

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

November 9, 2021

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 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, with the following present:

**From the Board:**

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Mr. Ed Bennett, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Ms. Susan Hutchinson, Mr. Bill Kelly, and Dr. Laurie Turner.

Ms. Libby Averyt joined the meeting in progress.

**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. She requested a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Del Mar College Vision Statement.

**AGENDA**

**RECOGNITIONS:**

- Senate Resolution #288 submitted by Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa in recognition of Elva Estrada’s 14 years of outstanding service to the Del Mar College Board of Regents  
 .....Ms. Carol Scott  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa recognized former Regent Elva Estrada with a Resolution passed unanimously by the Texas Senate for her commitment of 35 years to education. Mrs. Estrada served on the Del Mar College Board of Regents for 14 years. Senator Hinojosa stated it was his honor to honor and recognize such an exceptional person. Ms. Estrada’s husband and daughter, Mr. Moses Estrada and Laura Estrada, expressed words of gratitude on behalf of Mrs. Estrada to each of the current Board members including Dr. Escamilla and Mr.

Augustin Rivera, Jr. The current Regents spoke offering words of thanks for her service and friendship and Chair Scott closed with words of appreciation.

- Beverly Cage, Director of Student Leadership and Campus Life, named VP of membership for the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE) and Co-Chair of Student Committee with TAMU-Kingsville.....Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez  
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez recognized Ms. Beverly Cage who was named Vice President of Membership for the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE) and Co-Chair of the Student Committee in partnership with TAMU-Kingsville. Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided background information for TABPHE and thanked Ms. Cage for her leadership and continued dedication to helping bring African American professionals to the table. Ms. Cage provided words of thanks and stated TABPHE helps support faculty and staff and helps retain students to become successful members of the community.

- Alan Berecka, Professor of Learning Resources and Reference Librarian, Poetry Publication, *A Living is Not a Life: A Working Title*.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Jonda Halcomb recognized Alan Berecka for having his collection of poetry published in addition to his four other collections of poems. Mr. Berecka was named the first Poet Laureate of Corpus Christi in 2017. Mr. Berecka provided words of thanks and read one of his new poems. Chair Scott offered congratulations to Mr. Berecka.

- Dr. Chip Campbell, Department Chair of Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, appointed to The Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Texas Transfer Advisory Committee.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
(Goal 1: Completion)

Dr. Jonda Halcomb recognized Dr. Chip Campbell for being selected to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the Texas Transfer Advisory Committee, Specific Subcommittee on Business Administration. This appointment is for three years, and Dr. Campbell will aid in the development of Texas transfer guide, a study curriculum for business administration. The charge of the subcommittee is to use a data-informed approach to support transfer students from community colleges and specifically to maximize the applicability of courses to a major when they transfer. Dr. Campbell provided words of gratitude.

- Janet Kamps, Director of eLearning, appointed to The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Learning Technology Advisory Committee.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Jonda Halcomb recognized Ms. Janet Kamps who was appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Learning Technology Advisory Committee. This appointment is for three years. This committee serves as a forum for problem solving and

generating ideas to improve digital learning and higher education. Ms. Kamps will be working to reflect the goals of the TX60x30 Strategic Plan. Ms. Kamps is the Director of eLearning and provides valuable service on this important Committee and also to the college as a whole as they converted so many online courses over the last year and a half. Ms. Kamps provided words of gratitude and stated it is an honor to serve a second time on the Advisory Committee.

- Kiwana Denson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, recognized by Bend Magazine for her work as a humanitarian.....Ms. Lenora Keas  
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Ms. Lenora Keas recognized Ms. Kiwana Denson for being selected by The Bend Magazine for her humanitarian work. This exceptional honor was in recognition of the work of her foundation that she and her husband, Terrance started in memory of their son, Je'Sani Smith. The Je'Sani Smith Foundation provides education, awareness about rip currents, and water skills training on beach safety. This public campaign gained momentum and State Representative Todd Hunter and Senator Juan Hinojosa sponsored legislation that passed to increase beach safety. Ms. Denson's efforts, locally and statewide, have undeniably saved lives. Ms. Denson provided words of thanks to the Board and The Bend Magazine for being recognized.

- Aviation Maintenance Program, awarded first Harmon Dobson Legacy Award by Tres Grace Foundation.....Ms. Mary McQueen  
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

Ms. Mary McQueen stated the Aviation Maintenance Program was awarded the Harmon Dobson Legacy Award which includes a monetary award of \$50,000 by the Tres Grace Family Foundation. The Aviation Maintenance Program students who pass the FAA, A&P component for board certification have a 100% placement within 30 days. Ms. McQueen stated that Davis Merrell and Ron Agnich do an incredible job of making sure the needs of the Aviation Maintenance Program are being met.

**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**.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb

- Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

Dr. Jonda Halcomb provided background and accreditation information on the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Dr. Halcomb stated the two-year pass rate average is 97.5% for 2019 and 2020. The pass rate information for 2021 is not available yet. One hundred percent of the College's graduates, who are licensed, are employed 12 months after that licensing.

Dr. Escamilla provided comments about his nephew who went through this program and how these programs make an impact on the health of our community.

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT’S REPORT.....Dr. Mark Escamilla**

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

Dr. Escamilla stated the current health and safety protocols will remain in place through the end of this semester, including encouragement of facial coverings/masks and social distancing. The College continues to highly encourage COVID-19 vaccinations. The goal for the Spring semester is to increase classes on campus, expand in-person student services, and host College-wide events but will remain vigilant and in contact with health officials. Dr. Escamilla stated the virtual 2021 Fall Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**REGENTS REPORTS:**

- 2021 ACCT Congress  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott stated that she and Regents Adame, Averyt, and Garza attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Conference in October. Chair Scott was invited by Dr. Ebersol to attend a table discussion for the pre-conference academy and also attended Dr. Escamilla’s presentation regarding upgrades to the College’s digital systems. The Regents provided information regarding the sessions they attended. Chair Scott advised that the ACCT Conference will be in New York in 2022 and the legislative conference will be in Washington D.C. in February 2022.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Legislative Update.....Dr. Natalie Villarreal  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott introduced Dr. Natalie Villarreal who began her presentation regarding the Texas Legislature. Dr. Villarreal stated the third special session concluded on October 19, 2021. The primary focus was redistricting and provided information regarding the changes made to the different districts. Dr. Villarreal continued and stated the third special session also discussed the \$16 billion of federal appropriations for COVID-19 relief. Dr. Villarreal reported the College received the True Grant Initiative of \$15 million but the additional \$100 million requested for the 50 community colleges was not secured. Dr. Villarreal provided detailed information of some of the allocations for the money. Dr. Villarreal stated that the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Community College Association of Texas Trustees were meeting to discuss the next strategic plan for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature. The focus will be on the Texas Community College Commission on Finances (TXCCCF) appointed by the Governor of which Chair Scott and Dr. Escamilla are members.

Dr. Escamilla continued stating the TXCCCF first meeting will be next week at the Capitol and this Commission will be integral in the future of finance for community colleges and Del Mar College is fortunate to have two representatives on this Commission.

Dr. Villarreal continued and stated she will report back to the Board in March 2022 after attending the National Congress in Washington, D.C. in February.

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**

#### **CONSENT MOTIONS:**

*(At this point the Board will vote on all motions not removed for individual consideration.)*

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:  
Regular Board Meeting, October 5, 2021  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*
2. Acceptance of Investments for October 2021  
*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*
3. Acceptance of Investments for September 2021  
*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Regent Kelly made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, and Turner in favor.

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. Discussion and possible action regarding award of Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal, RCSP #2021-16, Music Building Renovations.....Mr. John Strybos  
*(Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Mr. John Strybos began his presentation regarding an award for Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal #2021-16 for the Music Building Renovations. Mr. Strybos provided background information regarding this qualification-based proposal. Mr. Strybos stated the Evaluation Committee, which included staff, faculty, and design consultants, is recommending awarding Victory Building Team with the bid of \$7,717,000.00 which includes the building re-roof as part of the project using the 2014 bond project funds. Mr. Strybos stated that they are requesting acceptance of all three added alternate bids as well.

Mr. Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents including questions about awarding the contract to the most responsible bidder.

Regent Adame made a motion to award Victory Building Team \$7,717,000.00 using 2014 bond project funds for the renovation of the music buildings. 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, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, and Turner in favor.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding recommendation to award Security Services contract RFP #2021-17.....Ms. Tammy McDonald and Ms. Lauren White  
*(Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Ms. Tammy McDonald began the presentation by providing background information of the Request for Proposal #2021-17 for Security Services including the process. Ms. McDonald stated the committee met and reviewed two proposals and was recommending Allied Universal Security Services with a bid in the amount of \$1,254,839.00.

Ms. McDonald responded to questions from the Board of Regents including questions about awarding the contract to the most responsible bidder.

Regent Averyt made a motion to award the Security Services contract to Allied Universal Security Services as presented. Regent Adame 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, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, and Turner in favor.

At 2:31 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

- A. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071**: (Consultation with Legal Counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, with possible discussion and action in open session; and the seeking of legal advice from counsel on pending legal or contemplated matters or claims, with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
- B. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a)(1)**: (Personnel Matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; including, Annual Board Self-Evaluation, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 3:26 p.m. with no action taken.

**CALENDAR:** Discussion held regarding upcoming calendar dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr