### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT

#### March 8, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas, at 1:16 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, with the following present:

#### From the Board:

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nick Adame, Ms. Libby Averyt, Mr. Ed Bennett, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Ms. Susan Hutchinson, Mr. Bill Kelly, Dr. Laurie Turner, and Dr. Linda Villarreal.

#### From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. John Strybos, Vice President and Chief Physical Facilities Officer; Ms. Lorette Williams, Executive Director of Communication and Marketing; Dr. Natalie Villarreal, Executive Director of Government & Board Relations; Ms. Mary McQueen, Executive Director of Development; Ms. Delia Perez, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President & Board Liaison, and other staff and faculty.

### CALL TO ORDER QUORUM CALL

Ms. Scott called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

#### AGENDA

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** – The public was given the opportunity to provide public comments (both general and specific to any agenda item).

There were no public comments made for this meeting.

### STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT......Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez

• Discover Del Mar, On-Campus Preview Day (Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez described Discovery Del Mar which is an annual outreach event presented every Spring. This event brings high school juniors and seniors from the College service area to explore the various careers and majors offered. The students are able to experience hands-on demonstrations, facility tours, informational presentations and an opportunity to speak with faculty and department chairs. Ms. Benavides-Dominguez responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

# COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....Dr. Mark Escamilla

• Return to Campus Planning (Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Mark Escamilla stated the Return to Campus team decided to allow in-person events on all College campuses/locations. The College remains optimistic but cautious in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic as things can change.

Dr. Escamilla reported that he and Regents Scott, Averyt, and Dr. Natalie Villarreal attended the Association of Community Colleges Trustees Summit in Washington D.C. This is the yearly advocacy trip to the Capitol Hill to visit Congress and Representative Michael Cloud to discuss initiatives on behalf of the College and students. The Regents attended presentations from First Lady, Jill Biden who is a Community College instructor and Miguel Cardona, the Secretary of Education.

Dr. Escamilla discussed the various construction projects continuing across the College campuses.

# REGENT'S REPORT......Ms. Carol Scott

• ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit, February 6-9, 2022 (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott stated she and Regent Averyt attended the ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit along with Dr. Natalie Villarreal. Regent Averyt provided comments regarding her attendance. Chair Scott reported that their meeting with Congressman Cloud was very productive and they were able to provide information on how the College has made progress after COVID as well as the impact. Congressman Cloud showed interest in our Workforce Development Center. students reengage.

• BOTI 2022: Strategic Pathways for Student Economic Mobility, March 1-2, 2022 (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott stated she and Regent Garza, Dr. Natalie Villarreal, and Dr. Escamilla attended. Regent Scott made note of the U.S. Census Data called Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer that is available online. The data you can search includes state, institution, earnings, degree level, and specific program areas. The information shows where the College's graduates go. Regent Garza provided comments regarding his attendance. Chair Scott made note that several of the Regents were able to hear Dr. Luis Ponjuan from Texas A&M University College Station speak at the Conference. Dr. Ponjuan is conducting a research project that includes Del Mar College, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Texas A&M Kingsville, and Laredo International University.

Chair Scott changed the order of the Agenda and called Dr. Jonda Halcomb to make her Professor Emeritus presentations.

4. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Christine Tarasevich.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb (*Goal 4: Learning Environments*)

Dr. Halcomb presented Dr. Christine Tarasevich to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus. She stated that Dr. Tarasevich has provided over 13 years of service to the College as a faculty member of the Economics Program. During her tenure, Dr. Tarasevich demonstrated distinguished leadership and notable dedication to the students, the College, the community, and the field of Economics. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Dr. Tarasevich and recommended the Board approve her Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board's gratitude to Dr. Tarasevich. Dr. Tarasevich provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

Regent Adame made a motion to approve Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Christine Tarasevich. Regent Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

5. Discussion and possible action related to recommendation of Associate Professor Emeritus status to Ms. Drue Jones......Dr. Jonda Halcomb *(Goal 4: Learning Environments)* 

Dr. Halcomb presented Ms. Drue Jones to the Board for consideration of Professor Emeritus. She stated Ms. Jones has provided over 13 years of service to the College as a faculty member of the Business and Management Programs. During her tenure, Ms. Jones demonstrated distinguished leadership and notable dedication to the students, the College, the community, and the field of Economics. Dr. Halcomb read a resolution in honor of Ms. Jones and recommended the Board approve her Professor Emeritus status. Chair Scott expressed the Board's gratitude to Ms. Jones. Ms. Jones provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

Regent Kelly made a motion to approve Professor Emeritus status to Ms. Drue Jones. Regent Averyt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

### **STAFF REPORTS**:

Mr. Strybos began with a brief history of the Bond that was passed by the citizens of Corpus Christi for the Police Training Academy at the Oso Creek Campus. Mr. Strybos introduced Mr. Phillip Ramirez with Turner Ramirez Architects.

Mr. Ramirez provided an update on the design of the new City of Corpus Christi Police Academy. A short animation of the facility design and location was provided to the Board as well as details of the construction of the building. Mr. Ramirez also provided drawings of the interior of the building and stated their office tried to respect the master plan of the College's Oso Creek Campus.

Mr. Ramirez provided floor plan information pertaining to classrooms. Firearms will not be stored on site and only uniformed police officers will be allowed to carry their weapons. Mr. Ramirez reviewed the building efficiency features.

Mr. Ramirez, Mr. Strybos and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Dr. Escamilla provided introductory comments and introduced Ms. Lenora Keas. Ms. Keas began her presentation stating they are providing an update regarding the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) grants and the resulting impact on the students and College. Ms. Keas introduced Mr. Raul Garcia to continue with the presentation.

Mr. Garcia provided an update regarding the first HEERF grant spending plan valued at \$30.8 million dollars. Mr. Garcia reported on two advisory groups, Direct Student Emergency Assistance Advisory Group and Institution Use Advisory Group that consisted of individuals possessing technical expertise with grants and in their respective areas. The Student Emergency Advisory Group is credited for planning and executing the emergency aid grants to students for expenses relating to COVID-19. The grant award for this particular category is valued 11.5 million. The Institutional Use Advisory Group is credited for planning and executing grants valued at \$19.3 million.

Ms. Keas stated that the student emergency assistance funding totaled \$11.5 million. These funds are critical to sustain students both personally and support their educational endeavors. Ms. Keas reviewed the details on the specific requirements as set out by HEERF and the

strategies to distribute these fund in direct support of students.

Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez reviewed the U.S. Department of Education requirements that included the student's cost of attendance, emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 such as tuition, food, and housing health care. HEERF deadline to award money is May 2022.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez reviewed how HEERF funds were distributed over time throughout multiple semesters using a tiered approach. Students with most financial need based on results of the FAFSA, highest educational expenses based on number of hours enrolled, and type of help requested.

Ms. Lorette Williams reviewed information regarding the launch by the College of two campaigns in support of the HEERF emergency student funds. The first campaign was called "Funds for You" and the second campaign was "Add a Class on Us!" Approximately 1,166 students benefitted from these campaigns.

Mr. Garcia discussed the Institutional Use Funding (College Institutional Assistance and Minority Serving Institution Grants) with a combined value of \$19.3 million. The members of the Advisory Committee provided a spending update with respect to the technology enhancements to drive remote learning, paired with faculty and professional development, student re-engagement activities and activities to mitigate the spread and transmission of the pandemic.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the U.S. Department of Education requirements and provided lost revenue information to the Board. Reimbursement for revenues otherwise expected but were reduced or eliminated as a result of the pandemic included tuition, fees, institutional charges, and disruption of food service. The College has billed and collected 4 million of the 4.2 million that was set aside for this category.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez discussed the Success Outreach Plan that included two major campaigns. This Plan assisted students in the amount of \$495,984 of debt which was paid off that was owed to the College.

Dr. Jonda Halcomb discussed the Professional Development training offered to faculty and staff to operate effectively in a remote learning environment, expanding remote learning programs and delivery instruction. The value of this budget was \$900,000 with \$138,400 spent. With these HEERF funds, the College was able to purchase technology for a training room, hire a part-time person to help with the load logistics and planning, and help the elearning director as she organizes training sessions. Additional examples of what faculty are participating in include attending conferences, both virtual and face to face, such as the Texas Digital Learning association.

Dr. Halcomb stated faculty are taking courses to earn online teaching certificates, instructional design certificates, master series courses, and online learning. Also, consultants are hired to create our own training modules that we own, and we will keep for future use. We also are paying faculty a stipend to serve as mentors. Those faculty that are experts in online learning,

are being paid a stipend to mentor their colleagues and anyone that needs help in designing the online course or the canvas course.

Ms. Tammy McDonald stated the next category of the HEERF plan was to initiate a strategy to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on the College campuses and in the community. The College implemented a voluntary vaccination incentive program for employees and students. The employees received a one-time incentive payment of \$200. There were 706 employees participating in this incentive program and the value of that was approximately \$215,000. On the students' side, it was a one-time incentive payment of a \$200 gift card. There were 3,999 students participating with approximately \$800,000 spent and the program was very successful.

Dr. Larry Lee stated Information Technology (IT) has used its HEERF II and III funding to address the College's long term digital infrastructure, as well as to position the school to weather future crisis. Currently over 90% of funds allocated are encumbered in the four major areas: virtual student support 4%, cyber security/network services 56%, remote learning technology 34%, and virtual desktops 6%. IT personnel are now engaged with several service integrators in the process of scheduling, installing, configuring, testing, and learning to manage the intricacies of the various systems purchased.

Mr. John Strybos stated Physical Facilities was tasked with the health and safety enhancements. He addressed specific areas: indoor air quality, social distancing furniture, decontamination, touchless restroom fixtures, and water fountains. Purchase orders have been issued for these items and are in the process of having all of these items completed and on track. These enhancements will make a big difference because they are long term improvements.

Ms. Keas, Ms. Williams, Ms. Jessica Montalvo-Cummings, Dr. Lee, Mr. Garcia, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

• Property Tax Collection Assessment......Mr. Raul Garcia and Mr. John Johnson (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia began the presentation by stating property taxes alone represents over half of Del Mar College's operating fund with a reported value of \$58.2 million for the 2022 budget plan year. The College's tax profile consists of seven categories: single family homes 41%, commercial 18%, industry 17%, exempt property 12%, apartments/duplexes 5%, other 4%, and mobile homes/condos 3%.

Mr. Garcia continued and stated that single family housing in the College's district performed very well throughout the pandemic with average sales price increased by 62% from \$214,000 in March of 2019 to \$346,000 in December of 2021. This attributed in part to the low interest rate environment paired with the federal emergency assistance programs.

Mr. Garcia reviewed U.S. housing mortgage indicators and stated the College will continue to monitor these activities and will factor trending changes into our property tax collection

rates for the proposed 2023 budget.

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. John Johnson to discuss property tax collection rates and pending property tax litigation. Mr. Johnson reviewed a 12-year analysis of property tax collection and it ranged from a high of 96.10% in 2011 to a low of 92.57% in 2021 and typically minimum collection rate is between 94% to 95% which is a good indicator the total budget for fiscal year will be met. In 2022 the collection rate as of the second quarter was 94.51% which is within the acceptable rate.

In review of prior years' potential property tax refunds, two major petrochemical industries have filed lawsuits contesting their valuations for tax years 2018 thru 2021. Monetary impact to the College cannot be determined until judgement is reached.

Mr. Garcia completed the presentation by stating that the College will continue to monitor trending housing market indicators, tax collections, and property tax litigation in order to make informed recommendations relating to property tax collections for the plan budget year reemphasizing that the College has a risk reserve fund for \$8.6 million which is intended to help buffer any downward revenue pressures caused by business interruptions.

Mr. Johnson, Mr. Garcia, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Dr. Wilson reviewed the three new goals as follows:

Attainment: The aim is to increase attainment to 60% across all working age adults to increase employment opportunities and income for individuals, create a deeper talent pool for employers, and align skills with the increasing number of jobs requiring postsecondary education.

Credentials of Value: By 2030, all degrees, certificates, and other credentials awarded by public institutions of higher education should be "credentials of value" and every student should have the opportunity to complete a "credential of value" with no debt or manageable debt.

Dr. Escamilla provided commentary regarding the College being proponents of credentials of value and used the Transportation Training Department as an example.

Research: For Texas to be a leading state in generating knowledge through basic and applied research, translating it to innovations and discoveries, and partnering with industry at all levels to use this knowledge to drive the economy.

The next steps for Building a Talent Strong Texas are collecting data on Continuing Education programs and credentials, new state dashboards, and new reference guides and information for institutions.

Dr. Wilson and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

# **PENDING BUSINESS:**

Status Report on Requested Information (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott reviewed the list of pending business.

# CONSENT AGENDA

# ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2021 (Regular) February 1, 2022 (Workshop) (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
- 2. Acceptance of Investments for January and February 2022 (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
- 3. Acceptance of Financials for January 2022 (Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Garza made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Regent Kelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

# **REGULAR AGENDA**

6. Discussion and possible action related to adoption of the Joint Federal Community College Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-2022)..... Dr. Natalie Villarreal (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy) Dr. Villarreal stated that advocacy is a robust part of what the Board of Regents, faculty and staff do as part of the College's strategic plan. Dr. Villarreal provided background information regarding the Joint Federal Community College Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-2022) and provided details regarding priorities which include Federal Pell Grants, funding for federal student financial aid and institutional aid programs, and Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization.

Regent Adame made a motion to approve the College's concurrence and/or adoption of the joint federal Community College Agenda for the current Congress. Regent Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

Chair Scott changed the order of the Agenda and called Mr. Raul Garcia to make his presentation.

8. Discussion and possible action on initiating Inclusive Access Pilot for Summer and Fall 2022 and authorizing the charge of course materials assessed by Texas Bookstore Company to the student's account......Mr. Raul Garcia (Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia began his presentation by providing background information regarding the Inclusive Access Pilot Program and the College's partnership with the Texas Bookstore Company. Texas Bookstore Company would like to pilot with a test group this Summer 2022 and Fall 2022. The program helps drive student attainment for academic preparedness and ensures optimal levels of learning by making their books and related materials available on the first day of class. In addition, students will experience a reduction in cost in their books and materials by as much as 50%.

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Mark Ruiz from Texas Bookstore Company. Mr. Ruiz provided information regarding the Inclusive Access Program and its benefits to students and faculty. Mr. Ruiz also provided some examples of how students can save money by purchasing the Inclusive Access EBook versus a printed textbook and reviewed the adoptions selected for the Inclusive Access Pilot Program. Mr. Ruiz introduced Ms. Sophia Jimenez, President of the College's Student Government Association and she provided student input regarding the pilot program.

Mr. Ruiz, Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Beverly Cage, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Hutchinson made a motion to authorize the charge of course materials in the pilot program for inclusive access as presented. Regent Averyt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion passed 8-0 with one abstention amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, and Villarreal in favor and Regent Turner abstaining.

7. Discussion and possible action related to proposed DMC policy changes resulting from recent amendments to Board Bylaws......Ms. Libby Averyt (Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Regent Averyt provided a summary of the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee work on the Board of Regents Bylaws and Code of Ethics. The Committee extended their work to make sure the Board policies were in alignment with the Bylaws changes. Ms. Averyt introduced Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel for Del Mar College and Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources.

Mr. Rivera reviewed the proposed policy revision related to the Bylaws Amendments. Mr. Rivera thanked Regents Averyt, Hutchinson, and Turner for their hard work on this Committee. Regent Averyt stated that the policy will now refer to the bylaws for future changes relating to the Bylaws.

Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Averyt made a motion to adopt the proposed policy revisions. Regent Villarreal seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

Mr. Strybos provided a summary regarding the recommendation for contract award for the Competitive Sealed Proposal RCSP #2022-03, New IT Generation and Transfer Systems. The project involves the installation of two 10-kilowatt natural gas fueled emergency generators, one for the Center for Economic Development and the other for the Coleman Building on the Windward Campus. The College's IT Department identified a critical need for emergency generators to be able to provide internet services to faculty and students in the event of a power outage. The recommendation is to award The Solution Group with the contract and the funding source being HEERF funds.

Regent Kelly made a motion to award the contract as stated to The Solution Group. Regent Garza seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

10. Discussion and possible action on Award of Invitation for Bid, IFB 2022-07, Asbestos Abatement for the White Library and the Memorial Classroom Building

Mr. Strybos provided a summary regarding Bid IFB #2022-07 which is regarding asbestos abatement for the White Library and the Memorial Classroom Building. Mr. Strybos stated this award is a low bid procurement. Physical Facilities Department completed asbestos assessments of the White Library and Memorial Classroom Building, and it identified areas of asbestos that need to be abated prior to renovation starting and is required for issuance of a building permit. The contract will be funded using 2014 Bond funds.

Mr. Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Garza made a motion to award the contract as stated to RNDI Companies, Inc. Regent Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

11. Discussion and possible action on Approval of 2016 Oso Creek Campus Construction Project Change Order 8......Mr. John Strybos (Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability) Mr. Strybos provided a summary and background regarding the purpose of the Change Order to address the scope of work regarding architect's supplemental information, Request for Information (RFI) responses issued by the architect, bulletin issued by the architect and four unforeseen sight conditions. One of the items is the water feature and another is the addition of an outdoor kitchen. The Change Order also encompasses the walkways and connectivity to the water feature between the three buildings on campus. The Change Order being proposed would be funded with the 2016 bond funds.

Mr. Strybos and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Adame made a motion to adopt proposed Change Order No. 8 as presented. Regent Averyt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, Turner, and Villarreal in favor.

At 4:41 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

10. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:

A. <u>TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071</u>: (Consultation with Legal Counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, and the seeking of legal advice from counsel, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion held regarding upcoming calendar dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr