



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, March 29, 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.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lupita Zepeda, President
Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Erica Benavides Garcia
Cindy Liendo
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Esteban Rangel (*arrived at 6:08 p.m.*)
Karina "Kari" Elizondo (*arrived at 6:09 p.m.*)
Tita C. Vela (*participated via Zoom at 6:13 p.m.; left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*)

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
Prakash Mansinghani
Fred Solis, Ed.D.
Jessica Treviño
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 FEBRUARY 23, 2023, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2023, AND BOARD RETREAT OF MARCH 4, 2023

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

Mr. Martinez recognized Dr. Ramirez and Ms. Zepeda for the LC 75th Gala. He thanked Killam and PNC for their sponsorship along with all the other sponsors of the event.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Mr. Rangel.

RECOGNITIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND NEW PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH TALENT STRONG TEXAS PATHWAYS AWARD – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, reported that Laredo College has been selected to participate in the Talent Strong Texas Pathway, a \$16 million /5-year statewide economic mobility grant administered by the Texas Success Center. LC will receive \$60,000 per year.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Elizondo.

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

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, introduced the new hires and promotions for the month: Pablo A. Martinez, Behavioral Sciences Department Chairperson; Christina Perez, Culinary Arts Department Chairperson; Mr. Rene J. Montemayor, English & Communication Department Chairperson; Enrique Banda III, Journeyman Electrician; and Briana S. Ponce, Protective Services Department Chairperson.

Ms. Zepeda acknowledged the presence of Ms. Vela via Zoom.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT
– MR. PRAKASH
MANSINGHANI

Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Faculty Senate President/Professor of Government, reported on: faculty retirement luncheon on May 5; Relay for Life Cancer Walk on April 21; and faculty senate election. He reported that this is the last faculty senate report that he will give. Dr. Ramirez presented Mr. Mansinghani with a certificate of appreciation and a gift on behalf of LC and the Board for his years of service as Faculty Senate President.

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

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Agenda Item 8.A. – February 2023 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.B. – Annual Review and Adoption of Laredo College Board Policy
CAK(LOCAL): APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE SOURCES -
INVESTMENTS
- Agenda Item 8.C. – Approval of Contract and Associated Costs for Movement of PNC
Monuments to the Private David B. Barkeley Cantu Memorial
Chapel
- Agenda Item 8.D. – Approval of Computer Equipment (PCs) Purchase for Campus
Computer Labs
- Agenda Item 8.E. – Approval for the Purchase of New Chiller/Cooling Tower for
South Campus
- Agenda Item 8.F. – Approval of Five Year Four Month Agreement with
Technolutions Inc. for Use of the Slate Customer Relations
Software
- Agenda Item 8.G. – Approval of Regular Scholarship Matching Funds as Per Donor
Request

Mr. Martinez recognized Mr. Douglas M. Alford for his work in the movement of monuments described in Agenda Item 8.C. Mr. Delgado moved to amend the motion and defer Agenda Item 8.F. The amended motion was seconded by Ms. Leven-Ramos. Motion carried. Ms. Leven-Ramos and Mr. Rangel seconded the first motion; motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ENROLLMENT REPORT –
DR. FRED SOLIS/MS. JESSICA
TREVÍÑO

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success & Enrollment, presented the enrollment activities and course section distributions for Second Start, Maymester, Summer I, Summer II, and Fall.

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, presented enrollment management updates from the Admissions, Recruitment & Dual Enrollment, Financial Aid, Assessment, Registrars, Veteran Services, and enrollment management departments/division.

BOARD MEMBER(S) TRAVEL TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (NALEO) INSTITUTE ON ECONOMIC MOBILITY: BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR LATINOS, AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICIES BBG(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS, COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES, AND BBH(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS, CONVENTIONS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS/MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL

Ms. Leven-Ramos informed the Board that NALEO will hold an institute in New York, New York in April for Board members. Mr. Rangel noted, for the record, that he will not be able to attend the institute. Ms. Leven-Ramos also noted that another NALEO conference will be coming up in May. Scholarships are available and open to all Board members.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE MI CASA 24 AFFORDABLE HOME PROJECT, LAREDO, TEXAS, WEBB COUNTY, DISTRICT 28 – MS. LUPITA ZEPEDA

Ms. Zepeda informed the Board that a letter of support was provided for the Mi Casa 24 Affordable Home Project. The request came in during Spring Break and was reviewed by the college attorney.

LAREDO COLLEGE FY 2024 BUDGET CALENDAR – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented the FY 2024 Budget Calendar. He noted the Budget Workshops and Board meetings that will need to be scheduled. Discussion took place on the budget process and information was requested for the budget workshops.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL AND FOR TAX COLLECTION SERVICES WITH KAZEN, MEURER & PÉREZ, LLP – MS. LUPITA ZEPEDA

Mr. Martinez moved to approve the extension of the contract for legal and tax collection services with Kazen, Meurer & Pérez. Mr. Rangel and Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion carried.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BA FORWARDING CO., INC. 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 reported that BA Forwarding Co., Inc. is asking that LC support their application to become a usage-driven foreign trade zone #94 designation. Ms. Elizondo moved to approve the resolution supporting the application. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Delgado opposed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, AND TRAVEL REPORTS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez noted that the reports were provided in the Board packets for information purposes.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez provided the Board a list of upcoming college events. She reported on:

- alligators at the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center are leaving due to the center's closure for renovations
- Community College Survey of Student Engagement and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement surveys that LC will be conducting
- Excelencia in Education initiative
- Upcoming travels

- House Bill 8
- STAR Fort
- LC Gala

Mr. Martinez announced that Dr. Jim Earhart, former LC instructor, passed away.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, April 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:31 p.m., Mr. Rangel and Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.