



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, May 29, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Adolfo C. and Maria de Jesus De La Garza Building Room 101 at the Fort McIntosh Campus, West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rangel called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Liendo called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President

Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President

Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian

Erica Benavides Garcia

Adriana Alexander (arrived at 6:24 p.m.)

Lizzy Newsome

Karina "Kari" Elizondo

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.

Rusty Meurer

Ruben Villarreal

Gilberto Martinez, Jr., Ed.D.

Julio Reyes

Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.

Cesar E. Vela, Jr.

Veronica Martinez, Ph.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary

Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL

4.A. RECOGNITION OF DR. FEDERICO SOLIS, JR., FOR HIS 42 YEARS OF SERVICE TO LAREDO COLLEGE – LC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The LC Board of Trustees recognized Dr. Federico Solis, Jr., Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment, who is retiring after 42 years of service to Laredo College.

4.B. RECOGNITION OF 1ST LAREDO COLLEGE COHORT OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCE FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

The Laredo College Open Education Resource Fellowship celebrated the successful completion of its inaugural cohort with nine graduates. The Leads are Prakash Mansinghani, Social Science Department Chair/Government, Linda Ramirez, Business Management Department Chair/Professor, and the 1st Cohort OER Faculty Fellows are: Joe Molina, Dr. Laura Lopez, Laura Huerta, Anna Vela, Gregorio Salas, Bryant de Jesus, Brenda Esquivel, Alan Webb, and Dr. Diana Ramos.

4.C. RECOGNITION OF THE IMPACT OF EMERGENT TECHNOLOGIES ON WRITING CENTERS AND PEDAGOGY PUBLICATION

Ms. Maria Partida, Writing Center Director, was recognized for her chapter publication titled *AI Training and Assessment of Writing Tutors and Writing Center's Technology Pedagogy* and is featured in the edited volume *Impact of Emergent Technologies on Writing Centers and Pedagogy*.

4.D. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The new hires/personnel actions for the month were announced - Briana Castro, Disability Services Coordinator; Laura Chapa, Assistant Director of Recruitment; Nancy Colchado, Allied Health Lab

Coordinator – South; Alexa Flores, Teacher Assistant -South; Denise A. Flores, Transitions & Pathways Manager; Amanda E. Flores-Del Toro, Workforce Development Center Director; Erika Gonzalez, Student Records Specialist II; Samantha M. Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant II; Javier A. Gutierrez Jr., Workforce Education Coordinator; Miriam Hinojosa, Academic Affairs Curriculum Coordinator; Cassandra Olivares, Student Records Specialist II; and Joana Santillana, Interim Community and Media Relations Director.

5. FACULTY SENATE REPORT – DR. GILBERTO MARTINEZ, JR.

Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Jr., Faculty Senate President, reported on:

- Faculty Senate election results – President-Dr. Gil Martinez; Vice President-vacant; secretary-Mr. Bryant De Jesus; and senators-at-large-Maximiliano Zapata, Mary Provence, and Miguel Contreras.

6. LAREDO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – MS. LINDSEY BALLESTEROS

No report.

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS.

ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU
VELA

Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on May 27th. She noted that the Finance & Audit Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, the week of a regular Board meeting, at 12:00 p.m.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.A. LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EARLY COLLEGE END OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION –

MR. JULIO REYES/MS.
MONICA CALLES

Mr. Julio Reyes, Director of Recruitment and Dual Enrollment, introduced Ms. Monica Calles, Dr. Rocio Lopez, Mr. Pedro Medellin, Ms. Geri Arredondo, and Ms. Blanca Polanco from the LISD Early College Program, who presented information from their respective early college high schools.

8.B. PRESENTATION OF 2024-2025 STUDENT HANDBOOKS FOR DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented a summary of changes to the academic affairs division student handbooks.

Mr. Esteban Rangel recognized Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector.

8.C. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION REQUESTS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, informed the Board that letters of concurrence were issued for UNI-TRADE BROKERS, L.C., SBL USA, Inc., BA Forwarding, Co., Unlimited Solution Group, Inc., Gerardo Arellano Forwarding, Inc., UETA of Texas, Inc., LAREDO PRO SOURCE, INC., and SOURCE HOLDING DELAWARE, LLC., all of whom were seeking foreign trade zone designations.

8.D. PARTNERING WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES TO DO A FORMAL SEARCH FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENROLLMENT – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez informed the Board that Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management, will be taking over most of the Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment (VPSSE) duties. The Association of Community Colleges will be contracted to do the search for the next VPSSE.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Liendo moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 9.A. - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of April 28, 2025
- Agenda Item 9.B. - April 2025 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 9.C. - Approval of Renewal of Contract with Instructure Inc. for Canvas Cloud Subscription
- Agenda Item 9.D. - Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for Truck Driving Program
- Agenda Item 9.E. - Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for Laredo College Campus Police
- Agenda Item 9.F. - Annual Softdocs License Renewal
- Agenda Item 9.G. - Approval for Annual Microsoft License Renewal

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

10.A. DESIGNATION OF OFFICER FOR CALCULATION OF NO NEW REVENUE TAX RATE AND THE VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance and Administration, requested that the Board designate Ms. Patricia A. Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, as the official to calculate the no-new-revenue (NNR) tax rate and the voter approval tax rate for Laredo College as per Senate Bill 2, Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019 and any other matters incident thereto. Ms. Benavides Garcia so moved. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

10.B. APPROVAL OF TIME EXTENSION FOR ARECHIGA HALL AND LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA PROJECTS – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Vela asked the Board to approve a time extension of 16 calendar days for the Arechiga Hall Project and a time extension for the Lamar Bruni Vergara Project. Ms. Liendo moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

10.C. REVIEW AND APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO LC BOARD POLICIES: FFDA(LOCAL) - FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION: SEX AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE FLB(LOCAL) - STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT CONDUCT GK(LOCAL) - RELATIONS WITH EDUCATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCIES – DR. DAVID ARREAZOLA/MS. ANDREA LOPEZ

Dr. Veronica Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, presented modifications to Board policies. Ms. Liendo moved to approve the modifications along with Agenda Item 10.D. - TASB Board Policy Update 49. Ms. Vela and Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

10.D. TASB BOARD POLICY UPDATE 49: REVIEW UPDATED LEGAL POLICIES AND ACT ON LOCAL POLICIES – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MS. ANDREA LOPEZ

10.E. RATIFICATION OF LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR 2025 ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES LEADERSHIP CONGRESS SESSION PROPOSAL – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Mr. Rangel informed the Board that a letter of support to submit a session proposal for the ACCT Leadership Congress was issued. Ms. Liendo moved to ratify the letter of support. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.F. APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION IN
OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED LIMITS OF
PELL GRANT ACCESS
FOR STUDENTS – DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez summarized the “Big Beautiful Bill”. She read the resolution opposing the “Big Beautiful Bill”.

*RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LAREDO COLLEGE
IN SUPPORT OF ESSENTIAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS SERVING STUDENTS AND
ADULT LEARNERS*

WHEREAS, Laredo College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, is committed to transforming students’ lives through high-quality, innovative, and affordable programs and services, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to positively impact communities; and

WHEREAS, Laredo College’s educational programs and strategic initiatives align critically with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s “Building a Talent Strong Texas” strategic plan to support opportunities for all Texans to earn degrees, certificates, and other credentials; and

WHEREAS, access to services, programs, and career pathways offered by Laredo College is essential for developing a skilled workforce, promoting upward economic mobility and strengthening partnerships with business and industry; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Laredo-area population, specifically 29.4%, have not attained a high school diploma or equivalency and rely on Laredo College’s adult education programs as their pathway to prosperity; and

WHEREAS, limiting Pell Grant access for students enrolled in fewer than 15 credit hours would potentially impact 84% of Laredo College students, many of whom balance work, family, and other responsibilities, thereby significantly hindering the college’s ability to provide equitable educational opportunities and support economic advancement; and

WHEREAS, Laredo College’s Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) and English Literacy/Civics (EL Civics) programs serve more than 1,300 adult learners annually, providing foundational academic skills, workforce preparation, marketable skills, and English language proficiency, all of which are critical to the overall health of our economy, community, and families; and

WHEREAS, the College’s TRIO Student Support Services program, which serves 300 students each year, has long played a vital role in increasing the retention, graduation, and transfer rates of first-generation, low-income, and disabled students; and

WHEREAS, essential federally funded programs, including TRIO Student Support Services, Pell Grants, and Adult Education & Literacy, are at significant risk of reduction or elimination under proposed federal budgetary actions at the national level; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these programs would significantly impact the Laredo community and the broader border region, compromising Laredo College’s mission to educate and empower all learners while supporting the development of the local workforce, strengthening the economy, and uplifting families;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Laredo College strongly advocates for the full federal funding of Pell Grants, Adult Education & Literacy programs, and the TRIO Student Support Services program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Laredo College expresses its unwavering support for these critical programs and affirms their essential role in advancing educational access, workforce readiness, economic growth, and community development across the College’s service region;

ADOPTED this 29th day of May 2025.

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Elizondo and Ms. Alexander were not present for the vote).

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:09 p.m., Ms. Liendo moved to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 11.A. - Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.072 Regarding Proposed Sale of Residential Real Property Located at 1620 Clark Blvd., Laredo, Texas, and Related Legal Issues
- Agenda Item 11.B. - Discussion Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 with Laredo College Attorney to Receive Legal Advice Relating to an Amendment to a Contract with the Webb County Tax Assessor Collector for Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during executive session.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

12.A. APPROVAL OF THE SALE OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1620 CLARK BLVD., LAREDO, TEXAS AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR SALE AND DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO CONVEY THE PROPERTY

Ms. Liendo moved to approve the sale of real property situated at 1620 Clark Blvd with the terms discussed in executive session and delegate authority to the College President to close the sale and execute necessary closing documents. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Vela was not present for the vote).

12.B. APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN LAREDO COLLEGE AND THE WEBB COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR FOR THE COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES

Ms. Newsome moved to extend and renew the interlocal agreement between Webb County Tax Assessor Collector and Laredo College for the collection of ad valorem taxes for four years without modifications to the existing contract. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

13. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REPORTS

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

Reports were provided to the Board in the meeting materials.

13.B. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez remarked on the following:

- Board Budget Workshop will be moved to June 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
- Congratulated graduates and employees who assisted with the graduation ceremonies
- Summer graduation ceremony will be August 8th at the MFA
- Provided a list of upcoming events
- June 3rd will be a recognition event for Dr. Sylvia Rios

14. UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, July 4, 2025 – Independence Day Holiday

15. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 – Board Budget Workshop

Thursday, July 31, 2025 – Regular Monthly Board Meeting

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m., Ms. Vela moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried.