



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, March 28, 2024, beginning at 6:03 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.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lupita Zepeda, President

Jorge "JD" Delgado, Vice President

Cindy Liendo

Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

Esteban Rangel

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary

Erica Benavides Garcia

Karina "Kari" Elizondo

Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.

Rusty Meurer

Juliana Kelley

Ana Gisela "Gigi" Pérez Alemán

Cesar E. Vela, Jr.

Heriberto Hernandez, Ed.D.

Federico Solis, Jr., Ed.D.

Jessica Trevino

Esmeralda Vargas, DPT

Priscilla Medina

Horacio Salinas, Ph.D.

Laura Ramirez Cruz

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 FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Mr. Rangel moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liendo; 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. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/

PERSONNEL ACTIONS –
DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramirez, President, introduced the new hires and promotions for the month: Aaron F. Zuniga Alvarez, Enrollment Coach; Mayra A. Garza, Social Media Specialist; Rene Gonzalez, Director of Development; Samantha M. Gonzalez, Instructional Assistant Workforce; Jonathan P. Prado, Wildlife Technician; Francisco J. Reyes, Grant Writer; Anna A. Hourigan, Administrative Assistant I Dean of Community Education; Lisa Avila, Teacher; Luis Chavez, Tutor Coordinator; Brandon W. Gonzalez, Purchasing Clerk; and Isai Olivas, Clerk Arts & Sciences.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.A. STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. ERICA BENAVIDES GARCIA

Ms. Liendo, on behalf of Ms. Benavides Garcia, provided a recap of the March 25, 2024 Student Success Committee meeting. The information included Fun Fest, Palomino Pathway Summit, Career & Job Fair, food services, transfer services, Banner communication module, Self Service 9, FASFA, Maxient, and Student Success & Enrollment division.

**6.B. BUILDING
COMMITTEE AND
FINANCE & AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORT – MR.
MERCURIO MARTINEZ,
JR./MR. JORGE “JD”
DELGADO**

Mr. Rangel, on behalf of Mr. Martinez and Mr. Delgado, provided a recap of the March 26, 2024 Building Committee and Finance & Audit Committee meeting. The information included construction and technology projects at both campuses.

7. FACULTY SENATE REPORT – MRS. JULIANA KELLEY

Mrs. Juliana Kelley, Faculty Senate President, reported on Mathematics Department highlights, Industrial and Electronic Department highlights, Cesar Chavez March, and Faculty Senate Elections.

8. LAREDO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – MS. ANA GISELA “GIGI” PÉREZ ALEMÁN

Ms. Ana Gisela “Gigi” Pérez Alemán, Student Government Association President, reported on Rec Day, Fun Fest, Coffee with the Dean, TRIO SSS scholarship finalists, safe & sober event, Phi Theta Kappa Texas Regional Convention, Frito π Day, Big Event, and Block Party.

9. CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL REPORT – MR. SAM TOVAR

No report.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Delgado moved to further discuss Agenda Item 10.B. and 10.C. and approve the following items under Consent Agenda.

Agenda Item 10.A. – February 2024 Financial Report

Agenda Item 10.D. – Approval for the Purchase of Computers

**10.B. APPROVAL FOR
THE PURCHASE OF TWO
(2) SEMI TRUCKS FOR
THE TRUCK DRIVING
PROGRAM – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Ms. Liendo and Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Delgado asked about the possibility of reaching out to private industries to partner/assist the college. Discussion followed. Mr. Delgado moved to approve the purchase of the trucks. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.

**10.C. APPROVAL OF
CONTRACT FOR
TEMPORARY STAFFING
SERVICES – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Delgado requested more information from Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance & Administration, on the selection of the companies. Mr. Vela provided the information. Mr. Delgado moved to approve staffing services contract for DLP Staffing & Temporary Services, LLC and 5 Star Staffing. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Ms. Zepeda called for the vote; motion failed. Mr. Rangel moved to approve staffing services contract for Elite Employment Services, LLC, and DLP Staffing & Temporary Services, LLC. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion failed. Mr. Rangel moved to approve staffing services contract for Elite Employment Services, LLC, DLP Staffing & Temporary Services, LLC, and 5 Star Staffing. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion failed.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**11.A. APPROVAL OF
GUARANTEED MAXIMUM
PRICE FOR THE MOORE
VOCATIONAL BUILDING –
MR. CESAR VELA**

Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Dr. Heriberto Hernandez, Dean of Workforce Education, and Mr. Vela provided information to the Board. Mr. Rangel called for the question; motion carried.

**11.B. APPROVAL OF IME
BECAS SCHOLARSHIP
MATCHING FUNDS AS
PER DONOR REQUEST –
DR. DIANA Y. ORTIZ**

Mr. Rangel moved to approve Agenda Item 11.B. and 11.C. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

**11.C. APPROVAL OF MR.
SOUTH TEXAS
SCHOLARSHIP**

**MATCHING FUNDS AS
PER DONOR REQUEST –
DR. DIANA Y. ORTIZ**

**11.D. APPROVAL OF THE
FORENSIC SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
(ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED
SCIENCE DEGREE)
PROGRAM - DR.
HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ**

Mr. Rangel moved to approve. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

**12.A. REPORT ON 2024
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE
SUMMIT – MS. KARINA
ELIZONDO/MR. ESTEBAN
RANGEL**

Mr. Rangel reported on the National Legislative Summit that he and Ms. Elizondo attended. Topics included ACCT priorities – workforce development, PELL Grant, supporting student success, strengthening job training and technology, providing pathway for citizenship, COVID relief, and meetings with legislators.

**12.B. REPORT ON BOARD
OF TRUSTEES
INSTITUTE – MS. LUPITA
ZEPEDA/MS. ERICA
BENAVIDES GARCIA**

Ms. Zepeda provided a recap of the Board of Trustees Institute conference that she, Ms. Benavides Garcia, and Dr. Ramirez attended. Topics included HB 8, four pillars of essential practices, program pathways, and AI.

**12.C. MARCH 2024
ENROLLMENT REPORT –
DR. FRED SOLIS/MS.
JESSICA TREVIÑO**

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment, reported on enrollment status, Spring 2024 enrollment comparisons, and annual enrollment in credit and non-credit courses.

Ms. Jessica Trevino, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, provided updates on LC application drive, LC in the Community event, financial aid, and Banner student self service portal.

**12.D. FOREIGN TRADE
ZONE DESIGNATION
REQUEST – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramirez informed the Board that Laredo Moving and Storage, Inc. requested support from Laredo College for the establishment of a foreign trade zone designation at 6019 Riverside Drive, Laredo, TX. A copy of Laredo College's letter of concurrence was provided to the Board.

**12.E. SPRING 2024 EXPO
HEALTH FAIR – DR.
ESMERALDA VARGAS**

Dr. Esmeralda Vargas, Acting Dean of Health Sciences, provided information on the 1st annual Spring expo health fair scheduled for April 9, 2024.

**12.F. NEW ELECTRICAL
TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
TRACK: POWERLINE
TECHNICIAN – DR.
HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ**

Dr. Hernandez reported that a program track for powerline technician is being added to the electronic technology program. It is only a minor change to the program which does not require full approval process. The track will begin Spring 2025. Dr. Ramirez reported that AEP provided the seed money for the program.

**12.G. LAREDO COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL CAR
SHOW SPONSORED BY
GONZALEZ AUTO PARTS
– DR. HERIBERTO
HERNANDEZ/MR.
ALFREDO GARCIA**

Ms. Priscilla Medina, Dean of South Campus, announced that Laredo College South will have an international car show and kite festival sponsored by Gonzalez Auto Parts on April 20, 2024.

**12.H. PHI THETA KAPPA
THETA THETA CHAPTER
EARNING 5-STAR
CHAPTER FOR 20TH
CONSECUTIVE YEAR –
DR. HORACIO
SALINAS/MS. LAURA
RAMIREZ CRUZ**

Dr. Horacio Salinas, Dean of Arts & Sciences, provided background on Phi Theta Kappa and LC's Theta Theta Chapter. Ms. Laura Ramirez Cruz, PTK Advisor, reported on LC's chapter and the required areas that LC exceeded in to earn the 5-Star Chapter recognition. A list of awards and accomplishments between 2022-2024 was distributed.

- 12.I. LAREDO COLLEGE WATER RIGHTS REPORT**
– MR. CESAR VELA
- Mr. Vela reported that LC’s water rights account, which is about 31 acre-feet, was conveyed to LC in 1991; however, has been inactive since 1992. It was reinstated on March 5, 2024 at 22%. He explained the next steps to use water for irrigation purposes.
- 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- At 7:50 p.m., Mr. Martinez moved to go into executive session on the following item:
- Agenda Item 13.A. – Employee Complaint and EEOC Charge Arising from a Grievance Heard by the Laredo College Board of Trustees. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Mr. Delgado seconded the motion; motion carried.
- The Board reconvened to open session at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Zepeda noted that no action was taken during executive session and will take appropriate action on items necessary as discussed in closed session.
- 14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
- 14.A. EMPLOYEE COMPLAINT AND EEOC CHARGE ARISING FROM A GRIEVANCE HEARD BY THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
- Mr. Delgado moved to “authorize the college president to retain outside counsel for this item in accordance with discussions held in executive session”. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.
- 15. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**
- 15.A. CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, AND TRAVEL REPORTS** – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ
- Dr. Ramirez reported on the Region One Conference that she was a keynote speaker. The reports were provided in the Board meeting materials.
- 15.B. PRESIDENT’S REMARKS** – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ
- Dr. Ramirez remarked on the following:
- Laredo Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association Mixer
 - Texas Association of Community College legislative updates
 - Lamar Bruni Vergara Trustees visit
 - Ellucian Live conference
 - Easter holiday
 - Graduation on May 10th at Sames Auto Arena
 - Strategic Planning Session
 - Master Plan, Enrollment Plan, and Marketing Plan
 - April 25th Job Fair
 - Office of Civil Rights Audit
- 16. NEXT MEETING DATE & UPCOMING EVENTS:**
- March 29 – April 1, 2024 – Easter Holiday
- Thursday, April 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
- Save the Date – Friday, May 31 & Saturday, June 1, 2024 – Board Retreat
- 17. ADJOURNMENT**
- At 8:32 p.m., Mr. Delgado moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rangel seconded the motion; motion carried.