

LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
Laredo, Texas

The special meeting of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees convened on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, beginning at 6:03 p.m. in the Samuel A. Meyer Board Room Laird Hall 124 of the Fort McIntosh Campus.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pete Saenz, Jr., President  
Cynthia Mares, Vice President  
(arrived at 6:20 p.m.)  
Belinda Guerra, Secretary  
Carlos Carranco, Jr.  
Hilario Cavazos, III  
Rene De La Viña  
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.  
Edward C. Sherwood  
Alfonso Martinez, Ex-officio

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leonides G. Cigarroa, Jr.

OTHERS

Juan L. Maldonado  
Eleazar Gonzalez  
Fred Solis, Jr.  
George Meurer, College  
Attorney  
Patricia Barrera,  
LCC Tax Assessor/Collector

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Saenz called the meeting to order. Ms. Guerra called the roll. Mr. Cavazos welcomed guest, Ms. Patricia Barrera. A quorum of the members was present.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Mr. Bill Wisner, LCC Faculty, addressed the Board regarding salaries for faculty.

Dr. Alfonso Martinez, President of Faculty Assembly, distributed a letter to Board members and asked the Board be receptive regarding a salary increase.

Ms. Esmeralda Chapa, President for Classified Staff Organization, reported the 2% proposed increase discouraged employees and requested the Board's consideration for a 5% salary increase.

**BANK DEPOSITORY  
CONTRACT**

Mr. George Meurer, College Attorney, provided Mr. Sherwood the affidavit of disclosure which he signed, as bank officer and Trustee. He filed it with the attorney. Dr. Juan L. Maldonado, President, provided the Board with the background information for this item and noted the current contract extension ends August 31, 2009. Mr. Meurer clarified the legalities involved and reported, "The short answer is the Board has the authorization to extend the contract for a two-year term." Mr. Martinez stated, "that being the case with particular conditions that have been stipulated and addressed by legal counsel," and made a motion that this Board consider the extension of this contract for two more years. Mr. Cavazos seconded the motion. Mr. Sherwood left the board room during the discussion of this item. For the record, Mr. Saenz noted Ms. Mares

arrived at 6:20 p.m. After an extensive discussion, Dr. Maldonado disclosed the names of the banks that submitted proposals: Falcon International, Compass, and Wells Fargo. Mr. Martinez withdrew his motion. Mr. Cavazos withdrew his second. After an extensive discussion, Mr. Meurer clarified the Board's options: 1) proceed forward with a possible extension of the contract, 2) appoint the committee to evaluate, score, and rank the proposals and follow the bidding process, or 3) for the Finance Committee to discuss which way to go. He asked that a motion be made and a vote be taken. Mr. Carranco made a motion that the Finance Committee evaluate, score and rank all the proposals that have been received. Ms. Guerra seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**FY 2010 OPERATING  
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mr. Saenz noted for the record that Mr. Sherwood joined the meeting. Mr. Eleazar Gonzalez, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer, presented a detailed review of the General Operating Fund Budget revenues and expenses, the planning factors & assumptions. Mr. Carranco asked that the amount for Contracted Services be verified. The Board discussed and considered the following: the 25% fund balance, merit pay, and a possible tuition increase. Mr. Gonzalez presented the proposed salary increase for eligible employees. Discussion followed.

Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector, reported administration is proposing a property tax rate of \$0.23540. If the Board goes with that amount, a public hearing is required with a record vote to be made public in order to have a meeting on the 27th. If the Board opts to keep it at the effective tax rate, below that, or at this year's rate there is no need for a public hearing. The effective tax rate is \$0.227228/\$100. Discussion followed. The Board expressed concern on the proposed salary increases and considered several options. Mr. Sherwood proposed and moved the Board consider, as part of the budget process, adopting the effective tax rate of \$0.227228/\$100, increasing by \$2.00 the credit hour and fees, and using reserve funds by reducing the fund balance from 25% to 22%. Mr. Carranco seconded the motion. Ms. Barrera acknowledged the Board will use the effective tax rate and indicated no record vote was needed and there is no need for public hearings. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

6. Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, closed session discussion with Laredo Community College District's attorney regarding the lawsuit filed by Steve Mon Dragon against Laredo Community College, Cause No. 2007 CVQ 002153-D2, pending in the 111<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Webb County, including possible settlement.

At 9:05 p.m. Mr. Cavazos moved that the Board go into executive session as indicated in Item 6 above. Mr. De La Viña seconded the motion; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND  
POSSIBLE ACTION**

7. Lawsuit filed by Steve Mon Dragon against Laredo Community College, Cause No. 2007 CVQ 002153-D2, pending in the 111<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Webb County, including possible settlement.

The Board reconvened at 9:40 p.m. Mr. Saenz noted no action was taken. Mr. Carranco moved that administration continue negotiations for a settlement agreement on the Steve Mon Dragon case as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cavazos; motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

August 27, 2009

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:42 p.m., Mr. Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Carranco; motion carried.