

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

June 11, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, June 11, 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. 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.

Absent:

Ms. Carol Scott.

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 Kolaoudou, 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; Mr. Mathew 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

Regent Averyt, as Acting Chair, 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.

There were no public comments made for this meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

- Del Mar College was awarded two grants by the Texas Workforce Commission: Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) and English as a Second Language (ESL)
Dr. Leonard Rivera
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Rivera recognized Ms. Rachel Benavides, Senior Director – Continuing & Community Education, and her team worked tirelessly to receive a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission in the amount of \$6.45 million to assist students in the College’s Adult Education learning (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL). The grant will run from July 1, 2024 for five years and will serve approximately 4,700 students. Ms. Benavides has amassed over \$10 million in grants during her tenure. Ms. Benavides thanked the Board of Regents and Dr. Escamilla for their support and for the wonderful opportunity to serve her community.

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

- May 16, 2024: Incident Management Training
(Goal 4: *Learning Environments*)

Dr. Escamilla stated Incident Management Training was held at the College on June 1, 2024. He commended Chief Lauren White and Vice President Tammy McDonald for their presentation and the Incident Management Team for their dedication to keeping the College safe.

- July 10-12, 2024: National Forum on Education Policy, Washington DC
(Goal 5: *Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy*)

Dr. Escamilla stated he will attend a national forum on educational policy in Washington DC to participate on a panel to discuss the implications of HB8.

Dr. Escamilla introduced Mr. Jeff Olsen, Vice President of Communication and Marketing who announced the College reached more people on social media than ever before. Mr. Olsen introduced Ms. Jessie Chrobocinski and Mr. Jason Houlihan. Ms. Chrobocinski provided information regarding the College’s *Nothing but Shoes* graduation video which received 17 million plays and 87,000 people worldwide shared the video. She discussed the power of organic social media for our audience.

REGENTS REPORT:

Dr. Laurie Turner congratulated Dr. Leonard Rivera and Ms. Gracie Martinez for their College and Career Night at Gregory Portland Middle School. They along with nine Del Mar College departments were present for two days and engaged with approximately 1,100 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and showed the students the College can offer a tailored program just for them.

With no objection from the Board, Regent Averyt changed the order of the Agenda.

4. Discussion and possible action related to the recommendation of Professor Emeritus status to Phillip Hii, Professor of Music.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Halcomb presented Mr. Philip Hii for consideration of emeritus status in accordance with Board Policy B5.33. The emeritus status is a distinction reserved for faculty who have shown significant service and contributions to higher education. She reviewed a few of Mr. Hii’s highlights of his 35-year career. She also read a Resolution recognizing Mr. Philip Hii who provided 35 years of service to the College in the Music Program, students, and community. Regent Averyt thanked Mr. Hii for his service and inspiration and provided words of gratitude and appreciation.

Regent Adame made a motion to adopt the Resolution to present Mr. Philip Hii with Professor Emeritus status. 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Averyt, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Fiscal Year 2025 Preliminary Budget.....Mr. Raul Garcia
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia stated that the 2025 preliminary budget will be presented by the Business Office team and will be discussing the Calendar FY 2025, operating revenue budget, strategic plan resource allocation, and operating expense budget. He introduced Ms. Jackie Landrum.

Ms. Landrum reviewed dates as to when the Business Office will provide activity information to the Board of Regents regarding the 2025 budget. She further reviewed the revenue challenges and assumptions for the 2025 budget which included the \$2 in-district tuition rate increase, and 2% increase over current enrollment. She continued discussion regarding the property tax which included an evaluation of the overall tax rate, assuming a net valuation growth of 2%, \$400 million in new construction, and adjustments for industrial lawsuits. Ms. Landrum stated the College is still waiting for the final numbers for state appropriations and FAST appropriations, 4% is still included for dual enrollment based on what the College received in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024. She provided preliminary revenue information regarding funding and property tax revenue.

Dr. West reviewed aligning the College’s resources with the Strategic Plan and included information regarding the goals to communicate (collaborate across the College and connect beyond the College), elevate (increase completion for all students, and maximize resources entrusted to the College), and cultivate (nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full

potential and optimize the Viking student experience). She introduced Ms. Tammy McDonald.

Ms. McDonald provided updated information regarding preliminary salary and benefit increases for budget fiscal year 2025. She stated there are four components that make up a nine-month contract which include common base, education, rank, and year experience pay. She reviewed different salary and benefit increase scenarios for exempt, non-exempt, full-time, and part-time faculty.

Ms. Landrum reviewed the Maintenance and Operation Expenses (which are preliminary) in the amount of \$3.8 million. She stated data is still being analyzed and some items have been prioritized to align with the College's Strategic Plan including increasing completion for all students, update instructional equipment along with new program offerings such as the Bachelor of Applied Science, Organizational Management, and Leadership. Additional priorities include optimizing the student Viking experience, election expenses, and HB8 initiatives. Some of the increases expected in the Budget include faculty salary and adjunct expenses. The preliminary expense budget changes for salary and benefits are \$2.4 million. To help increase completion for all students, \$708,000 will be allocated for instructional equipment and the new student experience. An increase of \$3.8 million for non-salary expenses with \$96,000 for contingency which totals \$121 million for preliminary budget expenses.

Ms. McDonald, Mr. Garcia, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Heritage Campus Construction Update.....Mr. John Strybos
(Goal 4: Learning Environments and Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Strybos provided 2014 Bond background information and provided a budget summary as of May 31, 2024, which included proceeds, interest earned, and total available proceeds in the amount of \$161 million. He reviewed the completed projects which totaled \$93 million and the substantially complete active projects which totaled \$23 million. He also provided updates regarding the Police Station, White Library, Viking Hall, and Memorial Building renovations.

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

- Professional Contract Review.....Ms. Tammy McDonald
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Ms. McDonald provided information regarding the semi-annual review of Professional Service Contracts. She reviewed the changes and the revisions that have been made since December 2023. She also reviewed the upcoming contracts set to expire as well as a new contract regarding the CED HVAC system that was added to the list.

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 Meeting, June 11, 2024
Regular Board Meeting, June 11, 2024
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
- 2. Acceptance of Investments for May 2024
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
- 3. Acceptance of Financials for April 2024
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Loeb made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Regent Garza 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 Averyt, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed naming for a gift of significance for the Duane Sandlin Learning Commons on the first floor of White Library.
.....Mr. Matthew Busby
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy and

Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Busby provided information regarding a gift of significance in the amount of \$1.8 million. Mr. Duane Sandlin, a former counselor with Del Mar College who served over 20 years bequeathed the gift to the White Library located on Heritage Campus because it would impact every student at Del Mar College and be a valuable resource. Mr. Busby requested the name of the Learning Commons located on the ground floor of the White Library, Heritage Campus to be named for Duane Sandlin, for the life of the facility.

Regent Babbili made a motion to accept the recommendation to name the Learning Commons located at the White Library after Duane Sandlin 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Averyt, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

- 6. Discussion and possible action on annexation of Clarkwood Estates and County Road 36 Right-of-Way.....Mr. John Strybos
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Strybos provided background information regarding the annexation of Clarkwood Estates and County Road 36 Right-of-Way. In accordance with Texas Education Code 130.066, Automatic Annexation of Certain Territory as the City of Corpus Christi, Del Mar College may also annex the property. He stated staff is recommending the annexation.

Regent Loeb made a motion to accept the annexation as presented. Regent Garza 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 Averyt, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

- 7. Discussion and possible action regarding various Board Policy revisions for approval and notification of Administrative Procedure revisions related to SB18 – Faculty Tenure and Employment.....Ms. Tammy McDonald
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Ms. McDonald provided information regarding revisions of College policy including faculty tenure, employment, administrative revisions and deletions, and board notifications. She stated the policy work that has been prepared specifically to be in compliance with SB 18 which was passed during the Texas 88th Legislative session. She also provided highlights to the Board of the revisions regarding the dismissal process of tenured faculty member for good cause at any time, after providing the faculty member with appropriate due process. One of the major changes included the granting of tenure must be approved by the governing board at the recommendation by the CEO. She acknowledged and thanked her policy work team who helped prepare these revisions.

Ms. McDonald, Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Loeb made a motion to approve recommended revisions, deletions, and additions to Board “B” policies 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 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Averyt, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

8. **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board of Regents did not go into closed session during today’s regular meeting.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr