

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

November 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas with the following present:

From the Board:

Present:

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

From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Mr. Ali Kolahdouz, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; 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 for Student Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Sanders, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. John Strybos, Vice President and Chief Physical Facilities Officer; 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.

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM CALL

Chair 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.

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

Ms. Roseanne Norman provided public comments regarding the possibility of the College offering job skills classes to individuals with disabilities.

RECOGNITIONS:

- Del Mar College has received the ASN Student Choice Award for Holistic Advising and is presented by NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education; this award was led by Leticia Wilson, Director of Advising Initiatives, and is accompanied by a grant of \$8,000.....Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez
(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase Completion for all Students and III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez provided the Board with background information about the award and its testament to the College's unwavering commitment to including student voices and perspectives in the holistic advising redesign efforts that have been made. The College received an \$8,000 grant from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NAPSA) and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education which will provide an exciting opportunity for students to earn stipends, assisting them with their fiscal needs and further enrich their educational experience. Dr. Benavides-Dominguez thanked Ms. Leticia Wilson, Dr. Jennifer McWha, and the team who assisted with this endeavor.

- Janet Kamps, Director of eLearning, has been reappointed to the State's Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC). The LTAC advises the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding matters of distance education and computer-assisted instruction. Over the past several years, Janet has led a subcommittee of the LTAC and contributed to the revision of the *Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education* which guide distance education in Texas Higher Education.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Halcomb provided information regarding Ms. Kamps being reappointed to the State Level Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC). Dr. Halcomb provided background information regarding the Committee and advised that Ms. Kamps served on the LTAC subcommittee that revised the state definitions for distance education. Ms. Kamps has also been a member of the Texas Digital Learning Association since 2001, in which she serves on the Professional Development, Accessibility, and Information Committees. Throughout this organization, Ms. Kamps provides cutting edge professional development in distance and digital education to institutions throughout the state. Ms. Kamps expressed words of gratitude and appreciation.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Dr. Mark Escamilla

- October 9, 2024: TACC Quarterly Meeting
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla attended the Texas Association of Community College (TACC) Quarterly meeting in preparation of the next legislative session.

- October 22-26, 2024: ACCT Congress, Seattle, Washington
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla attended the ACCT Congress in which six of the Regents attended. Dr. Bryan Stone attended and represented western region of the country.

- November 7, 2024: Superintendent's Symposium
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla reported that the Superintendent’s Symposium was held at the Oso Creek Campus. The turnout was phenomenal with the symposium being led by Dr. Leonard Rivera and Mr. Conrado Garcia. A total of about 35 school districts attended and were represented.

REGENTS REPORTS:

- Regent Carol Scott elected as ACCT’s Western Region Chair for 2024-2025
.....Ms. Libby Averyt
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Ms. Libby Averyt recognized and congratulated Chair Scott on being elected as Western Regional Chair for ACCT.

- October 22-26, 2024: ACCT Congress, Seattle, Washington
.....Regents Scott, Adame, Garza, Babbili, Kelly, and Turner
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Chair Scott stated several Regents attended the ACCT Congress. Regents Adame, Turner, Kelly, Garza, Babbili and Scott shared their experiences at the Congress and which sessions made an impact on them.

- October 23, 2024: India-U.S. Community College Workforce Development Partnership - ACCT Congress.....Dr. Anantha Babbili
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Babbili provided background information regarding the Workforce Development Partnership and provided commentary about the teamwork between India and the U.S. for future global collaborations.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chair Scott changed the order of the Agenda.

- City of Corpus Christi Awarded the DMC Foundation Nearly \$1.9M for Enhanced Skills Training for High Demand Careers.....Mr. Matthew Busby
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize Resources to the College)

Mr. Busby recognized Ms. Sandra Alvarez, President of the Del Mar College Foundation and provided information regarding the partners for the \$1.9 million award for enhanced skills training for high demand careers which include CCREDC, Type A/B Board, City of Corpus Christi, Del Mar College, Del Mar College Foundation. He stated the award will benefit five DMC programs and described the timeframe of the award, the programs included, and provided words of gratitude to all involved. He also stated at least 1,400 students majoring in the five programs will benefit beginning the Spring of 2024 semester with 396 graduates from academic year 2023-2024 with the goal to increase total graduates to 472 for 2026.

- 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Update.....Dr. Natalie Villarreal
(I: *Communicate, Goal 1: Collaborate across the College and Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Villarreal stated that the Board approved the strategic plan with three guiding stars which include: Communicate, Elevate, and Cultivate.

For Communicate - Goal One: Collaborate across the College which includes: Continue the practice of shared governance. Engage leaders at all levels. Improve student-facing communication. Enhance internal communication pathways for faculty and staff. Goal Two: Connect beyond the College which includes: Prioritize enrollment marketing. Increase DMC brand awareness across the Coastal Bend. Recruit through various avenues. Streamline communication. Bring the community to campus. Represent the College through advocacy and volunteerism. She also stated one of the ways to communicate with students is through the Student Affairs Office. Student Affairs provides resources to our students which include Valdar's Market, our Campus Counseling Center, and our Viking Career Closet.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) - Increase faculty/staff satisfaction with frequency and content of internal communications to 70%. Establish baseline in 2024-2025 -Increase participation in college-wide sponsored activities. Increase usage of student resources by 100 students every year. Establish baseline in 2024-2025 - Increase number of communications and events held jointly between the College & external partners. Establish baseline 2024-2025-Increase community awareness of DMC and programs. Increase student participation in community-based projects by 5%.

For Elevate - Goal One: Increase completion for all students which includes: Create programs in response to individual and community needs. Enhance instructional environments to facilitate student success. Facilitate transition from entry point programs to credit programs. Create multiple pathways for students to achieve their educational intent. Goal Two: Maximize resources entrusted to the College which includes: Maintain accessibility for students. Diversity revenue streams. Align institutional framework with HB8 Funding. Leverage financial support for student needs. Coordinate the use of information resources. Maximize effective space utilization. Maintain physical resources.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) - Increase the total number of students completing a degree, certificate, or award by 5% a year for five years. Increase total number of students completing 15 semester credit hours in Dual enrollment by 3% each year. Increase total number of faculty attending E-learning training by 3% yearly for five years. Keep DMC student tuition and fees for 15 semester credit hours to no greater than the Top 3 peer community colleges by comparison. Increase the total number of high-demand institutional credentials leading to licensure by 25 the first year and 5 each year over the next five years. Increase total number of transition students matriculating to credit by 200 students every year for a total of 1,000 student increase over 5 years.

For Cultivate – Goal One: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential which includes: Expand opportunities for professional development. Enhance opportunities for advancement. Prioritize opportunities for faculty and staff to engage in wellness initiatives.

Establish a Culture of Belonging: The Viking Way. Goal Two: Optimize the Viking Student Experience which includes: Establish first interactions to promote DMC programs and recruit students. Engage with incoming students. Help students navigate through comprehensive educational pathways. Prepare all faculty and staff to properly advise all students. Recognize milestones. Prepare students for post-completion success.

Dr. Villarreal stated that the College has looked extensively at internal data, such as the Quality Enhancement Plan, and advising initiatives. These things have been in place for years and are beneficial going forward. Coming into 2024, we were ensuring that they were going to continue as well as new initiatives such as Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, new marketing plan, and House Bill 8.

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

- Student Enrollment Update

.....Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Jonda Halcomb and Dr. Leonard Rivera (*II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase Completion for all Students and III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience*)

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Halcomb, and Dr. Rivera presented an update regarding student enrollment. They provided an overview and leading indicators for funding under House Bill 8. The fall credit courses in all sectors increased from 2023 to 2024. The College fall 2023 certified enrollment was 9,720 and preliminary fall 2024 enrollment is 10,256 which shows a 5.5% increase. Enrollment across all race and ethnicity groups was discussed and male/female enrollment numbers were also provided. Continuing Education annual headcount numbers rose 2.8% for 2023-2024. The College showed a 19.3% 5-year increase for fall 2024 with 3,095 students enrolled. A total of 832 students transferred to 4-year institutions for the year 2021-2022.

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Halcomb, Dr. Rivera 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*)

CONSENT AGENDA

Notice to the Public

The following items are of a routine or administrative nature. The Board of Regents has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless requested by a Board member or a citizen, in which event the item(s) will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in their normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The remaining items will be adopted by one vote.

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:
Workshop, October 8, 2024
Regular Board Meeting, October 8, 2024
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)
- 2. Acceptance of Investments for October 2024
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)
- 3. Acceptance of Financials for September 2024
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Regent Loeb made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. 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, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb in favor. Regent Turner was not present during the vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 4. Discussion and possible action related to Annexation – Clarkwood Estates and County Road 36 Right-of-Way.....Mr. John Strybos
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Strybos stated the City of Corpus Christi has annexed property in accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 130.066, that provides for the automatic annexation of certain territory. As the City of Corpus Christi has annexed the property, then Del Mar College can continue to annex the property as well. The approximate 87.57 acres of land are located at the northwest corner of County Road 36 and Farmer Market Road 2292, Clarkwood Road, and the annexation of 1.254 acres, or 2,590 linear feet of section of the County Road 36 right of way that abuts the property southern boundary, which will bring the properties into the territorial limits of Corpus Christi. The proposed annexation area is located within the Tuloso-Midway Independent School District service area, and recommendation is to proceed with this annexation.

Regent Crull made a motion to annex the area as 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb in favor. Regent Turner was not present during the vote.

At 2:38 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session.

6. 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 i.) appointment to the Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors, and, ii) review of President's goals; with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 3:31 p.m.

- 5. Discussion and possible action related to resolution casting votes for candidate(s) for the Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors.....Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr. (*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Mr. Rivera reviewed again with the Board the new process by which some members of the Board of Directors for the Nueces County Appraisal District Board are appointed. Five of the members of the new process are going to be elected by the taxing entities. As a taxing entity, the College has been apportioned a block of votes, 595, to be cast along with the other taxing entities. The number of votes apportioned to each entity is based on the percentage of past tax revenues.

Regent Loeb made a motion to cast all 595 votes for the College's nominee Deanna Heavlin. 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 9-0, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr