Board retreat, graduations, holidays, and Wintermester.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:03 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.