



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, June 1, 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 roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Cindy Liendo
Esteban Rangel (*arrived at 6:35 p.m.*)
Karina "Kari" Elizondo (*left after executive session*)
Tita C. Vela

MEMBERS ABSENT

Erica Benavides Garcia
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Denise Flores
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
Dianna Miller, Ed.D.
Herbert Serna
Brenda Martinez
Eduardo Martinez
Gabriel Lozano
Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ed.D.
Prakash Mansinghani
Juliana Kelley
Cesar E. Vela, Jr.
Albert Chavez
Federico Solis, Jr., Ed.D.
Jessica Treviño
Sara A. Pompa
David V. Arreazola, Ed.D.
Veronica Martinez, Ph.D.

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 APRIL 27, 2023

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

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

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

5.A. SPRING JOB FAIR REPORT – MS. DENISE FLORES

Ms. Denise Flores, Workforce Development Center Director, provided an update on the Spring Job Fair that took place in collaboration with Laredo College, Workforce Solutions for South Texas, and the City of Laredo Economic Development Department. The next fair is being scheduled for the fall at LC South.

5.B. RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION IN NURSING GRANTING CONTINUED

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, noted that the A.D.N program is accredited until Fall 2030. She highlighted the strengths on the report and recognized the program staff. Dr. Dianna Miller, Dean of Health Sciences, expressed

ACCREDITATION TO OUR ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING PROGRAM – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TJERINA/DR. DIANNA MILLER

appreciation for the support of the program. Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina announced Dr. Miller’s retirement and presented a token of appreciation on behalf of the college.

5.C. RECOGNITION OF LAREDO COLLEGE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN STUDENTS – MR. JORGE “JD” DELGADO/MR. HERBERT SERNA

Mr. Herbert Serna, EMS Program Lab Coordinator, recognized two EMT students, Valentin Gonzalez and Israel Molina, who could not attend their pinning ceremony due to their work obligations. They were presented with their pin and a certificate of appreciation.

5.D. TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT FOR SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT – MS. BRENDA MARTINEZ

Ms. Brenda Martinez, Director of Continuing Education, reported that Laredo College was awarded the JET grant for \$336,000 for three state-of-the-art truck driving simulators by the Texas Workforce Commission.

5.E. UPDATE ON CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM – MR. EDUARDO MARTINEZ

Mr. Eduardo Martinez, Instructional & Professional Development Coordinator, provided information on the Citizenship Integration Grant that Laredo College received and the program.

The Board recessed from 6:30 p.m. – 6:35 p.m. to take a group photo with students from the program.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel.

5.F. LAREDO COLLEGE’S 2023 – 2024 TEXAS SUCCESS CENTER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SELECTION – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President, announced that Laredo College nominated Mr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, and Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Vice President of Student Success & Support Services, to the Texas Success Center Leadership Academy and were selected to the first cohort for the academy. Certificates of recognition were presented.

5.G. MOODY FOUNDATION GRANT – MR. GABRIEL LOZANO

Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Director of Grants, reported that Laredo College received a Moody Foundation grant for \$250,000 to assist with renovations to Arechiga Hall.

5.H. TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD OF OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES GRANT – DR. ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ

Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Dean of Academic Innovation & Technology, provided a summary of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Open Educational Resources grant that Laredo College received in the amount of \$25,000.

5.I. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/ PERSONNEL ACTIONS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramirez introduced the new hires and promotions for the month: Eric Carreon, Workforce Development Coordinator; Daniela Nava Cortez, Financial Aid Technician I; Jose G. Perales, Nursing Laboratory Assistant & Clinical/Skills Instructor for Vocational Nursing; Floren시오 H. Calderon, Patrol Officer; Oscar Salas, Journeyman Plumber; Hermelinda Gamez-Johnston, Technology Support Manager; Daisy Oliva, Workforce Development Coordinator; Prakash K. Mansinghani, Social Sciences Department Chair; Melissa Santos-Dominguez, Workforce Development Specialist; and Ramon F. Mendez, Patrol Officer.

6. FACULTY SENATE REPORT – MR. PRAKASH MANSINGHANI/MS. JULIANA KELLEY

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, former Faculty Senate President, reported on the Tenure Bill, Memorial Hall brick project, and summarized his four years of serving as Faculty Senate President. He reported that Senate elections took place which elected senators-at-large – Jacob Brulloths, Rafael Garcia, and Miguel Contreras; secretary – Bryant De Jesus; and president – Juliana Kelley.

Ms. Kelley thanked her colleagues for electing her as Faculty Senate President.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**7.A. APRIL 2023
FINANCIAL REPORT –
MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President for Finance & Administration, presented the April 2023 Financial Report (revenues are \$66,004,644; expenditures are \$38,330,449 with no major variances; Facilities Master Plan Phase III balance is \$16,538,350; tax collections are at 94.33% of the tax levy; total investments and deposits are \$136,905,305; and the general operating ending fund balance is \$25,862,129).

**7.B. APPROVAL OF
MICROSOFT ANNUAL
LICENSE RENEWAL – MR.
ALBERT CHAVEZ**

Mr. Albert Chavez, Associate Vice President of Information Technology, asked that the Board approve the one-year Microsoft annual license renewal in the amount of \$ 53,844.22, which will be procured through the reseller SHI Government Solutions.

**7.C. ADOPT A REVISED
RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING BA
FORWARDING CORP.
APPLICATION TO
BECOME A USAGE-
DRIVEN FOREIGN TRADE
ZONE #94 DESIGNATION,
LOCATED AT 112 ROSS
KHALEDI DR., LAREDO
TEXAS 78045 – DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez presented the request from BA Forwarding Corp. for a foreign trade zone #94 designation. Discussion followed and Laredo College attorney answered questions from the Board. Mr. Rangel moved to not approve the request. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried (Ms. Elizondo voted against not approving the request).

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

**8.A. ENROLLMENT
REPORT – DR. FRED
SOLIS/MS. JESSICA
TREVIÑO**

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, presented the enrollment numbers for Maymester, Summer Session I, Summer Session II, and Fall.

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, presented a recap of LC's Spring commencements and announced that Summer commencement is scheduled for Friday, August 11th at the Maravillo Gym.

**8.B. PRESENTATION OF
2023-2024 STUDENT
HANDBOOKS FOR
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS – DR. MARISELA
RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA**

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina presented a summary of changes to the academic affairs division handbooks.

**8.C. GIFTS, DONATIONS,
GRANTS, AND
ENDOWMENTS REPORT –
MS. SARA A. POMPA/MR.
GABRIEL LOZANO**

Mr. Lozano presented the grants that have been awarded to LC in FY 2022-2023 for a total of \$6,739,818.

Ms. Sara A. Pompa, Associate Director of Donor & Alumni Relations, reported that \$634,747 have been received in endowments, scholarships, and other gifts.

**8.D. LAREDO COLLEGE'S
75TH GALA REPORT –
DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez reported that revenues from the gala were \$146,230, revenues from the auction were \$16,977, and expenses were about \$30,018.

**8.E. LAREDO COLLEGE
STRATEGIC PLAN AND
MASTER PLAN UPDATE –
DR. DAVID V.
ARREAZOLA/DR.
VERONICA MARTINEZ/MR.
CESAR VELA**

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President for Compliance and Risk Management, and Dr. Veronica Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, presented the strategic plan (information, timeline, key events, and objectives).

Mr. Vela presented the Facilities Master Plan (timeline, objectives, and connected plans).

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:08 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- 9.A. Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 to Discuss Recommendation for the Nonrenewal of Employment Contract of a Laredo College Faculty Member Under Board Policy DMAB(LOCAL): TERM CONTRACTS – NONRENEWAL, and Related Legal Issues
- 9.B. Closed Session Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 with Laredo College Attorney Concerning Litigation Instituted Against Laredo College
- 9.C. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 Regarding the Amendment of the Laredo College President Evaluation Timeline and Adoption of the Evaluation Instrument for the Annual Evaluation of the Laredo College President Pursuant to Laredo College Board Policy BFE(LOCAL): CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – EVALUATION

Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:45 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session.

Ms. Elizondo did not return to the meeting.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**10.A. NONRENEWAL OF
EMPLOYMENT
CONTRACT OF A
LAREDO COLLEGE
FACULTY MEMBER**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved “for the nonrenewal of employment contract of a Laredo College faculty member as discussed in executive session”. Mr. Delgado and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion carried.

**10.B. LITIGATION
INSTITUTED AGAINST
LAREDO COLLEGE
10.B.1. APPROVE
RETENTION OF COUNSEL
BY LAREDO COLLEGE'S
INSURER LIBERTY
MUTUAL FOR PENDING
LITIGATION**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “approve the retention of counsel by Laredo College’s insurer Liberty Mutual for pending litigation as discussed in executive session”. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

**10.C. AMENDMENT OF
THE LAREDO COLLEGE
PRESIDENT EVALUATION
TIMELINE AND
ADOPTION OF THE
EVALUATION
INSTRUMENT FOR THE
ANNUAL EVALUATION OF
THE LAREDO COLLEGE
PRESIDENT**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to “adopt the amendment to the Laredo College President evaluation timeline and adoption of the evaluation instrument for the annual evaluation of the Laredo College President as discussed in executive session”. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

11. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

**14.A. CAMPUS POLICE,
PERSONNEL, AND**

Dr. Ramírez reported that the reports are in the Board members’ meeting packets.

TRAVEL REPORTS – DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ

**14.B. PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS** – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez remarked on the following:

- Finance Bill and other legislative Bills
- Law enforcement graduation
- Memorial Day event
- Memorandum of Understanding signing with Texas Woman's University
- Graduation and pinning ceremonies
- Student meal plans

12. NEXT MEETING DATE: Saturday, June 3, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – Board Budget Workshop

13. ADJOURNMENT At 9:00 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion carried.