LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The Special Called Board meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Monday, October 12, 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 Special Called Board Meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS
Esteban Rangel, President	Minita Ramírez, Ph.D.
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President	Rusty Meurer
	Dr. Veronica G. Martinez
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary	Dr. David V. Arreazola
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian	
Erica Benavides Garcia	
Adriana Alexander	
Lizzy Newsome	
Karina "Kari" Elizondo	

MEMBERS ABSENT
—

A quorum was established.

3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The Board proceeded with the Public Testimony portion of the meeting. Ms. Leven-Ramos referenced Laredo College Board Policy BDB(LOCAL), which establishes the guidelines for public testimony. The following individuals addressed Agenda Item 7.A. - *Fill the Vacancy in Laredo College Board Position No. 3 by Appointment in Accordance with Laredo College Board Policy BBC(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS — VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE:*

- Oralia Ramos
- Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4.A. ADOPT A RESOLUTION HONORING RESIGNING TRUSTEE JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR. FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LAREDO COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY AND TAKE ACTION ON BESTOWING TRUSTEE EMERITUS STATUS TO JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR., RESIGNING MEMBER OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to adopt a resolution honoring Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr., for his distinguished service to Laredo College and the community and conferring upon him the honorary status of Trustee Emeritus. Ms. Vela and Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution aloud.

RESOLUTION HONORING
TRUSTEE JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR.
FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LAREDO COLLEGE AND
BESTOWING TRUSTEE EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. served twenty-eight (28) years as a Trustee of Laredo Junior College/Laredo Community College, now Laredo College, including as Board President, and fifteen (15) years as a faculty member of Laredo Junior College; and

WHEREAS, his leadership, experience, and dedication supported the College through periods of growth and institutional change, benefiting generations of students, faculty, staff, and community members. His institutional knowledge and advocacy helped advance the College's mission and strengthen its connection to the communities of South Texas; and

WHEREAS, as President of the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees, he played a significant role in the College's history by providing leadership during the historic transition in which the District divested its interest in Laredo Junior College, helping shape the institution's future governance; and

WHEREAS, his broader public service included four (4) years on the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees, service as Webb County Judge, and membership on the Laredo City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Laredo College Board of Trustees wishes to recognize his lasting contributions to education, civic responsibility, responsible governance, and the advancement of the people of South Texas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Laredo College honors Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. for his twenty-eight (28) years as a Trustee, fifteen (15) years as a faculty member, leadership as Board President, and distinguished service to the College and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby confers upon Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. the honorary status of TRUSTEE EMERITUS in recognition of his distinguished service, leadership, and enduring commitment to Laredo College. This designation honors his legacy and recognizes his dedication to the institution throughout its historic evolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board extends to Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. its deepest gratitude for a lifetime of service, leadership, and commitment, and wishes him continued success, good health, and fulfillment in the years ahead and this Resolution be entered into the official Board records; and that a suitably prepared copy be presented to him as an expression of appreciation and esteem.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12th day of October 2026, by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College.

Motion passed.

4.B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NAMING OF ROOM 101 IN THE ADOLFO C. AND MARIA DE JESÚS DE LA GARZA BUILDING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY CLA(LOCAL): FACILITIES PLANNING: FACILITIES STANDARDS – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve a resolution designating Room 101 in the Adolfo C. and Maria De Jesús De La Garza Building as the Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr., Board Room Annex, in recognition of his service, leadership, and commitment to the College and the community. Ms. Newsome and Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution aloud.

RESOLUTION NAMING
ROOM 101 IN THE ADOLFO C. AND MARIA DE JESÚS DE LA GARZA BUILDING
THE JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR. BOARD ROOM ANNEX

WHEREAS, Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. served Laredo College as a faculty member and Trustee, including as President of the Board, demonstrating steadfast leadership and commitment to the College, its students, faculty, staff, and community; and

WHEREAS, Judge Martinez's commitment to public service extended beyond Laredo College through his service on the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees, the Laredo City Council, and as Webb County Judge; and

WHEREAS, the Laredo College Board of Trustees wishes to honor his lasting contributions and preserve his legacy for future generations. His institutional knowledge, advocacy for education, and dedication to public service have benefited generations of students and residents throughout Laredo and Webb County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laredo College Board of Trustees hereby names Room 101 in the Adolfo C. and Maria de Jesús de la Garza Building the:

JUDGE MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR. BOARD ROOM ANNEX

in honor of his distinguished service, leadership, and enduring commitment to Laredo College and the community. This designation preserves his legacy within the College and serves as a reminder of his contributions to its mission and the educational advancement of the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this naming shall serve as a lasting tribute to his dedication to education and public service; that this Resolution be entered into the official records of the Board; and that a suitably prepared copy be presented to Judge Martinez as an expression of gratitude and appreciation. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation for his years of service and the leadership he provided in support of the College, its students, and the community it serves.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12th day of October 2026, by the Laredo College Board of Trustees.

The motion passed.

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President, presented Judge Mercurio Martinez, Jr. with a letter from St. Mary's University inviting him to receive the diploma he earned in 1959.

4.C. APPROVAL OF EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR USE IN FILLING THE VACANCY IN LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POSITION NO. 3 – MR. ESTEBAN RANGEL/MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS

Ms. Liendo moved to approve the evaluation rubric presented by the administration for assessing applicants for the vacancy in Laredo College Board of Trustees Position No. 3. Ms. Newsome expressed concerns regarding the process and the rubric. Ms. Liendo called for the question, and a record vote was taken. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Ms. Leven-Ramos, Ms. Vela, Ms. Liendo, Ms. Benavides Garcia, Ms. Alexander, Ms. Elizondo, and Mr. Rangel. Ms. Newsome voted against the motion. The motion passed.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:52 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to convene in executive session to discuss Agenda Item 5.A. - *Review and Evaluate Applications of Candidates for Appointment to Vacant Laredo College Board Position No. 3, Pursuant to Texas Government Code § § 551.071 and 551.074*.

Ms. Liendo, Ms. Benavides Garcia, and Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

At 6:53 p.m., Mr. Rangel noted that Dr. David Arreazola, Vice President of Student Success and Compliance; Dr. Veronica Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness; and Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance and Administration, would join the Board in executive session.

The Board reconvened in open session at 11:38 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action had been taken during executive session.

6. 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
Adriana Alexander
Karina "Kari" Elizondo

MEMBERS ABSENT
Lizzy Newsome

A quorum was established.

At Mr. Rangel's request, Dr. Veronica G. Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness/Elections Officer, explained the evaluation rubric. She noted that each component of the rubric corresponded to a section of the application or addressed requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). She then explained the rubric's seven components: trustee roles and responsibilities; ethics, integrity, and public accountability; institutional mission; budget; policy; employee management and leadership; and collaboration, community engagement, and service.

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Student Success and Compliance, explained the process used to evaluate each applicant.

Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, explained the policy requiring an appointment rather than an election to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Rangel noted that no action had been taken during executive session.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

7.A. FILL THE VACANCY IN LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POSITION NO. 3 BY APPOINTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BBC(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS — VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to appoint Mr. Louie Mendoza to fill the vacancy in Laredo College Board of Trustees Position No. 3, in accordance with applicable laws. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. A record vote was taken. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Ms. Leven-Ramos, Ms. Vela, Ms. Liendo, Ms. Benavides Garcia, Ms. Alexander, Ms. Elizondo, and Mr. Rangel. Motion passed.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, October 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 11:57 p.m., Ms. Elizondo and Ms. Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.