

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

August 27, 2024

The Called Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2023, at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas, with the following present:

From the Board:

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Mr. Bill Kelly, and Mr. David Loeb.

Not Present:

Ms. Libby Averyt and Dr. Laurie Turner.

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; Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Vice President of Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. John Strybos, Vice President and Chief Physical Facilities Officer; Mr. Jeff Olsen, Vice President of Communication and Marketing; Mr. Matthew Busby, Vice President of Development and Donor Advising; Ms. Delia Perez, Director of CEO Office and Board Relations, and other staff and faculty.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Discussion and possible action related to adoption of the Order of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District: 2024-2025 Maintenance and Operations Budget and the 2024-2025 Debt Service Budget.....Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate – Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College has complied with the legal requirements as mandated by the State of Texas for the purpose of adopting proposed Maintenance & Operating (M&O) and Debt Service budgets. The College is asking for the Board's consideration of the action item to approve the proposed M&O and Debt Service budgets for fiscal year 2025.

Regent Crull made a motion to approve the Order for adoption of the Budgets 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 5-2, amongst Regents present, with

Regents Scott, Adame, Crull, Babbili, and Loeb in favor, and Regents Garza and Kelly against.

2. Discussion and possible action related to the Order of the Board of Regents of Del Mar College District: 2024-2025 Tax levy of \$0.261740 per \$100 of taxable value for the Del Mar College District.....Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate – Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College has complied with the legal requirements mandated by the State of Texas for the purpose of adopting the proposed M&O and debt service property tax levies. The College asked the Board to approve the proposed increase to the total tax revenues to properties on the tax roll in the preceding year of 2.15% for a combined tax rate of 26 cents, 0.261740.

Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel, stated the proposed Order for this tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 4.97% and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$24.94.

Regent Babbili made a motion that “the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.261740, which is effectively a 4.97% increase in the tax rate” and for approval of the Order on the tax rate. Regent Crull 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 5-2, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Crull, Babbili, and Loeb in favor, and Regents Garza and Kelly against.

3. Discussion and possible action related to the Resolution of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District: 2024-2025 Tax Exemptions.....Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate – Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College is asking for the Board's approval of the property tax exemptions. The Qualified Charitable Organizations Exemption provides a tax exemption if the property is used for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes. The Qualified Disabled Veterans Exemption provides a tax exemption ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 for a disabled veteran's homeowner. The Homestead Exemption provides a tax exemption valued at \$5,000 on a person's residence homestead. In accordance with the state's property tax code, the College can elect to provide an additional tax exemption to the Homestead Exemption. The College is proposing an additional exemption to a person of 65 years of age or older, or a person who is under the age of 65 who qualifies for disability insurance benefits. This exemption is valued at \$50,000, for a combined total of \$55,000 for each year.

Regent Babbili made a motion to adopt the Resolution for 2024-2025 Tax Exemptions as presented. Regent Loeb 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 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Crull, Garza, Babbili, Kelly, and Loeb in favor.

At 12:38 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session.

4. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:

- A. 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, 1.) Annual Evaluation of College President and President's Contract, with possible discussion and action in open session, and
- B. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071:** (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 of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 1:09 p.m. with the following actions:

Regent Adame made a motion to adopt the Order for the 2024 Tax Levy as previously presented. Regent Babbili 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 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Crull, Garza, Babbili, Kelly, and Loeb in favor.

Chair Scott announced that the performance evaluation of Dr. Escamilla was completed, and the Board wanted to applaud the work he has done the last year getting the College through some difficult financial challenges, implementing House Bill 8 changes, completing the strategic planning process, and his ongoing work with the faculty and staff, always for the betterment of the students and community.

Regent Crull made a motion to approve a 5% raise to Dr. Escamilla's current annual base salary. This will result in an annual salary for FY 25 in the amount of \$368,594.60. In addition, the motion includes an approval of a performance bonus for FY 24 in the amount of \$75,000, based on Dr. Escamilla's positive

annual evaluation from the Board for FY 24, to be paid by August 31, 2024, and the same bonus to be awarded on an annual basis going forward, conditioned on a positive annual evaluation from the Board, to be paid by August 31st of that fiscal year. All other terms, conditions, and benefits in the President's employment contract, as previously approved and amended, remain unchanged, and in full force and effect, and General Counsel is hereby directed to prepare the appropriate documentation and contract amendments. Regent Babbili 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 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Crull, Garza, Babbili, Kelly, and Loeb in favor.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr