



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, beginning at 6:20 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**

Mr. Delgado called roll.

<p><u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u> Lupita Zepeda, President Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President Cindy Liendo Esteban Rangel Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela</p> <p><u>MEMBERS ABSENT:</u> Erica Benavides Garcia Mercurio Martinez, Jr. Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary (<i>Ms. Leven-Ramos participated remotely via Zoom; however, as per Texas Government Code § 551.127(h), each participant's face must be clearly visible while speaking and their voice must be audible to other participants and, during open session, to members of the public. Because the video communication for Ms. Leven-Ramos was lost during the time she appeared and left the meeting, Ms. Leven-Ramos is considered absent as per Texas Government Code § 551.127 (a-3). Ms. Leven-Ramos logged off the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)</i>) Karina "Kari" Elizondo</p>	<p><u>OTHERS</u> Minita Ramirez, Ph.D. Guillermo R. Garcia David V. Arreazola, Ed.D. Casandra R. Salinas Sandra Cortez Diana Y. Ortiz, Ph.D. Carmelino Castillo Ana Gisela "Gigi" Pérez Alemán Sam Tovar Cesar E. Vela, Jr. Jessica Treviño Gabriel Lozano Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ed.D. Prakash Mansinghani Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.</p>
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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.	
4. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**	No one signed up for public testimony.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**	Mr. Rangel moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delgado; motion carried.
5. **RECOGNITIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL, AND NEW PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH**	
5.A. **TASB RISK MANAGEMENT FUND EXCELLENCE AWARD – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA**	Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management, and Ms. Casandra R. Salinas, Safety and Risk Manager, reported that trainings were provided to staff and students and TASB granted LC with a \$1,000 award to purchase safety supplies.
5.B. **FY 2023 CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM AWARD – MS. SANDRA CORTEZ**	Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education, announced that they have been awarded the Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Applications Services Grant for 2023 – 2025 in the amount of \$300,000. She acknowledged Mr. Eduardo Martinez, Program Manager; Mr. Gabe

Lozano, Grants Director; and Ms. Susana Carreon, Restricted Grants Manager, for their assistance in compiling the grant.

**5.C. HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES MID-LEVEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, announced that Mr. Rene Montemayor, English and Communications Department Chair, and Mr. Julio Reyes, Director of Recruitment and Dual Credit, were accepted into the HACU mid-level leadership program. They will be attending the HACU conference with LC students.

**5.D. EXCELENCIA IN EDUCATION 2023 INVITATIONAL FALL CONVENING** – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez reported that Laredo College had the opportunity to send three individuals to the Excelencia in Education Fall Convening. The individuals were Dr. Diana Ortiz, Dr. Horacio Salinas, and Ms. Juliana Kelley.

Dr. Ortiz, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and Dr. Salinas, Dean of Arts & Sciences, gave an overview of the conference and the Seal of Excelencia certification application.

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

Dr. Ramírez, President, introduced a reassignment and a promotion for the month: Mr. Jose G. Valdez, General Technician, and Mr. Jose R. Rodriguez, Property Inventory Specialist.

**6. FACULTY SENATE REPORT** – MRS. JULIANA KELLEY

There was no report.

**7. LAREDO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT** – MS. ANA GISELA "GIGI" PÉREZ ALEMÁN

Mr. Carmelino Castillo, Associate Vice President of Student Life and Engagement, introduced the new Student Government Association President, Ms. Ana Gisela “Gigi” Pérez Alemán. Ms. Pérez Alemán reported on recent Student Government Association activities and accomplishments (Fall Fest, Campus Shield promotion, Dia del Rio, first association meeting, association name change, student government association workshops, and loteria activity).

**8. CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT** – MR. SAM TOVAR

Mr. Sam Tovar, Classified Staff Council President, reported that the council is working on a survey to increase staff participation. He also reported on CSC’s participation at Fall Fest. He thanked Mr. Ivan Cano, Ms. Claudia Tovar, Dr. Fred Solis, Ms. Jessica Treviño, and Mr. Carmelino Castillo for their help in his new role.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Ramírez requested to defer the following items:

- Agenda Item 9.J. – Approval of Ruben Garcia Building Chill Water Line Replacement
- Agenda Item 9.L. – Approval of P-14 Building Exterior Repairs

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

- Agenda Item 9.A. – Approval for Purchase of Equipment for the Transportation Technology Department
- Agenda Item 9.B. – Approval for Purchase of Computers for the Computer Sciences and Technology Department
- Agenda Item 9.C. – Approval of Contract with Texas Multi-Chem for Annual Recreational Fields Turf Program
- Agenda Item 9.D. – Approval of Acquisition of Serials and Periodicals Services from EBSCO Information Services
- Agenda Item 9.E. – Approval to Use the Student Activities Fund Balance to Cover Additional FY 2024 Expenditures
- Agenda Item 9.F. – Approval for the Purchase of ViewSonic Portable Display for Media Center
- Agenda Item 9.G. – Approval for Renewal of Cisco Security Enterprise Agreement

- Agenda Item 9.H. – Approval of Computer Solutions NetWatch Managed Services Agreement
- Agenda Item 9.I. – Approval for Arctic Wolf Managed Detection and Response Services
- Agenda Item 9.K. – Approval of P-1 (Formerly Lopez Nursing Building) Roof and Exterior Building Repairs
- Agenda Item 9.M. – Approval of Change Order for the Fiber Infrastructure Upgrades Project

and to defer Agenda Item 9.J. – Approval of Ruben Garcia Building Chill Water Line Replacement and Agenda Item 9.L. – Approval of P-14 Building Exterior Repairs. Ms. Vela and Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Leven-Ramos did not vote).

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**10.A. SELECTION OF AN INVEST ADVISORY SERVICES PROVIDER AND DELEGATE TO THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT THE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT AND FEES – MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President for Finance and Administration, requested to defer this item to the November Board meeting. Mr. Rangel moved to defer the item. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Leven-Ramos did not vote).

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, provided enrollment numbers for continuing education Quarter I courses and Fall credit courses. She also announced registration dates, fall commencement date, and drops for non-payment. She answered questions from the Board.

**11.B. GIFTS, DONATIONS, GRANTS, AND ENDOWMENTS UPDATE – DR. DIANA Y. ORTIZ**

Dr. Ortiz presented donor activity, grant applications, and donor projects. Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Grant Director, went over grant submission activity.

Dr. Ortiz announced the Laredo College Golf Classic is scheduled for December 9.

**11.C. TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCE (OER) GRANT UPDATE – DR. ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ/MR. PRAKASH MANSINGHANI**

Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Dean of Academic Innovation and Technology, provided an update on Open Education Resources (OER) goals and benefits. Mr. Prakash Mansinghani, Social Sciences Department Chair, summarized OER and academic freedom. Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Mansinghani, and Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, answered questions from the Board.

**11.D. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION REQUEST – DR. MINITA RAMIREZ**

Dr. Ramírez informed the Board that Coordinadora, Inc. requested support from Laredo College for the establishment of a foreign trade zone designation at 102 Ross Khaledi Rd, Laredo, TX. A copy of Laredo College’s letter of concurrence was provided to the Board.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:50 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 12.A. – Laredo College Exempt Staff Member Level III Grievance Hearing as per Board Policy DGBA(LOCAL), Arising from Consolidation of Complaints, Appeal of Investigation Conducted Under Board Policy DIAB(LOCAL), and Complaint under Board Policy DIAA (LOCAL). Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Agenda Item 12.B. – Personnel Matter Involving the Termination of At-Will Laredo College Employees. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Leven-Ramos did not vote).

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:26 p.m. Mr. Delgado noted that no action was taken during executive session and will take appropriate action on items necessary as discussed in closed session.

**13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**13.A. LAREDO COLLEGE EXEMPT STAFF MEMBER LEVEL III GRIEVANCE AS PER BOARD POLICY DGBA(LOCAL), ARISING FROM CONSOLIDATION OF COMPLAINTS, APPEAL OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED UNDER BOARD POLICY DIAB(LOCAL), AND COMPLAINT UNDER BOARD POLICY DIAA(LOCAL)** Mr. Delgado noted that no action was taken.

**14. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

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

Dr. Ramirez indicated that the reports were provided in the meeting materials that the Board received.

She noted that she was a keynote speaker at the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators conference, and she will be out of the office Friday to November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Dr. Ramirez remarked on the following:

- Reminder to sign up for Campus Shield
- ALFA presented LC with a plaque for 20-year partnership
- Rededication of monuments donated by PNC
- LC's emergency plan has been submitted to the State

Ms. Vela inquired about LC's mental health services/training. This item will be placed on a Board meeting agenda for discussion.

**15. NEXT MEETING DATE & UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Monday, October 30, 2023, 4:00 p.m. – College of Health Sciences Open House

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – LC Employees' Thanksgiving Luncheon (Fort McIntosh Campus)

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – LC Employees' Thanksgiving Luncheon (South Campus)

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

November 20 – 24, 2023 – Thanksgiving holidays

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:43 p.m., Mr. Rangel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vela and Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.