



**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Tuesday, May 5, 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.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President  
Ernestina “Tita” Cantu Vela, Vice President  
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary  
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian  
Erica Benavides Garcia (*arrived at 6:08 p.m.*)  
Adriana Alexander  
Lizzy Newsome (*returned from executive session at 10:42 p.m.*)

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.  
Rusty Meurer  
Alan Webb  
Akemi Nakazono  
Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Ed.D.  
Andrea Garza  
Emma Rodriguez  
Maximilliano Zapata  
Marissa Guerrero, Ed.D.  
Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ed.D.  
David V. Arreazola, Ed.D.  
Jessica Treviño

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mercurio Martinez, Jr.  
Karina “Kari” Elizondo

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

**4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**4.A. LAREDO COLLEGE HONORS STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT SAN ANTONIO – MR. ALAN WEBB**

Mr. Alan D. Webb, Acting Director of the Honors Program, reported that several honors students competed at the San Antonio Honors Symposium on March 21, 2026. The students who presented were Osvaldo Cruz, Ximena Vasquez, Magali De La Cruz, Pedro Rueda, Maria Figueroa, Ashley Granger Jimenez, Abib (April) Valencia, Sofia Rodriguez, and Sophia Quintanilla. Sofia Rodriguez and Sophia Quintanilla earned third-place honors, and April Valencia received an honorable mention.

**4.B. DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES LICENSURE PASS RATES – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA**

The item was tabled.

**5. LAREDO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – MS. LINDSEY BALLESTEROS**

Ms. Akemi Nakazono, on behalf of Ms. Lindsey Ballesteros, presented the Student Government Association updates for April, which included the Big Event; the Palomino Pantry SGA thrift pop-up in collaboration with Move Texas/TACHE; the Conference for Student Government Associations in College Station; the Student Life Awards; and the First-Generation Cording Ceremony.

**6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Ms. Benavides Garcia summarized the Student Success Committee meeting held on April 27<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 April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**6.C. BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT** – MS. CINDY LIENDO

Ms. Liendo summarized the Building Committee meeting held on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**6.D. PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT** – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos summarized the Program/Policy committee meeting held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**7.A. RENEWAL OF DUAL POST-SECONDARY CREDIT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAREDO COLLEGE AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS** – DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA/DR. DAVID ARREAZOLA

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, informed the Board that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a dual credit partnership between Laredo College and participating school districts to provide eligible high school students with access to college-level academic and workforce courses. She further noted that the participating school districts provided input on the renewal of the MOU.

**7.B. UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DUAL CREDIT END OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION** – MR. JULIO REYES

The UISD Early College team, Ms. Andrea Garza and Ms. Emma Rodriguez, presented the achievements of the four UISD Early College Programs and discussed plans for the upcoming school year.

**7.C. STATUS UPDATE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL'S ADOPTION OF A CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS** – MS. LIZZY NEWSOME

This item was discussed in conjunction with Agenda Item 7.D. - *Update on the Faculty Council in Accordance with Senate Bill 37.*

**7.D. UPDATE ON THE FACULTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SENATE BILL 37** – DR. MINITA RAMIREZ/DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA/AD HOC FACULTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina presented the changes to the Faculty Council resulting from Senate Bill 37. Mr. Maximilliano Zapata, Government Instructor and member of the Ad Hoc Faculty Council Committee, shared his experience with the process.

**7.E. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF LAREDO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND LAREDO COLLEGE** – DR. MINITA RAMIREZ/DR. MARISELA RODRIGUEZ TIJERINA/DR. MARISSA GUERRERO

Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina and Dr. Marissa Guerrero, Director of Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership Program, informed the Board of a Cooperative Agreement of Affiliation establishing a partnership between Laredo College and the Laredo Fire Department to provide a Level 1 Certificate in Leadership for fire department personnel.

**7.F. LAREDO COLLEGE  
OPEN EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES VIRTUAL  
SUMMIT CONDUCTED BY  
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC  
INNOVATION AND  
TECHNOLOGY – DR.  
ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ**

Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Dean of Academic Innovation & Technology, provided a summary of the Open Education Resources Virtual Summit held the previous week.

**7.G. REPORT ON THE  
ASPEN TEXAS  
PRESIDENTS &  
TRUSTEES  
COLLABORATIVE  
MEETING – DR. DAVID V.  
ARREAZOLA**

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Student Success and Compliance, provided an update on the Enrollment/Advising Taskforce, LC's project for the Aspen Texas Presidents & Trustees Collaborative. Mr. Rangel stated that he, Ms. Liendo, and Ms. Benavides Garcia held their final meeting the previous week.

**7.H. NOTIFICATION OF  
TRAVEL TO NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF LATINO  
ELECTED OFFICIALS  
(NALEO) 43RD ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE JULY 14 –  
16, 2026, AS PER  
LAREDO COLLEGE  
BOARD POLICIES  
BBG(LOCAL)-BOARD  
MEMBERS:  
COMPENSATION AND  
EXPENSES, AND  
BBH(LOCAL)-BOARD  
MEMBERS:  
CONVENTIONS,  
CONFERENCES, AND  
WORKSHOPS – MR.  
ESTEBAN RANGEL**

Mr. Rangel indicated that he will attend the NALEO conference in July.

**7.I. NOTIFICATION OF  
THE SERVING OF  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
AT LAREDO COLLEGE  
FACILITIES, AS PER  
LAREDO COLLEGE  
BOARD POLICY  
GDA(LOCAL):  
COMMUNITY  
EXPRESSION AND USE OF  
COLLEGE FACILITIES-  
CONDUCT ON COLLEGE  
DISTRICT PREMISES – DR.  
MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, notified the Board that several entities will be serving alcohol at upcoming events held in LC facilities.

**7.J. ENROLLMENT  
REPORT AND  
GRADUATION – DR. DAVID  
V. ARREAZOLA/MS.  
JESSICA TREVIÑO**

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, presented the Enrollment & Graduation Update for Spring 2026, Summer Session I, Summer Session II, and Fall enrollment, as well as continuing education enrollment and spring commencement ceremonies.

**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 March 26, 2026, and Board Workshop of April 11, 2026
- Agenda Item 8.B. – Approve Modifications to Laredo College DCB(LOCAL) Policy - EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES: TENURE As Required by Senate Bill 18
- Agenda Item 8.C. – Approve Modifications to Laredo College DMB(LOCAL) Policy - TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT: TENURE As Required by Senate Bill 18
- Agenda Item 8.D. – Approve Modifications to Laredo College DEC(LOCAL) Policy – COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: LEAVES AND ABSENCES

- Agenda Item 8.E. – Approval of Associate of Science in Criminal Justice
- Agenda Item 8.F. – Approval of Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement
- Agenda Item 8.G. – Approval of the November 2025 Quarterly Investment Report
- Agenda Item 8.H. – Approval of the February 2026 Quarterly Investment Report
- Agenda Item 8.I. – March 2026 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.J. – Approval for the Purchase of Equipment for the Instructional Technology Center
- Agenda Item 8.K. – Approval of Donor Requested Endowment Matching Funds
- Agenda Item 8.L. – Approval of South Campus Electronic Door Access
- Agenda Item 8.M. – Approval of Change Order for Sewer Line Replacement Project

Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**9.A. APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 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**

Dr. Arreazola, on behalf of Mr. Gabriel Lozano, reported that the resolution had been approved at the previous Board meeting but required a revision. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution.

*AMENDED 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 Ms. Susana Carreon – Restricted Grants Manager 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 this Amended Resolution supersedes and replaces the Resolution adopted by the Laredo College Board of Trustees on March 26, 2026, for the FY 2026-2028 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program, State of Texas E-Grants Application #5044902. 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 5th day of May, 2026.*

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt the amended resolution. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.B. APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BD(LOCAL) - BOARD MEETINGS – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos presented modifications to BD(LOCAL) policy to align with the posting deadline Board meeting notices as required by House Bill 1522, which amended the Texas Open Meetings Act, specifically Texas Government Code §551.043. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt the modifications. Ms. Benavides Garcia and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.C. APPROVE REVISIONS TO THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD PROCEDURES MANUAL – MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS**

Ms. Leven-Ramos presented revisions to the Board Procedures Manual. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the revisions. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.D. APPROVE UPDATING THE NAME OF THE LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER TO LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY CLA(LOCAL) - FACILITIES PLANNING: FACILITIES STANDARDS – DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez noted that approval is being sought to update the name of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center to the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Center. Ms. Liendo moved to approve the change. Ms. Alexander and Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING ENTERED INTO WITH OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING, REVIEWING AND REVISING THEM – MS. LIZZY NEWSOME**

Ms. Newsome asked questions about certain sections of the MOU. Dr. Rodriguez Tijerina provided the requested information. No action was taken.

**9.F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND ACTION PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED REGARDING LAREDO COLLEGE'S PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF LAREDO TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE (TIRZ) NO. 1 – MS. LIZZY NEWSOME**

This item was tabled.

**9.G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROCEDURES MANUAL (PAGE 15), INCLUDING AGENDA SUBMISSION DEADLINES, AGENDA PLACEMENT AUTHORITY, AND THE CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF SUCH PROCEDURES. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071. – MS. LIZZY NEWSOME**

Ms. Leven-Ramos stated that the deadline for Board members to submit agenda items had been changed from six working days to ten working days. Ms. Newsome questioned the submission process for agenda items. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

**9.H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CLARIFICATION OF**

At 9:18 p.m., Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to convene in executive session for Agenda Item 9.H. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion; motion passed.

**TRUSTEE  
COMMUNICATIONS WITH  
COLLEGE  
ADMINISTRATION IN A  
NON-OFFICIAL  
CAPACITIES. POSSIBLE  
CLOSED SESSION  
PURSUANT TO TEXAS  
GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTIONS 551.071 AND  
551.074. – MS. LIZZY  
NEWSOME**

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:18 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos also made a motion to go into executive session on the following items:

- Agenda Item 10.A. – Closed Session Meeting with Laredo College District Attorney to Discuss Legal Issues Related to Laredo College’s Participation In and Contribution to the City of Laredo Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) No. 1, and the Proposed Participation Agreement Between Laredo College and the City of Laredo. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.
- Agenda Item 10.B. – Closed Session Meeting with College District Attorney to Discuss Legal Issues Related to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Notice of Interest – Property Located Near Planned Border Barrier Construction Projects, Including Board of Trustees’ Policies CAL(LEGAL) and CAL(LOCAL) — Appropriations and Revenue Sources: Sale, Trade, or Lease of College-Owned Property. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.
- Agenda Item 10.C. – Discussion with Laredo College Attorney Involving Case Law Relating to the Accessibility of Cell Phone Logs and Other Data Under the Texas Public Information Act, Including the United States Supreme Court case Fort Bend Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Paxton, 2023 WL 4495224 (Tex. App.—Austin July 13, 2023), review denied (Tex. Jan. 31, 2025), reh’g of pet. for review denied (Tex. Sept. 19, 2025), cert. denied, 2026 WL 795154 (U.S. Mar. 23, 2026). Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:37 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during the executive session.

**11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**11.A. APPROVAL OF THE  
PROPOSED  
PARTICIPATION  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
LAREDO COLLEGE AND  
THE CITY OF LAREDO  
FOR THE CITY OF  
LAREDO TAX INCREMENT  
REINVESTMENT ZONE  
(TIRZ) NO. 1**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the modified participation agreement between Laredo College and the City of Laredo for the City of Laredo Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 as presented to the Board. Ms. Liendo and Ms. Alexander seconded the motion; motion carried. Ms. Newsome was not present for the vote.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to appoint Mr. Esteban Rangel to serve as Laredo College’s representative on the TIRZ No. 1 Board. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed. Ms. Newsome was not present for the vote.

**11.B. CONSIDER AND  
TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION  
ON THE U.S. CUSTOMS  
AND BORDER  
PROTECTION (CBP)  
NOTICE OF INTEREST –  
PROPERTY LOCATED  
NEAR PLANNED BORDER  
BARRIER CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS ON LAREDO  
COLLEGE’S RIVERFRONT  
PROPERTY, INCLUDING  
POTENTIAL ADOPTION OF  
A RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR  
SURVEY AND SITE  
ASSESSMENT ONLY**

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the modified Right of Entry S, which has been accepted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection as presented to the Board. The Right of Entry S will permit Customs and Border Protection to conduct surveys, geotechnical work, and environmental studies on the areas identified in the map attached to the Right of Entry S. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed. Ms. Newsome was not present for the vote.

**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  
COMMUNITY – DR. MINITA  
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Ramírez provided remarks on the following items:

- Weekly President's Newsletter to the Board
- Graduation ceremonies

**13. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Friday, May 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. – Laredo College Graduation at the Sames Auto Arena

Monday, May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day Holiday

Friday, May 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – LC Regional Law Enforcement Academy Graduation at the Martinez Fine Arts Center

(tentative) Wednesday, June 3, 2026, time TBD – Laredo College Dr. Domingo Arechiga Hall Ribbon Cutting

**14. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

Ms. Benavides Garcia commented on the Ellucian Live conference attended by several Board members and congratulated Ms. Jessica Trevino, Mr. Albert Chavez, Mr. Gabriel Martinez, Mr. Esteban Rangel, and Ms. Cindy Liendo for their respective presentations.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:45 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.