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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

July 27, 2017

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on July 27, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board Members present were Adela Garza; Chair, Trey Mendez, Vice Chair; Dr. Reynaldo García, Ramon Champion Hinojosa, and Art Rendon. Absent were Ruben Herrera, Secretary and Dr. Zavaleta. Also present was Mr. Mike Shannon, Interim President of Texas Southmost College.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mrs. Garza at 5:33 pm.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Mr. Rendon led the Pledges of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

No public speakers today.

4. President's Report

Chair Mrs. Garza called on Mr. Shannon to give the report. Mr. Shannon updated the Board in regards to the Fall 2017 enrollment. He

stated that Admissions was having registration events. He stated that the Scorpion Registration Rally will be on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, and Admissions will be open every Saturday until the Fall semester begins. He also stated that TSC will have marketing help to increase enrollment and some other strategies in place for payment that will make an impact. He reported that Dual Enrollment and Early College High School, last Fall had 1,148 students and this Fall it may be over 2,000 students. He said that Department is doing tremendous work.

Mr. Shannon stated that Ms. Janie Juarez, Human Resources Department received a scholarship. He said that the College University Professionals Association for Human Resources awarded nine scholarships for individuals to attend an annual conference in San Diego, California this September and that there were over two hundred applicants from Higher Education Institutions that applied. He congratulated her in her efforts to be informed and grow in the area of Human Resources for the betterment of the college. He also stated that the Valley Automobile Dealers Association (VADA) announced five recipients that were awarded scholarships for this year. Each recipient will receive \$2,500 dollars from the VADA scholarship fund. He stated that two scholarships will be given to college students currently pursuing a career in automotive technology at Texas Southmost College. The two students are Alejandro Herrera, Jr. and Henry Escobedo, Jr., who is also a local veteran.

Last month, Governor Abbott signed into law the use of co-requisite remediation as the required model for students in developmental education courses. He said that co-requisite remediation places students in college-level, or gateway English and Math courses, and pairs those courses with additional supports. The new law gives all of the state's public colleges and universities that have developmental education programs until 2018 to have 25% of their developmental students enrolled in a co-requisite course. The mandate increases to 50% by 2019 and by 2020 to 75%. TSC will surpass the 2018 requirement this fall, and in 2018, TSC will be at 75%, which puts TSC at the mandated level for the year 2020.

This concluded his report.

5. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2017

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously.

6. Presentation on the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation “Texas Historical Landmark Marker”

Chair Mrs. Garza called on Mr. Juan Velez, Historic Preservation Officer of the City of Brownsville, to present this item. Mr. Velez stated, that in 2016 the Historic Preservation Office had the pleasure of winning a Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) grant. The main purpose of the grant will be to upgrade large subject markers with post of the existing markers at Fort Brown, owned by Texas Southmost College. He said that new narrative, in Spanish and English, will fill completely the new Large Subject markers. The cost of each of the large subject marker is \$1,800.00; the grant covers the two Fort Brown markers. TSC would only be responsible for the \$100 application fee to begin the process of replacing the markers.

7. Consideration and Approval of the following Local Policy:

Consideration and Approval of Local Policy

a. Site Management – Weapons CHF (Local)

Mrs. Garza called on Mr. Shannon to present the item. He stated that last week staff brought this to the Board for approval, the vote was not unanimous at the time it was 6 to 1 and was brought back for a second reading.

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon to Approve Local Policy a. Site Management – Weapons CHF (Local). The motion was seconded by Dr. Garcia and carried unanimously.

8. Academic Subcommittee Report

Chair Mrs. Garza presented this item. She stated that the Academic Subcommittee met on July 14th and are recommending Approval of item 8a. Consideration and Approval of the following Memorandum of Understanding of Premier High School. Mr. Shannon stated that this is the standard agreement TSC uses, the only difference is that they wanted this to be a one year agreement opposed to an extended year agreement with the opportunity to have it reviewed annually.

A motion was made by Mr. Hinojosa to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding of Premier High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously.

9. Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon to table item 9 a., b., and c. The motion was seconded by Dr. Garcia and carried unanimously.

10. Review of the Texas Southmost College District Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018

Chair Mrs. Garza called on Mr. Santos Alarcon, Vice President of Finance and Administration, to present the item. Mr. Alarcon presented a summary revenue and expenditures for the Budget FY 2018. He stated that the Revenues and Expenses both balancing out for the Education and General Fund, Auxiliary Fund, Facilities Fund, and the Bond Funds. Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller, presented a detail line per line for the Projected Educational and General Fund: Revenue, Projected Auxiliary Fund: Revenue, and the Projected General Obligation and Revenue Bond Funds: Revenue Accounts. He stated that the Board has been provided with a detailed line by line budgeted expenditure report, by division, department, and with prior year and current year data for their information and/or any questions the Board may have regarding the budget. Mr. Shannon mentioned that visits with Mr. Pecero and/or Mr. Alarcon regarding the budget could be arranged for any Board Member that would like to discuss the budget further or that may have any questions.

11. Consideration and Approval of a Proposed Tax Rate and Schedule of Public Hearings

Consideration and Approval of a Proposed Tax Rate and Schedule of Public Hearings

Chair Mrs. Garza, called on Mr. Alarcon to present the item. Mr. Alarcon and Mr. Pecero presented the setting of the tax rate. The tax rate consists of two key items: Maintenance & Operations and Debt Service Rate. Mr. Alarcon stated that the M&O portion of the tax rate helps pay for day-to-day operations, such as, salaries, utilities and other expenses. The Debt Service Rate portion of the tax rate can only be used to cover the interest and principal on bonds secured by property tax revenues.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to propose that a 2017 maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.119310 and a debt tax rate of \$0.043097 per \$100 valuation be placed on the agenda for adoption at the August 31, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rendon and carried unanimously.

12. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:07 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 6:37 p.m.

15. Action on Executive Session Matters

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.

**Deliberation on Personnel Matters,
Section 551.074, Texas Government Code. The
Deliberation may include a discussion of the
Employment contract of the President.**

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to formalize and enter into a contract with Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez for an annual salary of \$230,000.00, car allowance of \$700.00 per month, telephone allowance of \$200.00 per month, health insurance for him and his family as well as \$5,000.00 in moving expenses, and a \$1,000.00 monthly expense account. This will be for a three year contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and carried unanimously.

13. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, August 10, 2017 –

Special Board Meeting – Tax Rate (1st Public Hearing, if needed)

Thursday, August 17, 2017 -

Special Board Meeting – Tax Rate (2nd Public Hearing, if needed)

Special Board Meeting – Tax Rate

Thursday, August 31, 2017 –

Regular Board Meeting – (Second Reading of Budget, Adoption of the Budget, Adoption of Tax Rate)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mrs. Garza at 6:38 p.m.