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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 18, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on November 18, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Francisco G. Rendon, Chair; Trey Mendez, Vice Chair; Dr. Reynaldo García; Adela G. Garza; and Art Rendon. Also present was Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent were Ed Rivera, Secretary and Ramon Champion Hinojosa.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rendon at 5:33 p.m.

2. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

3. Mission Statement

Chairman Rendon read the mission and role and scope for Texas Southmost College District as follows:

Mission:

Transforming our communities through innovative learning opportunities.

Role and Scope:

Texas Southmost College's mission is guided by our commitment to provide:

- University transfer, career, and technical programs leading to an associate degree or certificate along with courses specializing in college preparatory and developmental education, workforce training, adult literacy, and continuing

education to support the evolving needs of citizens, industry, and economic development initiatives within Cameron and Willacy Counties.

- High-quality instruction and learning opportunities in the classroom, online, and through other delivery methods; a supportive and innovative faculty and staff; appropriate technology, equipment, and learning resources; and advising and assessment services to promote transfer to a four-year baccalaureate institution, entry or advancement in the workforce, or lifelong learning.
- A learning-centered, service-oriented environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion; facilitates growth and development; fosters social responsibility, critical thinking, communication, and innovation; and empowers and engages students, faculty and staff to achieve personal and professional goals.
- Institutional effectiveness that embraces individual accountability, data-informed decision making, change, and an unending pursuit of excellence.

4. President's Report

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to give the report. Dr. Tercero announced new employees: Gloria Carrera, Administrative Accounting Clerk, Business Services; Michael Martinez, Sign Language Interpreter (PT), Disability Services; Jessica Mitchell, Instructor, Licensed Vocational Nursing; Susana Ortiz-Bocanegra, Financial Aid Specialist, Financial Aid; Leticia Ramirez, Administrative Assistant, Financial Aid; Angelica Ramos, Sign Language Interpreter, Disability Services; Andres Rangel, Grounds Maintenance Worker, Physical Plant and Facilities; Maricela Rodriguez, Coordinator of Veteran and Military Services, Student Services; Prisci Tipton, Coordinator of Grants Development and Administration; and Margarita Vargas, Accountant, Business Services.

She announced TSC employees with new positions: Leticia T. Garcia, Instructor, Licensed Vocational Nursing; Mahandran Rajasuriar, Instructor/Clinical Instructor, Respiratory Care; Jose "Frank" Orozco, Admissions Specialist, Student Services; Leticia Richardson, Senior Administrative Assistant, Finance and Administration; and Yessica Trevino, Child Development Specialist, Child Care Center

Update on Bond Refinancing. Dr. Tercero stated that on November 9, 2015, Texas Southmost College completed the pricing for the bond refinancing of the 2007 Limited Tax Series. She very pleased to report that TSC will have actual savings of approximately \$1.4 million over the life of the bonds. Additionally, as part of the refinancing process, the Standard and Poor's Rating Services and Fitch Ratings both reaffirmed TSC's bond rating as AA-. She thanked the financial advisor,

Estrada Hinojosa, Bond Counsel-Winstead PC, the underwriters led by Well Fargo, and TSC business services department for their efforts to complete this transaction for the College.

Update on Grant Activity. TSC is collaborating with Laredo Community College and other higher education institutions in the Valley to submit a grant to fund STEM-related initiatives.

Update on TSC Accreditation Process. Dr. Tercero stated that the Accreditation Committee's Report and TSC's Response will be reviewed at the December 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. She stated the final decision will be announced at the end of the December meeting. She said this is an extraordinary accomplishment for TSC, which could not have been achieved with the support of our board of trustees and the hard work of the TSC students, faculty and staff. She sincerely appreciates everyone's commitment to TSC.

Dr. Tercero also announced the following:

- She stated that the four students who received a scholarship from the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (LRGV-AIA) were present. Two students received a \$1000 scholarship: Diana Melissa Andrade and Juan Moya. Two students received a \$750 scholarship: Pedro Gonzalez and Martin Jaramillo. She congratulated the students and thanked the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for supporting our students. Dr. Murad Abusalim, Instructor, Architecture, was present. She thanked Dr. Abusalim, thank you for his dedication to the students and to TSC.
- The Annual Angel Tree Toy Drive initiative has begun. She said this year, the Longoria Elementary School (2400 E. Van Buren Street) will benefit from this annual drive. TSC goal is to donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages 4-6. TSC will accept toys through December 11th. TSC have donation sites at the Camille Lightner Center, Oliveira Student Services Center, TSC Recreation Center and the ITEC Center.
- TSC 3rd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at the Gorgas Hall Flag Pole area.
- TSC annual Holiday Celebration Luncheon for the faculty and staff will be held December 9, 11:30-1:30 p.m., Jacob Brown Auditorium.

5. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**Consideration and Approval of Minutes of
the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2015 and
the Special Meeting of October 12, 2015**

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. A Rendon and carried. Mrs. Garza abstained.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 12, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously.

6. Consideration and Approval of a Bike and Hike Trail Easement with the City of Brownsville**Consideration and Approval of a Bike and
Hike Trail Easement with the City of Brownsville**

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. Chet Lewis, Vice President of Finance and Administration, to present the item. He stated that a representative from the City of Brownsville, Mr. Ramiro Gonzalez, Redevelopment Manager with the Planning Department, had approached Texas Southmost College (TSC) seeking approval for a Bike and Hike Trail Easement Project.

Mr. Lewis called on Mr. Gonzalez to make presentation on the Bike and Hike Trail Easement.

He stated that the construction of the Bike and Hike Trail will substantially improve and increase the value of the college property and promote the health, safety, and welfare of students and faculty attending the school as well as the public in general.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Rendon to approve the Bike and Hike Trail Easement and authorize the President to execute the Bike and Hike Trail Easement contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried. Mr. F. Rendon, Mr. Mendez, Mrs. Garza and Mr. A. Rendon voted yea. Dr. García voted nay. The motion passed. *Exhibit "A"*

7. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution to Nominate and Vote for the Position Eight (8) Representative on the Cameron Appraisal District, As Enacted by Senate Bill 359 during the 83rd Legislative Session

**Consideration and Approval of Resolution to
Vote for the Position Eight (8) Representative
on the Cameron Appraisal District, As Enacted by Senate
Bill 359 during the 83rd Legislative Session**

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. She stated that the Texas Legislature's Senate Bill 359, allows junior college districts to participate in the selection of the appraisal district board of directors.

The TSC Board of Trustees, along with the other seven (7) school districts in Cameron County, is represented by one (1) board member sitting in position eight (8) on the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors.

The Cameron Appraisal District notifies TSC regarding the opportunity to participate in this nomination process and then forwards a ballot so that the board may vote on the nominees submitted by TSC and the other seven (7) school districts in Cameron County.

She stated that the Cameron Appraisal District has now compiled all nominations submitted for Position 8 and there is only one name listed: Mr. Jose Noe Diaz. She also reminded the Board that at the October Board Meeting, the TSC Board of Trustees nominated Mrs. Adela Garza as TSC's nominee; however, Mrs. Garza was not present at this meeting and later informed TSC that she would not be able to serve as TSC's nominee.

Dr. Tercero read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. A Rendon to Vote for Jose Noe Diaz for the Position Eight (8) and to approve the Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. García and carried. Mr. Mendez voted nay. Exhibit "B"

- 8. Executive Session as provided by Government Code, Chapter 551.071 and 551.072.**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:12 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:52 p.m.

9. Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

**Consultation with Attorney on
Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Section
551.071, Texas Government Code.**

No action was taken.

**Consultation with Attorney on
Pending Real Estate Issues, Section
551.072, Texas Government Code.**

No action was taken.

10. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, January 21, 2016
Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2016
Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rendon at 6:53 p.m.



Mr. Francisco G. Rendon
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Mr. Ed Rivera
Secretary, Board of Trustees

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on November 18, 2015, is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at TSC Media Services. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Max E. Roca, Senior Administrative Assistant. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KBSD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.