

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

March 7, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., at the Oso Creek Campus, Culinary Arts Building, Community Room, 7002 Yorktown Blvd., 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., and Mr. David Loeb.

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; Ms. 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; Ms. Mary McQueen, Vice President of Advancement and Government Relations; 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).

There were no public comments made for this meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

- The General Academic and Music Building Phase II won two design awards from AIA Corpus Christi. One design award is selected by the blind jury of eminent architects from Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio. Another is the Mayor's Choice Award selected by Mayor GuajardoMr. John Strybos
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

Mr. Strybos recognized Richter Architects for winning two design awards for the General Academic and Music Building (GAMB II), one award was from the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects by a jury of eminent architects from Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio. The other was the Mayor's Choice Award. Mr. Strybos introduced

Elizabeth Chu Richter and Aaron Geiser who provided words of gratitude and added GAMB was also chosen for a national award by the Brick Industry Association. Chair Scott and Dr. Escamilla provided words of thanks.

- GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) for Annual Financial Reporting for fiscal year ended August 31, 2021Mr. Raul Garcia
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia introduced and recognized the Business Office team members for earning two awards for financial reporting from the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA). The Business Office was awarded the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year 2021. Chair Scott congratulated the Business Office on their success.

STUDENT SUCCESS REPORTMs. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez

- Early College Programs
(Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided the Board an overview of Early College Programs (ECP) including service areas, headcount information, off-campus outreach details, and the accomplishments achieved by the Early College Programs team. Mr. Bob Montez, Ms. Nicole Kindzirsky, Mr. Dan Korus, Dr. Leonard Rivera, and Dr. Jonda Halcomb were recognized as some of the team that makes the program a success.

Chair Scott and Dr. Escamilla provided commentary regarding advancing dual credit programs.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

REGENT'S REPORTMs. Carol Scott

- Appointment of Audit Committee Members
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Chair Scott reported to the Board of Regents that she made appointments to the Audit Committee.

Per the Bylaws, the Audit Committee is a standing committee, and the appointments are as follows: Regent Garza will Chair, Regents Adame, Crull, and Scott will serve on the committee.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORTDr. Mark Escamilla

- Police Training Academy Groundbreaking, February 16, 2023
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Escamilla reported on the groundbreaking event for the Police Training Academy at the Oso Creek Campus. He thanked all who attended including the Regents and staff members.

- 2023 Board of Trustees Institute, February 21-22, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla stated he and Dr. Leonard Rivera attended the 2023 Board of Trustees Institute and Workshop. They presented the College's model for continuing education and advancing those types of programs. Other trustees attending were very interested in the College's presentation.

- TACC Monthly Meeting, February 21, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla stated he also attended the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) meeting. TACC's new administration has made a change to monthly meetings during the legislative session to stay abreast of new information.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Strategic Planning: Factors Impacting the Future of the CollegeMs. Lenora Keas
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Ms. Keas provided information regarding the College's strategic planning process which includes four key areas: 1) economy of the region and state; 2) characteristics of the population within the service area; 3) trends in higher education; and 4) legislative impact on funding. She stated that local MSA is 1% higher in comparison to the state and nation unemployment rates. She also reviewed the \$57 billion investment by numerous companies in our area, the projected job trends in the metropolitan area, the largest industries in the metropolitan area, and the top industry location quotient.

Ms. Keas reviewed the top active projects including Tesla's announcement of a \$400 million lithium battery facility to be built in Nueces County due to the Process

Technology Program offered at Del Mar College. The similarity of jobs, such as mining, construction, transportation, education, and health services, leisure, and hospitality are all excellent examples of the programs that the College presently has.

The Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation engaged a professional consulting group called Newmark, and worked with Dr. Lee at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, to conduct various surveys of the regional business and community leaders. The 2022 Business Retention and Expansion Report shows 29% of businesses lost or were at risk of losing high value employees and are still dealing with the impact of COVID-19 in the workforce. Additionally, the report identified the top jobs in demand, and Del Mar College has programs in all the areas identified. The top three areas needing assistance by the business and industry leaders are employee training programs, grant funding for specialized workforce training, and supply chain assistance. The College's corporate services and career technology programs work directly to provide these types of programs to train employees.

Ms. Keas reviewed the Targeted Industry Study by Newmark that identified workforce needs that align with the College's programs which include UAS drone, advanced manufacturing, steel and metal fabrication, recycling, and green manufacturing. The Study also highlighted the College's Process Technology Program in supporting chemical processing and refining. The Port of Corpus Christi is a driver of the regional and national economy as the number one exporter of crude oil and in annual revenue tonnage. The Port accounts for over 98,000 related jobs and more than 38% of the area's labor force. The College presently has MOUs and is conducting training with the Port of Corpus Christi. The Port has \$65 billion capital investments with \$12 billion being foreign direct investments.

Ms. Keas continued reviewing the population trends of the metropolitan service area (MSA): 20% or over 91,000 are millennials (ages 25-39); 27% or approximately 125,000 are 55 or older and could retire soon; racial diversity is high compared to the nation; 69% of the population is minority compared to 40% nationally; and has a higher number of veterans than the nation at almost 32,000 individuals. Average earnings per job for 2022 was \$64,000 which is \$15,600 below the national average per job.

Ms. Keas also reviewed the results of a survey conducted by the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation to determine level of attachments of the citizens to the region. The three key areas of recommendations centered around economic offerings and place connectedness, social offerings, aesthetics and community assets.

Ms. Keas discussed the trends in education including how women make up approximately 60% of the College population; disconnected youth since COVID-19 has increased more than the state average; 19% of youth between ages 16-24 are disconnected as compared to 15% in 2015-2019, and more students are living in poverty in our own community.

Ms. Keas stated one of the top considerations in our own strategic planning process is the economy in the region and the State of Texas. Job growth and in demand skills are tied to workforce demands, and the College needs to focus on program growth that is connected to workforce demands.

A full discussion was held among the Board of Regents, Ms. Keas, and Dr. Escamilla.

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

- Legislative UpdateMs. Mary McQueen
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Ms. McQueen reviewed important deadlines for the 88th Legislative Session and stated there have been 4,359 bills filed as of March 1, 2023. As of February 23, 2023, the College is monitoring 65 Level I high impact bills, 76 Level II high impact bills, 139 Level III low impact bills, and 123 Level IV low impact bills. Some of the main categories of bills being monitored include appropriations, scholarships, tuition and financial aid, property taxes and appraisals, cyber and IT, curriculum and dual credit, and nurse education. She reviewed the Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TXCCCF) funding recommendations. Texas Community Colleges have 43% of all Texas postsecondary students; 93% of all career and technical education and degrees awarded; 92% of dual credit enrollments; 68% of all Texas freshman and sophomore, 70% of all minority freshman and sophomore in higher education; and 44% of Texas credentials awarded to economically disadvantaged students. Texas ranks in the top 5% of the nation’s affordability, community college students have less debt, and public university students graduate with 56% of debt.

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

- Property Tax Collection AssessmentMr. Raul Garcia
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia provided information regarding property tax collections which is the largest of the College’s three revenue streams. The College’s reported 2022 property tax revenue is \$60.6 million, and represents 56% of the College’s annual operating revenues. He reviewed the property valuations including the District’s real estate market, property tax collections, and the 2024 Budget Plan. The property values are heavily weighted on single family homes at a rate of 40% of the District’s total valuation. He also provided a review of the Nueces County Appraisal District Certified Appraisal Roll, the district property valuation scaled up from 36.1 billion to 44.5 billion during the four-year period ending 2022.

Mr. Johnson provided information regarding the comparison of property tax collection rates on the adjusted current tax levy as of January 31, 2023. The collection rate of 2023 is 69.3% and is within range which is a good indicator that collections will closely resemble budgetary projections. The lost revenue exceeded \$1 million. He provided

general information regarding two major petrochemical industries contesting their valuations for tax years 2018 through 2022.

Mr. Garcia and Mr. Johnson 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:
Regular Board Meeting, February 14, 2023
Called Meeting, February 14, 2023
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
2. Acceptance of Investments for February 2023
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
3. Acceptance of Financials for January 2023
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. 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 6-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb, in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Discussion and possible action regarding Annexation - Tracts near FM 2444 and CR43, and FM 2444 from CR 41 to CR 47 Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr. and Mr. John Strybos (*Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability*)

Mr. Rivera provided a general introduction of the Texas Education Code Section 130.066 that gives public junior colleges or community colleges in Texas the right to automatically annex any property annexed by a municipality or a school district that is wholly within the boundaries of the community college. Mr. Rivera introduced Mr. Strybos who continued the presentation. He discussed the City of Corpus Christi's annexation of Section of County Road 43 and 18, located south of Farm to Market 2444, or approximately 9.78 acres, annexing approximately 37.44 acres of land per owner petition, and annexing a section of FM 2444 from CR 41 to County Road 47 into the territorial limits of the City of Corpus Christi. The property is in London Independent School District boundaries. The proposed Caroline Heights subdivision buildout is projected to take four to five years with the lot price projected at \$210,000 - \$260,000 with an estimated average sales price of \$600,000 with an estimated value of property of almost \$17 million.

Regent Crull commented that more annexation by the City is anticipated in that area. Mr. Strybos and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Loeb made a motion to approve the recommendation to annex the City of Corpus Christi property as described in the memorandum as presented. 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 6-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb, in favor.

At 2:49 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

5. 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, 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, 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.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 3:23 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.