



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, March 26, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the 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. Leven-Ramos called roll.  

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Esteban Rangel, President Ernestina “Tita” Cantu Vela, Vice President <i>(arrived at 6:01 p.m.)</i> Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian Erica Benavides Garcia Mercurio Martinez, Jr. Adriana Alexander	<u>OTHERS</u> Minita Ramirez, Ph.D. Rusty Meurer Ruben Villarreal Dr. Laura Ramirez Cruz, M.A., J.D. Veronica Cardenas Jessica Treviño Pedro Rivera David V. Arreazola, Ed.D. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D. Tekuani Perez Gabriel Lozano
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MEMBERS ABSENT  
Lizzy Newsome *(excused)*  
Karina “Kari” Elizondo  
  
Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to excuse Ms. Newsome from the meeting.  
Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.
  
3. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY** No one signed up for public testimony.
  
4. **RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL**
  - 4.A. **RECOGNITION OF MS. PAOLA CASTRO** Ms. Paola Castro, a student in Laredo College’s Dance Department, was recognized for her selection to The Joffrey Ballet School’s year-round trainee program in New York City.
  
5. **LAREDO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – MS. LINDSEY BALLESTEROS**  
No report.
  
6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - 6.A. **BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. CINDY LIENDO** Ms. Liendo summarized the Building Committee meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  
  - 6.B. **FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MS. ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU VELA** Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  
7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
  - 7.A. **RIO GRANDE VALLEY CIVIL WAR TRAIL - FORT MCINTOSH HISTORIC SITE – DR. LAURA RAMIREZ CRUZ** Dr. Laura Ramirez Cruz, Dean of Arts & Sciences, announced that Laredo College received two historical markers from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Community Historical Archaeology Project

with Schools program, recognizing the historical significance of Fort McIntosh during the Civil War.

**7.B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE PRESENTATION OF LAREDO COLLEGE HIRING PRACTICES** – MS. ADRIANA ALEXANDER

Ms. Alexander requested a presentation on Laredo College’s hiring practices.

Ms. Veronica Cardenas, Executive Director of Human Resources, presented an overview of the job posting and recruitment process, including the use of the NeoEd Applicant Tracking System, and explained the steps involved in the hiring process.

**7.C. STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT** – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, presented the Student Success & Enrollment Update for Spring 2026 including spring enrollment, continuing education enrollment, and the spring commencement ceremony.

**7.D. LAREDO COLLEGE FUN FEST UPDATE** – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MR. PEDRO RIVERA

Mr. Pedro Rivera, Director of Student Life, provided an update on Fun Fest, which was sponsored by AEP Texas Foundation.

**7.E. REPORT ON THE TEXAS PRESIDENTS & TRUSTEES COLLABORATIVE MEETING TO REPORTING ON ENROLLMENT AND ADVISING TASK FORCE** – DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Student Success and Compliance, presented an update on the Enrollment/Advising Taskforce, highlighting collaborative efforts among the Recruitment, Admissions, Financial Aid, Advising, and Registrar/Retention offices to improve current processes and services.

**7.F. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION REQUESTS** – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, informed the Board that letters of concurrence were issued for foreign trade zone designations for:

- CTL FORWARDING LC, located at 14407 Import Road, ITC Park, Laredo, Texas, 78045
- Intertrans Warehouse & Logistics, Inc., located at 417 Grand Central Blvd., Milo Industrial Park, Laredo, Texas, 78045
- PG DISTRIBUTION, LLC, located at 8417-8421 Amparan Road, Laredo, Texas, 78045

**7.G. NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION DURING FORT MCINTOSH CAMPUS CLOSURE DUE TO STREET CLOSURES FOR THE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION’S YOUTH PARADE AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE POLICY DE(A)LOCAL)- COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: COMPENSATION PLAN** – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez informed the Board that Fort McIntosh employees will be compensated for the closure on February 19, 2026, for three (3) hours due to the heavy traffic and congestion related to the WBCA youth parade routes and street closures.

**7.H. UPDATE ON BACHELOR OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY IN DATA ANALYTICS** – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, announced that LC’s third Bachelor’s Program, the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Data Analytics, has received final approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. She also introduced the program personnel: Tekuani Perez, Director of Computer Sciences and Technology; Ignacio Silva, Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems; Gerardo Martinez, Professor of Computer Information Systems; Emanuel Villanueva, Lead

Lab Coordinator; Reymundo Hernandez, Cybersecurity Institute Coordinator; and Angelica Cabral, Intervention Specialist.

Mr. Tekuani Perez provided a program overview, including demand, pathway, implementation status, cohort, student support & intervention, recruitment, retention, and employment opportunities.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Liendo made a motion to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 8.A. - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of February 5, 2026
- Agenda Item 8.B. - January 2026 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.C. - Approval of Visual & Performing Arts Building Roof Restoration
- Agenda Item 8.D. - Ratification of Cloud Backup and Disaster Recovery Annual Renewal

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**9.A. APPROVE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE LAREDO COLLEGE GRANTS OFFICE FOR \$78,152 FOR THE 2026-2028 OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT PROGRAM TO THE STATE OF TEXAS, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE – MR. GABRIEL LOZANO**

Ms. Liendo 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 FY 2026-2028 Operation Stonegarden Grant Project; 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 \$78,152 to the State of Texas – Office of the Governor – Public Safety Office for the 2026-2028 Operation Stonegarden Grant under the following funding programs:*

*FY 2026-2028 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program  
State of Texas E-Grants Application #5044902*

*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.*

*WHEREAS, Laredo College designates Mr. Cesar Vela – Vice President of Finance and Administration as the grantee's Financial Officer (FO). The Financial Officer is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant 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 \$78,152 in grant funding by the Laredo College Grants Office for the 2026-2028 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.*

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:46 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos made a motion to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 10.A. - Approval for the Purchase of South Campus Surveillance Camera Recording System Upgrade. Closed Session Meeting Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.076
- Agenda Item 10.B. - Approval for Replacement of Surveillance Camera Mesh Equipment. Closed Session Meeting Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.076.
- Agenda Item 10.C. - Discussion of Initiation of the Annual Board Self-Evaluation Pursuant to Laredo College Board Policy BCG(LOCAL)-Board Internal Organization: Board Evaluation, including Setting a Timeline to Conduct the Evaluation, Discussing Evaluation Criteria and Instrument. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074
- Agenda Item 10.D. - Discussion of Initiation of the Annual Evaluation of the College President Pursuant to Laredo College Board Policy BFE(LOCAL)-CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: EVALUATION, including Setting a Timeline to Conduct the Evaluation, Discussing Evaluation Criteria and Instrument, and Establishing Goals and Procedures. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074

Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:09 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during executive session.

**11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**11.A. APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF SOUTH CAMPUS SURVEILLANCE CAMERA RECORDING SYSTEM UPGRADE**

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to approve the purchase. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**11.B. APPROVAL FOR REPLACEMENT OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERA MESH EQUIPMENT**

Ms. Vela moved to approve. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

**11.C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE BOARD SELF-EVALUATION, INCLUDING SETTING A TIMELINE TO CONDUCT THE EVALUATION, AND DISCUSSING EVALUATION CRITERIA AND INSTRUMENT**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the timeline as discussed in executive session. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the evaluation criteria and instrument as discussed in executive session. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

**11.D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT, INCLUDING SETTING A TIMELINE TO CONDUCT THE EVALUATION, DISCUSSING EVALUATION CRITERIA AND INSTRUMENT, AND ESTABLISHING GOALS AND PROCEDURES**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the timeline as discussed in executive session. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the goals, instrument, and procedures for the college president's evaluation as discussed in executive session. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**12. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REPORTS**

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

Reports were provided to the Board as part of the meeting materials.

**12.B. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON RECENT HAPPENINGS IN THE**

Dr. Ramirez provided remarks on the following items:

- LC float at the WBCA parades
- Fire Department presentation

- Father Paul Frey at the Private David B. Barkeley Cantu Memorial Chapel on Wednesdays
- Texas Association of Community Colleges CEOs meeting/funding model
- Memorandum of Understanding with Texas A&M University Kingsville
- UISD truck driving program cohort
- MALES project
- LISD iron chef competition
- Alma Pierce Dr. Seuss Week
- LC Education Foundation
- Tour of Police Academy facility
- TCOLE accreditation
- LISD recognition of LC for dual enrollment
- Palomino Café soft opening
- Tours for the newly renovated facilities
- Passing of former LJC faculty member, Valeria Acevedo

**13. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – The Big Event

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Laredo College South Raquel González Automotive Technology Center Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Laredo College Car Show at Laredo College South Campus

May 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Laredo College Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center Open House

Friday, May 8, 2026, time TBD – Laredo College Graduation at the Sames Auto Arena

(tentative) Tuesday, May 26, 2026, time TBD – Laredo College Dr. Domingo Arechiga Hall Ribbon Cutting

**14. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Board Workshop

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:29 p.m., Ms. Vela made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.