

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT

June 13, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 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:**

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Ms. Libby Averyt, 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 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; 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.

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

- Introduction of Jeff Olsen, VP of Communications and Marketing  
*(Goal 4: Learning Environments)*

Dr. Escamilla began the President’s report by introducing Mr. Jeff Olsen as the new Vice President of Communications and Marketing for the College and provided a brief background. Mr. Olsen stated he is happy to be on board and looking forward to working with everyone. Chair Scott welcomed Mr. Olsen.

- TACC Monthly Meeting, May 25, 2023  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Dr. Escamilla attended the monthly meeting for Texas Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Legislature bills relating to higher education were discussed.

- THECB Meeting, June 6, 2023  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Dr. Escamilla attended The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting and there was in-depth discussion relating to House Bill 8.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

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

Chair Scott began by reporting House Bill 8 was signed and it was a momentous day for the community college family across the State. Dr. Escamilla thanked the Board of Regents for their support.

Ms. McQueen stated she and Dr. Escamilla would make the presentation and began by providing an informative recap of the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. She reviewed general appropriation bills including HB1 (SB 1) – State Budget; HB 8 - TXCCCF Empowering Legislation; SB 17 – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and SB 18 – Tenure. Some relevant bills that passed included SB 271 – Cybersecurity Reporting; SB 838 – Campus Safety, panic buttons in public schools; SB 1852 – Active shooter training for peace officers; SB 2315 – Task force for consolidation of workforce and social service programs; SB 526 – THECO approval on programs for incarcerated students; and SB 294 – Epinephrine auto-injectors/respiratory distress treatment.

Discussion was held regarding refiling of bills that did not pass; tenure; DEI/belongingness, wellness, and success; and College policy updates.

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

- Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.....Mr. Raul Garcia  
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Mr. Garcia reported that the College will be transforming to the funding formula per HB 8 and the new funding model. The new funding model is significantly dependent on measurable performance outcomes by the colleges which includes the number of student completion and credentials of value, student success transfers to four-year institution and course completion by dual credit students. Contact hours will continue to be a factor in the formula funding model but to a small degree. Also, contact hour production as a factor to the funding formula model will mainly benefit small to mid-size community colleges.

Mr. Garcia reviewed dates for the Budget Plan calendar and introduced Mr. John Johnson.

Mr. Johnson provided information regarding preliminary revenue projections which are based upon assumptions, which have many unknowns at this time. Mr. Johnson reviewed the revenue challenges and assumptions for fiscal year 2024 which included tuition and fees: \$2 in-district tuition rate increase and tuition adjusted to reflect amount received prior year; property tax: overall tax rate unchanged, assumes 4.3% net valuation growth, \$300 million in new construction; and state appropriation: to be determined during the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative session.

A robust discussion was held regarding the figures used in preparation of the budget, a possible appraisal increase cap, potential scholarship dollars, and budget amendments and development.

Mr. Johnson continued with reviewing a five-year property tax history which has gone from a high of 0.288600 down to 2.66104 currently. The College's debt service for the upcoming year is \$1.73 million. Based on 2023 average taxable homestead value of \$229,500.00, the annual homeowner property tax is \$611.00. The actual dollars on an average taxable homestead over last year is \$77.00.

Dr. West continued and provided information regarding resource allocation regarding the budget process. The College allocates resources according to the strategic initiatives that support the strategic goals of the College that support the mission. The first initiative is to provide students with the education they need to obtain credentials so that they can get the jobs in the high demand workforce jobs that are a part of the Texas economy. The second initiative is to recruit and retain exceptional faculty and staff to provide this education to our students.

Ms. Tammy McDonald provided updated information regarding preliminary salary and benefit increases for budget fiscal year 2024. 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.

Mr. Garcia provided a review of non-salary expense increases which include new program development and program growth, student support services, computer hardware and software, property insurance, security and safety, maintenance and repairs, and ground maintenance. The non-salary expense is the second largest resource allocation of new dollars valued, \$1.9 million, followed by the remaining resources allocated to contingency, that's valued at \$61,000. On a year over year basis, the 2024 preliminary budget valued at \$118.8 million represents a 3.3% increase over the prior year's budget of \$114.7 million.

Mr. Garcia stated that the expense allocation will most likely change once state appropriation funding levels are completed. The increased funding in our part-time compensation valued at 370,000 will be used for instruction costs associated with the

scaling up of our workforce programs and our culinary programs. He provided a review of some of the non-salary expenses such as supplies, maintenance & repairs, technology, utilities, telephone, and insurance. In accordance with the College’s cash reserve Board policy, the budget will include a minimum contingency reserved equal to 1.5% of the total proposed expenditure budget which will be \$1.8 million.

Ms. Keas discussed the pending budget priorities tied to additional state funding out of the new appropriations bill. She reviewed the priorities the College has set which include developing new programs and support growth in awards of value, and supporting instructional equipment for program enhancement, enforcing student services and engagement to ensure a culture of caring, provide updated information technology campus infrastructure and implement IT replacement/aging programs, and support and enhance student services and programs to entire service area.

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

- Update on 2019-2024 Strategic Plan and Discussion of Process for the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.....Dr. Natalie Villarreal  
(Goal 1: Completion)

Dr. Villarreal stated Del Mar College operates on a five-year strategic planning cycle. The goal of the plan is to create some overarching goals and key performance indicators to guide the College in a concentrated effort. The College currently uses the Society for College and University planning, the SCUP model, to structure the strategic planning process. The components of a proper strategic plan are one - carry out the institution mission, vision, and values; two - comply with federal mandates and accrediting bodies; and three - keep the institution operationally and fiscally sound.

Dr. Villarreal provided an overview of the third year to the current Strategic Plan for years 2021-2022 and stated the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is currently being discussed and prepared. She stated as they move forward, each data set used for strategic planning is a different snapshot of what the College’s current student body looks like on a day-to-day basis.

Dr. Villarreal also reviewed the six Goals and the Key Performance Indicators that are a part of the College’s Strategic Plan which include Goal 1: Completion; Goal 2: Recruitment & Persistence; Goal 3: Academic Preparedness & Student Learning; Goal 4: Learning Environments; Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy. Mr. Raul Garcia provided information regarding Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness & Affordability.

Dr. Villarreal provided information regarding the continued work ahead which includes increasing completion, full-time enrollment, transfer rates, enrollment, maintaining scholarship awards, and decrease FTIC students requiring developmental education, amount of time to degree, and amount of time to score college ready on TSI.

In reference to the Del Mar College 2024-2029 Strategic Plan development, she stated there are about 25 committee members on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee who have been working extremely hard on the organization, requirements, and preparation of the College's new plan. She reviewed the different phases of preparing a new plan.

Regents Loeb and Regent Garza provided commentary regarding participation in a focus group for strategic planning.

Dr. Villarreal stated she hopes to provide the Board of Regents the focus group results at the August meeting. She reviewed some of the strengths of the College which include student services and continuing education, and some of the challenges which include communication and childcare for students.

Dr. Villarreal, Ms. Benavides-Dominguez, Mr. Garcia, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Professional Contract Review.....Ms. Tammy McDonald  
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

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 2022. She also reviewed the upcoming contracts set to expire as well as new contracts that were 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:  
Board Retreat, April 27 and 28, 2023  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

2. Acceptance of Investments for May 2023  
*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*
3. Acceptance of Financials for April 2023  
*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. 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 9-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

4. Discussion and possible action related to approval of increasing the tuition on Continuing Education Courses.....Ms. Lenora Keas and Dr. Leonard Rivera  
*(Goal 1: Completion)*

Ms. Keas provided introductory remarks and introduced Dr. Rivera. He reported that the College is requesting a 10% tuition increase for the 2023-2024 fiscal year which is related to increased costs. He provided examples from the construction and healthcare programs. There will be no increases for the CDL program. He emphasized that they want to ensure that the College's continuing education courses matriculate into level one, level two, and associate degree programs to optimize performance outcomes. He provided the Regents comparable continuing education tuition comparisons.

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

Regent Adame made a motion to approve the increase of tuition on Continuing Education courses as presented. 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 9-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

Chair Scott announced Closed Session Item a. was being tabled to be discussed at the next meeting.

At 4:17 p. m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

5. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:
  - a. Tabled - **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.089:** (Deliberations Regarding Security Assessments or Deployments), regarding security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology or network security information; or the deployment or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices, with possible discussion and action in open session;
  - b. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.072:** (Real Property Deliberation), regarding the potential purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property with possible discussion and action in open session;
  - c. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a){I}:** (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, 2.) Board Self-Evaluation, 3.) HR update, with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
  - d. **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 6:10 p.m. with no action taken.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr