



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, January 30, 2025, beginning at 6:01 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** Mr. Rangel called the meeting to order.

2. **ROLL CALL** Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian
Erica Benavides Garcia
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Lizzy Newsome
Karina "Kari" Elizondo (*arrived at 6:15 p.m.; left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.*)

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Ruben Villarreal
Lindsey Ballesteros
Cesar E. Vela, Jr.
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.
Federico Solis, Jr., Ed.D.
Jessica Treviño
Rene Gonzalez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Adriana Alexander

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2024**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liendo; motion passed.

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

5. **RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL**

**5.A. TEXAS HIGHER
EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD
2024 STAR AWARD
RECIPIENT FOR
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
(CONTINUING EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT)**

Mr. Ruben Villarreal, Public Information Officer, announced that the Continuing Education Department was granted the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's STAR award for the category of Workforce Development. The following individuals were recognized: Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Dr. Heriberto Hernandez, Sandra Cortez, Brenda Martinez, Melissa D. Santos, Graciela Perez, Rina Benavides, Miguel E. Flores, Claudia Hernandez, Anyssa Valdez, Cira N. Esteves de Hernandez, Eduardo Rangel, and Elvira Moreno.

**5.B. RECOGNITION OF A
FACULTY MEMBER
OBTAINING CERTIFIED
WELDING INSPECTOR
CERTIFICATION**

Mr. Julio Talamantes was recognized for attaining the prestigious Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) credential.

**5.C. INTRODUCTION OF
PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL
ACTIONS**

The new hires/personnel actions for the month were announced – Nohelia Aguilar, Academic Success Coach; Laura Chapa, Workforce Development Center Assistant Director; Ilse Cortez, Enrollment Coach; Carmen De La Rosa, Human Resources Benefits & Leave Specialist; Cynthia Diaz, Director of Student Services and Wellness; Ernesto Elizondo, Homeland Security Studies Instructor; Vicente A. Mancha, Emergency Medical Services Instructor (South); Arturo

Martinez, Automotive Collision Repair Technical Instructor (South); Claudia E. Saenz, Logistics/Distribution Management Instructor; Georgina E. Salinas, Construction/Fixed Assets Accountant; Rogelio Sandoval, Welding Lab Coordinator; Jose Sifuentes, Instructional Assistant Allied Health; Anyssa Valdez, Instructional Assistant Continuing Education; Jonathan A. Valencia, Administrative Assistant I Human Resources; Julissa Vicharelli, Enrollment Coach; Maximiliano Zapata, Government Instructor; Gilberto Gonzalez, Student Support Services Advisement Coordinator; and Daniela Nava-Cortez, Admissions Specialist I.

Ms. Leven-Ramos recognized Ms. Elizondo's presence.

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

No report.

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

Ms. Lindsey Ballesteros, Student Government Association President, provided student body updates on their January legislative session visit, welcome week activities, SGA retreat, and SGA first unofficial meeting and first official meeting.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos summarized the Program/Policy committee meeting held on January 27th. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to defer CAK(LOCAL) policy from Agenda Item 9.O. – *TASB Board Policy Update 48: Review Updated LEGAL Policies and Act on LOCAL Policies*. Ms. Benavides Garcia, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

8.B. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. ERNESTINA "TITA" CANTU VELA

Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit committee meeting held on January 28th.

8.C. BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. CINDY LIENDO

Ms. Liendo summarized the Building committee meeting held on January 29th.

Mr. Martinez moved to approve the Program/Policy Committee Report, Finance & Audit Committee Report, and the Building Committee Report. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Leven-Ramos made a motion to move the following agenda items from consent agenda to discussion and possible action:

- Agenda Item 9.L. – Resolution Requesting that the Laredo College Board of Trustees Approves the Submission of a Grant Application by the Laredo College Grants Office to the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office for the 2024-2025 Operation Stonegarden Project for a Total of \$78,300 in Funding
- Agenda Item 9.N. – Approval of Time Extension for Arechiga Hall and Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Construction Projects
- Agenda Item 9.P. – Review and Approve Modifications to LC Board Policy CLA(LOCAL)-FACILITIES PLANNING: FACILITIES STANDARDS

Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance & Administration, pointed out that Agenda Item 9.B. - *November 2024 Financial Report* should be November 2024 Quarterly Investment Report and Agenda Item 9.F. - *Approval for Purchase of Two (2) GE Voluson S8 Ultrasound Machines*

should be approval to purchase five (5) GE Voluson S8 ultrasound machines.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 9.A. – FY 2024 Audit
- Agenda Item 9.B. – ~~November 2024 Financial Report~~ November 2024 Quarterly Investment Report
- Agenda Item 9.C. – Authorization to Enter into Contractual Agreement with Retail Electricity Provider
- Agenda Item 9.D. – Approval to Allow College President to Negotiate Building Lease Agreement Extension with Gateway Community Health Center for Laredo College South Campus College of Health Sciences Clinic
- Agenda Item 9.E. – Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for Continuing Education
- Agenda Item 9.F. – Approval for Purchase of ~~Two (2)~~ Five (5) GE Voluson S8 Ultrasound Machines
- Agenda Item 9.G. – Approval for the Purchase of Tactical Moving Structure for the Police Academy
- Agenda Item 9.H. – Approval for the Purchase of Networking Equipment for Building P-28
- Agenda Item 9.I. – Approval of Renewal of DIR Contract with Sequel Data Systems for Cloud Backup Services
- Agenda Item 9.J. – Approval for Classroom Technology Refresh of Hachar Building
- Agenda Item 9.K. – Approval of Budgeted Cash Matching Funds Required for a Grant Application to be Submitted on Behalf of Laredo College by the Grants Department. The 2025-2026 Texas Workforce Commission JET (JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS) Grant Application for \$350,000 in Equipment Funding and Software for the Laredo College Truck Driving Program Requires \$17,500 in Cash Match Funds Over a One-Year Grant Performance Period
- Agenda Item 9.M. – Approval of Donor Requested Endowment Matching Funds
- Agenda Item 9.O. – TASB Board Policy Update 48: Review Updated LEGAL Policies and Act on LOCAL Policies (see list below)

POLICY	ACTION
CDE(LOCAL): ACCOUNTING - FINANCIAL ETHICS	Replace
DHB(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING	Replace
FAA(LOCAL): EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY - PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS	Replace

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.L. RESOLUTION
REQUESTING THAT THE
LAREDO COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVES THE
SUBMISSION OF A GRANT
APPLICATION BY THE
LAREDO COLLEGE
GRANTS OFFICE TO THE
STATE OF TEXAS, OFFICE
OF THE GOVERNOR,
PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE
FOR THE 2024-2025
OPERATION
STONEGARDEN PROJECT
FOR A TOTAL OF \$78,300
IN FUNDING – MR.
GABRIEL LOZANO**

Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Laredo College finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Laredo and South Texas that the Laredo College Police Department participate in Operation Stonegarden Project from FY 2024-2027; and

WHEREAS, The Laredo College Board of Trustees approves the submission of a grant application by the Laredo College Grants Office in the amount of \$78,330 to the State of Texas – Office of the Governor – Public Safety Office for the 2024-2027 Operation Stonegarden Grant under the following funding programs:

*FY 2024-2027 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program
State of Texas E-Grants Application #5044901*

WHEREAS, Laredo College agrees to provide applicable matching funds when required for the said project but no matching funds are required for this grant application as noted by program guidelines.

WHEREAS, Laredo College agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the State of Texas, Office of the Governor funds, Laredo College assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, Laredo College designates Dr. Minita Ramirez - President as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grants on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approves the submission of a grant application for a total of \$78,330 in grant funding by the Laredo College Grants Office for the 2024-2027 Operation Stonegarden Project to the State of Texas, Office of the Governor – Public Safety Office.

DULY RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College on the 30th day of January, 2025.

Mr. Martinez moved to approve. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.N. APPROVAL OF TIME
EXTENSION FOR
ARECHIGA HALL AND
LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS – MR. CESAR
VELA/MR. HOMER PAEZ**

Ms. Liendo noted for the record that LC has the right to impose penalties if work is not completed by the date extended for each project. She moved to approve the time extensions for each project. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.P. REVIEW AND
APPROVE
MODIFICATIONS TO LC
BOARD POLICY
CLA(LOCAL)-FACILITIES
PLANNING: FACILITIES
STANDARDS – MS. JACKIE
LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos presented the modifications to CLA(LOCAL) policy for approval. Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**10.A. TENURE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
CONSIDERATION AND
APPROVAL BY LAREDO
COLLEGE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES – DR.
MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA**

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, introduced the tenure candidates listed below:

- Omelia Marin, Information Literacy Librarian
- Mauro V. Ramon Jr., Assistant Professor of Emergency Medical Services/Clinical Coordinator
- Gregorio A. Salas, Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services
- Ignacio Silva Jr., Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the tenure recommendations presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.B. APPROVAL OF
CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACT FOR THE
VETERANS CENTER
PROJECT – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Vela noted that approval is being requested to authorize the College President to negotiate a contract with the proposer as scored by the Evaluation Committee. Ms. Liendo moved that the "Board approve the construction contract for Leyendecker Construction of Texas for the construction of the Veterans Center Project under the following conditions: the construction contract is contingent on Laredo College receiving federal grant funds in the amount of \$1.4 million within 60 days of the date this motion passes. The Board of Trustees reserves the sole right to decide within 60 days from the date of this motion passes to not proceed with the Veterans Center Project. Leyendecker Construction of Texas must agree to hold all prices in its construction proposal for 60 days from the date this motion passes and the Board delegates its authority to the College President to finalize and execute a construction contract with Leyendecker Construction of Texas in accordance with the terms of this motion". Ms. Ramos seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Ms. Liendo moved to approve the use of \$597,000 from the Deferred Maintenance Fund to cover the difference needed to

complete the project. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.C.APPROVAL OF
CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACT FOR
DEMOLITION OF P7&8
AND WEST ANNEX
BUILDINGS – MR. CESAR
VELA**

Mr. Vela noted that approval is being requested to authorize the College President to negotiate a contract with the proposer as scored by the Evaluation Committee. Ms. Liendo motioned to award the construction contract to American Contracting and Roofing for the demolition of P7&8 and the West Annex buildings and allow the Finance Department to allocate an additional \$100,000 from the deferred maintenance fund for the project. Ms. Vela and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.D.APPROVAL OF
BOARD MEMBER(S)
TRAVEL AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF
REASONABLE TRAVEL
EXPENSES TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INSTITUTE AS PER
LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD
POLICIES BBG(LOCAL):
BOARD MEMBERS,
COMPENSATION AND
EXPENSES, AND
BBH(LOCAL): BOARD
MEMBERS,
CONVENTIONS,
CONFERENCES, AND
WORKSHOPS – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, informed the Board of the Board of Trustees Institute on February 27 – 28 and requested approval for paid travel expenses for those interested in attending. Mr. Martinez moved to approve travel expenses. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.E.APPOINTING AN
INDIVIDUAL TO
REPRESENT THE LAREDO
COLLEGE DISTRICT AS A
MEMBER OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CITY OF LAREDO TAX
INCREMENT
REINVESTMENT ZONE
(TIRZ) NO. 2 ALSO KNOWN
AS THE COVES AT
WINFIELD – MR. ESTEBAN
RANGEL/MS. JACKIE
LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos motioned to nominate Mr. Rangel to the TIRZ #2 Board of Directors as LC's representative. Ms. Liendo and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.F.HONORING FORMER
MEMBERS OF THE
LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES, MS.
LUPITA ZEPEDA AND MR.
JD DELGADO – MS. JACKIE
LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos motioned to honor former Board members, Ms. Lupita Zepeda and Mr. JD Delgado. Ms. Benavides Garcia and Ms. Vela seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Mr. Rangel motioned to recognize all outgoing Board members. Mr. Martinez and Ms. Vela seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Rangel rescinded his motion and recommended that the appropriate policy be revised by the Program/Policy Committee to include recognitions of former Board members and brought to the Board for approval.

Ms. Leven-Ramos motioned to schedule an event honoring former Board members on February 25th at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10.G.THE TAX EXEMPT
STATUS OF CPS ENERGY
AND CPS ENERGY'S
PROPOSED AGREEMENT
FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU**

Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, explained the property and tax exemption on an energy plant that has been purchased. The company is proposing to pay the College a total of \$165,000 over several years. Mr. Meurer has the agreement and will review it with

OF TAXES TO BE MADE TO LAREDO COLLEGE. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071 TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE FROM COUNSEL –
MR. RUSTY MEURER

Dr. Ramírez. He recommended that the Board make a motion to authorize the College President to enter into an agreement with the City of San Antonio - City of Public Service to receive payment in lieu of taxes. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed.

10.H. ELECTION OF BOARD PARLIAMENTARIAN AS AUTHORIZED BY POLICY BCA(LEGAL)-BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION: BOARD OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS – *MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL*

Mr. Rangel recommended to add a parliamentarian to the officers of the Board. Ms. Leven-Ramos nominated Ms. Liendo for the parliamentarian position. Ms. Liendo accepted the nomination. Being no other nominations, a vote took place and was successful with a vote of 7 in favor and 1 against.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

11.A. APPOINTMENT OF LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD COMMITTEES –
MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL

Mr. Rangel announced the revised Board Committees.

11.B. REPORT ON SACSCOC CONFERENCE –
MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS. ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU VELA/MS. ERICA BENAVIDES GARCIA/DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Ms. Benavides Garcia reported on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges conference that she, Mr. Rangel, Ms. Vela, and Dr. Ramírez attended December 7 – 10.

11.C. REPORT ON 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE OPENING DAY –
MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS/MS. ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU VELA/MS. CINDY LIENDO/MS. ERICA BENAVIDES GARCIA/MS. ADRIANA ALEXANDER/DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Ms. Leven-Ramos reported on the 89th Texas Legislature Opening Day that she, Mr. Rangel, Ms. Vela, Ms. Liendo, Ms. Benavides Garcia, Ms. Alexander, and Dr. Ramírez attended on January 14.

11.D. NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION DURING CLOSURE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE POLICY DEA(LOCAL)-COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: COMPENSATION PLAN –
DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez informed the Board that, as per LC policy DEA(LOCAL), employees will be paid for the closure on January 21 and a two-hour delayed start on January 22 due to inclement weather.

11.E. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION REQUEST – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Dr. Ramírez informed the Board that a letter of concurrence supporting the establishment of a Foreign Trade Zone designation for Kuehle+Nagel Inc. was issued.

11.F. STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT – *DR. FRED SOLIS/MS. JESSICA TREVIÑO*

Dr. Fred Solis, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success, went over enrollment activity for spring and continuing education Quarter 2, and pregnant, parenting, and foster students.

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, provided an update on the student self-service portal.

**11.G. ANNOUNCEMENT
OF GERALDINE SMITH
HAILEY AND ELEONOR
SMITH HAILEY
ENDOWMENT FOR
NURSING PROGRAM – DR.
DIANA Y. ORTIZ**

Mr. Rene Gonzalez, Director of Development, announced that Geraldine Smith Hailey and Eleonor Smith Hailey established an endowment for Cotulla high school graduates for \$100,000 for nursing.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:10 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following item:

- Agenda Item 12.A. – Discussion with Laredo College Attorney to Receive Legal Advice Relating to Laredo College Ad Valorem Tax Collections, Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:57 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during executive session.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**13.A. LAREDO COLLEGE
AD VALOREM TAX
COLLECTIONS** No action needed.

14. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REPORTS

**14.A. CAMPUS POLICE,
PERSONNEL, AND
TRAVEL REPORTS – DR.
MINITA RAMÍREZ** Reports were provided to the Board in the meeting materials.

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

Dr. Ramírez remarked on the following:

- List of upcoming events provided to the Board
- Imaginarium Heroes gala on April 24
- Legislative matters

15. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 p.m., Mr. Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Benavides Garcia and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.