

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

September 10, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, September 10, 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:

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

Absent:

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).

There were no public comments.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

- Kristy Urbick, Chairperson and Education/Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, received her Ed.D. in Community College Leadership from Kansas State University  
.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
*(III: Cultivate, Goal 1: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential)*

Dr. Halcomb announced Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Dr. Kristy Urbick successfully completed her Ed.D. in Community College Leadership from Kansas State University, conferred on August 9th, 2024. Her dissertation was entitled "Exploring the Lived Academic and Social Experiences of Female Student Athletes Who Graduated from Texas Community Colleges." Dr. Urbick's many leadership skills have enabled her to make significant contributions to numerous institutional committees and to connect to our students and help them navigate through college. Dr. Urbick provided words of gratitude for the recognition and thanked her family, friends and co-workers for the support.

- Sara King, Director, Student Engagement & Retention, received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech University.....Dr. Patricia Benavides Dominguez (*III: Cultivate, Goal 1: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential*)

Dr. Benavides Dominguez announced Dr. Sara King, Director of Student Engagement and Retention, successfully completed her program of study earning her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech University. The title of her dissertation was "Raising the 2%: a Narrative Inquiry Study Exploring Hispanic Teen Mother's Sense of Belonging" at a South Texas College. Dr. King provided words of gratitude for the recognition and thanked her family, friends and co-workers for the support.

- Beverly Cage, Director, Student Leadership & Campus Life, has been selected to be on the West Oso ISD Education Foundation as VP of Events/Marketing .....Dr. Patricia Benavides Dominguez (*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Benavides Dominguez announced Ms. Beverly Cage, Director of Student Leadership and Campus Life, was selected to be on the West Oso ISD Foundation Board. Ms. Cage will be the VP of Events and Marketing and will be representing the higher ed community. Ms. King provided words of gratitude for the recognition and thanked her family, friends and co-workers for the support.

- Cheryl Sanders, AVP Student Affairs, will represent the College in the Meadows Institute inaugural cohort *Minding College Minds Postsecondary Mental Health Learning Community*, offered in partnership with the Texas Success Center .....Dr. Patricia Benavides Dominguez (*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Benavides Dominguez announced Ms. Cheryl Sanders, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs went to a Texas Pathways conference, and applied on behalf of the College to participate in the Meadows Mental Health Policy Seminar. The Meadows Institute, *Minding College Minds Postsecondary Mental Health Learning Community*, is offered in partnership with the Texas Success Center and are proud to announce that Del Mar College has been selected to be in the inaugural cohort of that study. Ms. Sanders provided words of gratitude, introduced the members of the team, and stated how important focusing on mental health is and this will allow the College to engage with peer institutions and share best practices to learn how to improve our mental health strategy.

- Elena Rodriguez, Manager, Recruitment and Engagement, Arts & Drama, received the Corpus Christi Under 40 Award.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
*(III: Cultivate, Goal 1: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential)*

Dr. Halcomb announced Ms. Elena Rodriguez, Manager of Recruitment and Engagement for the Department of Art and Drama received the Corpus Christi Under 40 Award. The recognition honors individuals who have made significant contributions to Corpus Christi and have excelled in their professional careers before reaching the age of 40. Dr. Halcomb provided information regarding the many organizations Ms. Rodriguez is involved with that shows her contribution to the Coastal Bend Community. Ms. Rodriguez provided words of gratitude for the recognition and thanked her family, friends and co-workers for the support.

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

- August 22, 2024: TACC Strategic Planning Session 1 and August 27, 2024: TACC Strategic Planning Session 2  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*

Dr. Escamilla attended the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Texas Association of Community College Strategic Planning Session 1 and Planning Session 2 on August 27<sup>th</sup> and stated they are preparing a strategic blueprint for the 50 Texas community colleges and provided an update to the Board of Regents.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- DMC received the THECB Perkins State Leadership Grant, Graciela Martinez, Dean of Student Outreach and Enrollment Services, led this effort and the grant will span two years with a total grant award of \$174,286.....Dr. Patricia Benavides Dominguez  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)*

Dr. Benavides Dominguez announced that the College received a two-year grant that Dean Martinez prepared and submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The College received \$174,000 grant which will enable the College to hire one outreach person and to promote access to the career in tech high school programs offered here at the College. Dean Martinez stated the Viking Pathway will target middle school students and their parents to showcase CTE opportunities by Del Mar College. The Viking Pathway will provide opportunities and help support students who face challenges at home. Dean Martinez stated that in October they will be hosting close to 600 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for Viking Healthcare Awareness.

- Board Policy Review Schedule for 2025.....Ms. Tammy McDonald  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 1: Collaborate across the College)*

Ms. McDonald provided a quick review of the College’s policy review process. For the College’s Fiscal Year 2025 schedule, Chapter 8 – Miscellaneous Procedures, Chapter 9 – Prohibiting Sexual Misconduct, and Chapter 10 – Carrying Handguns on Campus by License

Holder will be reviewed as well as any policies impacted by changes in laws, statutes, regulations, on the federal, state, and local levels.

Ms. McDonald 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:  
Budget Workshop, July 23, 2024  
Regular Board Meeting, August 13, 2024  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*
2. Acceptance of Investments for August 2024  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*
3. Acceptance of Financials for July 2024  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*

Regent Adame 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb in favor.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- 4. Discussion and possible action related to approval of 100% Construction Documents of the City of Corpus Christi Police Substation Far South on Del Mar College Property .....Mr. John Strybos  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*

Mr. Strybos and Mr. Jay Porterfield with Turner Ramirez Architects provided information regarding the interlocal agreement with the City of Corpus Christi and the Oso Creek campus land. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be announced later. Turner Ramirez Architects have now completed the 100% Construction Documents for the City of Corpus Christi Police Substation Far South on Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus. The Substation will be constructed west of the Police Training Academy. The Interlocal Agreement requires the College’s approval of the proposed design which was presented on April 16, 2024. Mr. Porterfield provided a review of the proposed design specs.

Mr. Porterfield and Mr. Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Kelly made a motion to approve the 100% Construction Documents for the substation 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.

- 5. Discussion and possible action relating to the approval of the Certification of Unopposed Candidates and the Order of Cancellation of the 2024 Board of Regents General Election ..... Ms. Jessica Alaniz  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*

Ms. Alaniz provided background information regarding the Order to Call the 2024 Board General Election. The College received the follow applications: Candidates for District 1 – Rudy Garza, Jr.; District 3 – Bill Kelly; and At-Large – Dr. Anantha Babbili, filed applications. No other applications or write-in declarations were received. Pursuant to Texas Election Code §2.051 a political subdivision is allowed to cancel an election if each candidate is unopposed in all single-member and at-large district races. Ms. Alaniz presented the Board the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for Del Mar College District Board of Regents general election for November 5, 2024. The certification not only declares each candidate as unopposed in the respective races, but also serves to declare that each candidate is hereby elected to their respective districts. The newly elected

candidates may not take office or cannot take office or begin their new term until after the prescribed canvassing period has begun, which is on November 8th. Now that the candidates have been declared elected, the board must begin steps to cancel the general election by indicating their vote on the enclosed order. A copy of this order, the approved order will be posted on election day at each polling place in accordance with Texas Election Code.

Regent Adame made a motion to cancel the election scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024 in accordance with Texas Election Code 2.053 and Rudy Garza – District 1; Bill Kelly – District 3; and Dr. Anantha Babbili – At-Large are unopposed and hereby elected as presented. Regent Loeb seconded the motion. Regent Loeb personally noted that Dr. Babbili is the first South Asian to be elected to public office in our community. 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, and in favor.

Chair Scott changed the order of the Agenda and had the Board of Regents go into Closed Session.

At 1:49 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

7. 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;
- 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; with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
- C. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.089**: (Deliberation regarding IT security devices or audits), regarding security assessments or deployments related to information, resources, technology, IT and network security information, or the deployment of specific occasions for implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices, including the IT Security Follow-up Audit Report, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 2:52 p.m. and continued with Agenda Item No. 6.

6. Discussion and possible action related to the nomination of candidates for election to the Nueces County Appraisal District Board.....Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr.  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*

Mr. Rivera provided background and a summary of the nomination process of candidates for election to the Nueces County Appraisal District (NCAD) Board and the new process as amended by the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. Mr. Rivera stated that the Board could nominate (by resolution) up to five candidates for appointment (election) to the NCAD Board and that this nomination had been publicized on the College’s website. Mr. Rivera stated two individuals expressed interest, DeeAnna Heavilin and Susie Sullivan.

Regent Loeb made a motion to nominate DeeAnna Heavilin, the current representative on the NCAD Board. Regent Averyt 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.

**CALENDAR:** Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.