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

February 4, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened in the Isensee Board Room, Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, with the following present:

From the Board:

Ms. Carol Scott, Ms. Libby Averyt, Mr. Ed Bennett, Ms. Elva Estrada, Ms. Susan Hutchinson, Mr. Gabe Rivas, Mr. Hector Salinas, and Dr. Mary Sherwood.

From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Vice President of Workforce Development and Strategic Initiatives; Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Dr. Rito Silva, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Ms. Mary McQueen, Executive Director of Development; Ms. Lorette Williams, Executive Director of Communication and Marketing; Dr. Natalie Villarreal, Director of External and Board Relations; Ms. Delia Perez, Board Liaison, and other staff and faculty.

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM CALL/MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/VISION STATEMENT

Ms. Scott called the meeting to order with a quorum present. She requested a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Vision Statement.

RECOGNITIONS:

Students:

Dr. Lewis stated that Manuel Jasso, Gerald Espejo, Rudy Benjamin Camareno, Joseph Salinas, Eric Heatherley, and Joel Hernandez of the College's music students earned positions in the 2020 Texas Community College Band Directors Association All State Symphonic Band. Also, Joel Hernandez was selected as the winner of the 2020 Concierto Competition and will serve as the featured guest soloist during the 2020 Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band Concert scheduled in February at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio. Dr. Lewis thanked Dr. Abel Saldivar Ramirez, Associate Professor and Conductor of the DMC Wind Ensemble and the numerous faculty mentors of these students.

Dr. Cindy Bridges, Chair of the Music Department expressed her congratulations to these students and stated each went through a rigorous audition process.

Dr. Escamilla thanked the music students for performing during the General Academic and Music Building tour earlier this morning.

Employees:

Tammy McDonald introduced two staff members and one faculty member who earned their doctorate degree. Dr. Dan Fisher, Director of Counseling, Disability and Retention Services, earned his doctorate in Organizational Leadership from North Central University. Dr. Lisa Muilenburg, Assistant Professor of Learning Resources, earned her doctorate in Community College Leadership from National American University. Dr. Natalie Villarreal, Director of External and Board Relations, earned her doctorate in Community College Leadership from Kansas State University.

Ms. Scott congratulated the new doctorate recipients.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items) – 3-minute time limit

Mr. Jack Gordy made general public comments regarding attorney fees and meal expenses.

Mr. John Wilson made general public comments regarding space expansion.

Mr. Shaun Flanagan made general public comments regarding student enrollment and dorms.

Dr. James Klein made general public comments regarding Dr. Laura Belmonte who will be speaking at Del Mar College on February 17, 2020.

Flour Bluff Viking Academy (Pilot) (Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)

Dr. Escamilla provided information regarding a program that Del Mar College is working with Flour Bluff ISD to prepare a program that is a blend of Collegiate High School and a Dual Credit Program. Flour Bluff ISD will be committed to busing students for face-to-face classes at our physical facilities starting in the Fall of 2020. Flour Bluff ISD approached Del Mar College with this idea so students would not need to wait for the Southside Campus to be built. A full press release is forthcoming.

January 22, 2020: TACC Quarterly Meeting

(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla attended the first of quarterly meeting of the Texas Association of Community Colleges in Austin, Texas. Dr. Escamilla serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and stated that the Association continues to move steadily ahead and is getting ready for the next year's session.

PENDING BUSINESS:

Status Report on Requested Information

(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Workshop, December 10, 2019

Regular Board Meeting, December 10, 2019

(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

2. Acceptance of Investments for December 2019

(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

3. Acceptance of Financials for December 2019

(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Estrada made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. Regent Rivas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas, Scott, and Sherwood in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

Dr. Lewis read a resolution regarding the recommendation to grant Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Barbara Craig for distinguished service. Dr. Craig served the College as Professor of English for 37 years.

Professor Emeritus Craig told the Board that she enjoyed all 37 years working at Del Mar College. She wants to be an advocate to set up an email list for Del Mar College retirees.

Dr. Escamilla thanked Dr. Craig for her years of service to the College, to the students, and for her friendship.

Regent Averyt made a motion to approve the recommendation of Dr. Barbara Craig for Professor Emeritus. Regent Hutchinson seconded the motion. Regents thanked Dr. Craig for her service and offered congratulations. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas, and Sherwood in favor. There were no public comments.

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the 2020-2021 Budget Plan Calendar and stated that the College is already off to a good start.

Mr. Garcia provided information of current per semester credit hour tuition. Tuition per credit hour is currently \$67 and no increase of fees is being recommended at this time. The College leads the group with a reported fall 2019 head count of 11,867 and also leads the group with the largest number of part-time students at 78%. The College has the third largest number of students enrolled in a technical program at 31%.

Mr. Garcia discussed peer group characteristics in regards to student affordability: the Del Mar College student has less debt than one other community college and the Del Mar College student receives on average \$4,337 in Pell financial aid which is the most amount relative to our peer groups.

Mr. Garcia further stated that Del Mar College continues to be the best value option with an annual cost of attendance of \$3,260. The maximum annual Pell Award for a qualifying student is \$6,195. The College is envisioning a steady and modest tuition increase strategy that will assist the Del Mar student with planning on how they will finance their education moving forward.

The College is recommending a tuition increase that includes the \$1 from the Board Policy plus one additional \$1 for a total of \$2. The semester hour tuition rate would change from \$67 to \$69. The increase will be used to fund instruction, academic support, student services and other operational needs. Mr. Garcia states that the tuition increase has been vetted with student government and it was well received.

Mr. Garcia states that the College tuition rates have been reviewed and proposes to increase the 2020 - 2021 academic tuition rate of \$1.00 per semester credit hour in addition to the Board Policy B3.21 increase for a total of \$2.00 per semester credit hour.

Mr. Garcia and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions by the Board of Regents.

Regent Averyt made a motion to increase tuition by \$2 per semester credit hour for the 2020-2021 academic year. Regent Sherwood seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried, 7-1, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, and Sherwood voting in favor and Regent Salinas voting against.

Mr. Garcia introduced David McElwain of Patterson and Associates who presented the Quarterly Financial Report ending November 30, 2019, trending financial economics, and geo-political activities impacting the College's investment yields.

Mr. McElwain stated that the bumps in the final quarter of 2019 have been seemingly endless but the one constant has been a relatively stable and solid U.S. economy despite nerve-racking and media-rocking news.

In November 2019, the total fiscal year earnings for Pooled Funds to date were \$404,749 and total fiscal year earnings for Series 2017 and 2018 (A & B) Tax Bond Funds today were \$667,360. Mr. McElwain reviewed asset allocations and provided an overview of the Series 2017 and 2018 (A & B) Tax Bond Funds.

Mr. McElwain responded to questions from the Regents.

Regent Rivas made a motion to accept the Quarterly Investment Report for period ending November 2019. Regent Bennett seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor.

Mr. Garcia provided information regarding the College receiving an AA rating from Standard & Poor's on the College's General Obligation Bonds. A AA rating is a good rating based in part on a sound financial position with a diverse revenue stream, adequate state support for operations, strong property tax growth and growing and solid reserves. This rating is attributed to the improvement of the College's five-year long-term financial plan previously presented to the Board of Regents.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Quarterly Financial Report ending November 30, 2019. The State funding of \$6.9M and other operating revenues of \$25.2M is sufficient to fund the College's total operating expenses of \$22.9M. In addition to our operating revenues and expenses, total revenues and expenses are trending relative in line with the planned budget.

Mr. Garcia stated the College has a financial capacity to continue to support the mission of the College and weather most business interruptions with a cash and investment position of \$54M.

Regent Bennett made a motion to accept the Quarterly Financial Report for period ending November 2019. Regent Salinas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor.

Ms. Keas, August Alfonso, and Brett Flint provided background information regarding the Industrial Pilot Plant Expansion Projects.

Ms. Keas stated that over \$5M in resources have been provided by the community, City of Corpus Christi, and industry partners in the last eighteen months. She reported that one of the projects being currently built is a simulated ethylene cracker. The building of training operational skids, enhanced environmental petrochemical lab and an additional control room are also being built and will provide training. In 2018-2019, \$2.34M was awarded to the College by the City of Corpus Christi through their Business Incentive Type A Funds for this type of equipment to be built.

In the Summer of 2019, the College received a donation in the amount of \$1.5M for technology and equipment for the Gulf Coast Growth Ventures or ExxonMobil SABIC partnership that is to fund Process Technology Lab. The College received \$463,000 from Cheniere Energy for a Liquefaction Skid Unit - LNG Unit which is being fabricated in Louisiana. In addition, NuStar Energy has donated an existing piece of equipment - Pump Training Unit which is valued at \$1M.

In addition, the College has "In-kind" support and scholarships from the following:

| *Turner/Ramirez Artwork Design | 5,000 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| •Industrial Service Companies | 10,000 |
| TOTAL | \$515,000 |

Ms. Keas presented architectural renderings of the simulator projects being fabricated of the distillation pilot plant, liquid-liquid extraction trainer unit, and two Bayport process trainers which will be located inside the GCGV Process Technology Lab. There will be two fully functioning control rooms to operate all of the new equipment simulators when completed. The simulators are being fabricated in Illinois, Louisiana, Texas and France. Some of the installation of these simulators/units will require additional funds.

Mr. Brett Flint explained the breakdown of the funding being requested to complete the Industrial Pilot Plant Expansion and Laboratory Equipment in the Workforce Development with additional funding required of \$467,500.

Mr. Flint provided additional instructional upgrade information regarding the availability of welding and laboratory equipment not anticipated in the original design, evolving instructional requirements, and associated changes to electrical, data, IT and other utilities to accommodate new equipment. In addition, he provided a summary of the initial budget, expenses and contingency balance and stated that the escalation and inflation funds in the bond have not been touched.

Mr. Alfonso has requested approval to allocate the remaining Workforce Development Center contingency funds in an amount up to \$784,627 to support improved and expanded training and instructional capability for Workforce Development programs.

Mr. Alfonso requested approval of a construction contract in the amount of \$742,500 to Victory Building Team to construct the proposed Pilot Plant Expansion site.

Mr. David Davila provided a synopsis of the 2020-01 Pilot Plant Expansion, West Campus proposal which was released on September 16, 2019.

Ms. Keas, Mr. Alfonso, Mr. Davila, Mr. Flint, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Rivas made a motion to approve the designation of available Workforce Development Center Project - unallocated 2014 Bond contingency budget to be used in the amount of \$784,627 to be used for the expansion of the Pilot Plant facilities and installation of other teaching equipment installations. Regent Sherwood seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor.

Regent Averyt made a motion to award a construction contract to Victory Building Team to construct the proposed Pilot Plant Expansion. Regent Rivas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor.

Note: Dr. Adame arrived at 2:36 p.m.

Regents Averyt and Estrada abstained from this discussion due to potential conflicts of interest and stepped out of the Board room.

Dr. Escamilla provided background information and introduced the proposed Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #4 (TIRZ #4). He also thanked Arlene Medrano with the City of Corpus Christi who worked with the College, as well as other City of Corpus Christi staff, regarding their due diligence and preparation of TIRZ #4. Dr. Escamilla states the College has taken part in three other TIRZ programs and has TIRZ representatives on the College's Board of Regents.

Ms. Keas provided an overview of the TIRZ Policy which was passed on November 12, 2019. The City of Corpus Christi passed Ordinance #031927 creating TIRZ #4 in an area of Corpus Christi known as North Beach. The College received a request from the City on January 10, 2020 requesting participation.

Tax increment financing is a tool authorized by Chapter 311 of the Texas Tax Code by which local governments, such as Del Mar College District can reinvest tax revenues from certain taxable property in the District to fund the costs of certain public works, or other projects that benefit a specific geographical area.

Ms. Keas reviewed TIRZ #1 through TIRZ #3 in which the College participated. TIRZ #1 and #2 have ended but TIRZ #3 is on right now for the Downtown Development Area until 2028 at a rate of 100%.

TIRZ #4 - North Beach includes approximately 1,423 acres (454.5 acres of land and 968.3 acres of water), is located within City County District 1, Nueces County Precinct 1 and DMC District 1. The purpose of TIRZ is to promote development by supporting public infrastructure improvements, maintenance projects and development incentives. TIRZ #4 will be from 2019 through 2039 (20 years).

Ms. Keas provided information regarding the existing development within the TIRZ #4 such as the Texas State Aquarium, USS Lexington, New Harbor Bridge Project being built, New Multifamily and single-family Construction, and La Vista Pointe, an upscale multi-family residential development. When reviewing the policy, they look at how it benefits the total economy, economic development, and educational opportunities which the Texas State Aquarium and USS Lexington have significantly contributed.

Ms. Keas presented more detailed information regarding the base tax for TIRZ #4 2019-2039. In 2019, DMC property taxes were \$294,605. Also, tax incentives are provided from reimbursed taxes above the tax base, which means that if a taxpayer or developer were to receive an incentive, they would pay their taxes first on the valuation of the property and the College would get their portion of that tax base guaranteed every year. Then, the amount above the tax base might be reimbursed as an incentive back to the developer. The College is using the same numbers of \$104,512,349 that the City and County used to project from.

The City of Corpus Christi provided the following studies to the College for review and consideration: 1) Urban Engineering Study, August 2019; and 2) Economic Feasibility Study by Jim Johnson, PhD of Landmark Renewal, August 2019.

Ms. Keas reviewed assumption of projected revenues.

Ms. Keas stated that the increased housing, tourism and hospitality in the region would benefit the College's students in the areas of construction, culinary arts, hospitality management, management and supervision, accounting, and real estate sales because so many tie directly into the College's programs.

Ms. Keas provided a recap of the TIRZ #4 projections for the College for 19 years with the base tax year established in 2019.

Ms. Keas responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Rivas made a motion to approve Del Mar College's participation in TIRZ #4 at 100% for nine years and 75% for the remaining 10 years and that the Board further authorize the administration to enter into an appropriate Interlocal Agreement with the City of Corpus Christi consistent with those terms. Regent Adame seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried, 7-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Bennett, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor. Regents Averyt and Estrada abstained from the vote.

Regent Rivas made a motion to appoint Chair Scott as a representative to serve on the TIRZ #4 Board. Regent Adame seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried, 7-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Bennett, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor. Regents Averyt and Estrada abstained from the vote.

Dr. Escamilla introduced the next discussion and stated that the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing is an opportunity to make a major impact on the healthcare in our community. Preparation by The Nursing Department's preparation of this proposal for the Board's consideration.

Ms. Keas stated that 95-100 students are admitted every fall and spring to the Nursing Program. Over 1,600 students are majoring in Nursing and over 385 students are presently enrolled in the Nursing Program as of 2019. Currently, 85.9% of graduates and 96% of currently enrolled RN students would consider a BSN through Del Mar College. Ms. Keas reviewed the short-term and long-term benefits of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

A 2018-2019 survey from Chief Nursing Executives showed the bachelor degree is preferred. The survey also showed a need for more BSN prepared nurses and indicated hiring "as many as possible" in the next 3 to 5 years. Also, Ms. Keas stated that there is a need for additional educational programs in Nueces County to prepare more BSN nurses. By 2029, demand for nurses will increase by 21% in Nueces County and by 2029, there will be over 4,425 nursing positions in Nueces County. Currently, over 25% of the existing nurses are at retirement age.

Ms. Keas stated that adding the BSN will not change the AAS Program and provided information from other Texas colleges with Bachelor in Nursing Degrees. This degree program would build upon what Del Mar College is already doing with our Associates in Applied Science in Nursing to RN.

At this time, Del Mar College has 25 faculty members, two PhD Administrators, eight faculty hold doctorate degrees, and five faculty are currently pursuing doctorate degrees. The present resources at the College will meet the needs for a BSN. Classrooms, clinicals and labs are adequate and can accommodate growth.

The proposed plan for a Bachelor of Nursing was reviewed as follows:

• Students complete existing AAS in Nursing (qualified to pass the state exam for RNs)

64 credit hours

New Program in BSN

• Students complete common core courses

26 credit hours

Students complete nursing courses for BSN at DMC

30 credit hours

• Total at DMC to Bachelor Degree in Nursing (standard for Bachelor degrees in Texas)

120 credit hours

Enrollment projections - new student to the program would be 30 students for year 1, 40 for year 2, 60 for year 3, 70 for year 4, 90 for year 5 with a cumulative total of 290.

Ms. Keas provided information regarding the projected budget and direct revenues and expenditures for nursing courses. For the fifth year, approximately \$1.4M would be revenue generated from the 30 semester credit hours needed for the BSN and approximately \$1.5M would be direct expenditures over a five-year period. Indirect revenues related to the completion of core curriculum courses for the bachelor degree is the additional 26 credit hours required to complete the degree is estimated revenue of \$1,062,988.

Ms. Keas provided a summary of projected revenue to expenses over a five-year period as follows:

| Direct revenues for nursing courses | \$1,428,246 |
|---|--------------------|
| Less direct expenses for nursing | <u>-1,566,509</u> |
| Net loss before indirect revenue | \$ -138,263 |
| | |
| Indirect revenue from common core courses | <u>\$1,062,988</u> |
| Net difference | \$ 924,725 |

Ms. Keas was pleased to announce that the Texas Board of Nursing approved the four-year degree for our nursing program. The next steps and approvals needed are from 1) Del Mar College Board of Regents, 2) Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and 3) SACSCOC. The implementation target date is 2021 or upon receiving the approvals.

Ms. Keas, Dr. Escamilla, John Johnson, Dr. De Leon, and Dr. McWha responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Sherwood made a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science Nursing degree for Del Mar College. Regent Estrada seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried, 8-1, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor. Regent Bennett voted against.

Regent Estrada made a motion that Ms. Susan Hutchinson continue serving as representative for

TIRZ #3 Board. Regent Rivas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously, 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Bennett, Estrada, Hutchinson, Rivas, Salinas and Sherwood voting in favor.

The Board went into closed session at 3:37 p.m.

12. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:

- A. <u>TEX. GOV'T CODE</u>§ 551.071: (Consultation with legal counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation or legal claims, or a settlement offer, with possible discussion and action in open session; and, the seeking of legal advice from counsel, on pending or contemplated legal matters or claims, with possible discussion and action in open session;
- B. <u>TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a)(1)</u>: (Personnel Matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee;
- C. <u>TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.087</u>: (Economic Development), regarding discussion or deliberation of information received from a business prospect with which the College is conducting economic development negotiations and/or the deliberation of an offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect, with possible discussion and action in open session; and
- D. <u>TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.072</u>: (Deliberation Regarding Real Property), regarding the deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property; with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board reconvened at 4:30 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr