

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT**

August 26, 2025

The Called Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 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, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., and Mr. David Loeb.

Absent:

Ms. Libby Averyt, Mr. Bill Kelly, 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; 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; Mr. Jeff Olsen, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Communication and Marketing; Ms. Delia Perez, Director of CEO Office and Board Relations, Mr. Conrado Garcia, Superintendent in Residence, 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.

BOARD NOTIFICATION:

- Annual Certifications of Compliance with Texas Education Code Sections 51.3525 (SB 17) and 51.942(g) (SB 18) Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr.
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Mr. Rivera provided notice regarding two specific requirements for Texas Senate Bill 17 (SB 17) and Texas Senate Bill 18 (SB 18). SB 17 is related to DEI compliance which states annually, by September 1st the College through its Board Chair and College President, must certify that it is not using state funds inappropriately for prohibited DEI activities. The College conducted a self-audit by Weaver which found no direct violations of SB 17 requirements.

SB 18 is related to tenure, and this bill requires the College to confirm that its tenure policies align with the legislative requirements of SB 18. The College already had a tenure policy, which was adjusted to meet the new requirements and approved by the Board. Last year, the College certified compliance by providing copies of the updated tenure policies and this process will be repeated.

Mr. Rivera concluded by restating the importance of transparency and compliance and assured the Board of Regents that the College is making every effort to comply with the law.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Discussion and possible action related to the Order of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District: 2025-2026 Maintenance and Operations Budget and the 2025-2026 Debt Service Budget Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate - Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College has complied with all statutory requirements as mandated by the State of Texas for the purpose of adopting proposed Maintenance & Operating (M&O) and Debt Service budgets. The College is asking for the Board's consideration of the action item to approve the proposed M&O and Debt Service budgets for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the maintenance operating budget and the debt service budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Regent Babbili seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously 6-0, amongst Regents present, Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb in favor.

2. Discussion and possible action related to the Order of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District: 2025-2026 Maintenance and Operations and the 2025-2026 Debt Service Tax Rates Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate - Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College has complied with all statutory requirements as mandated by the State of Texas for adopting proposed Maintenance & Operating (M&O) and Debt Service budgets. The College is asking for the Board's consideration of the action item to approve the proposed M&O and Debt Service budgets for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Regent Adame made a motion that property tax rate be increased by adoption of a tax rate of 0.275903, which is effectively 4.08% increase in the tax rate. Regent Babbili seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously 6-0, amongst Regents present, Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb in favor.

3. Discussion and possible action related to the Order of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District: 2025-2026 Combined Tax Levy of 0.275903 per \$100 of taxable value for the Del Mar College District. Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate - Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College has complied with all statutory requirements mandated by the State of Texas for the purpose of adopting the proposed M&O and debt service property tax levies. The College asked the Board to authorize the levy on all property within our district as presented at today's public hearing.

Regent Crull made a motion to adopt the order regarding the 2025 tax levies as presented. Regent Babbili seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously 6-0, amongst Regents present, Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb in favor.

4. Discussion and possible action related to the Resolution of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District: 2025-2026 Tax Exemptions Mr. Raul Garcia
(II: Elevate - Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated the College is asking for the Board's approval of the property tax exemptions. The Qualified Charitable Organizations Exemption provides a tax exemption if the property is used for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes. The Qualified Disabled Veterans Exemption provides a tax exemption ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 for a disabled veteran's homeowner. The Homestead Exemption provides a tax exemption valued at \$5,000 on a person's residence homestead. In accordance with the state's property tax code, the College can elect to provide an additional tax exemption to the Homestead Exemption. The College is proposing an additional exemption to a person

of 65 years of age or older, or a person who is under the age of 65 who qualifies for disability insurance benefits. This exemption is valued at \$50,000, for a combined total of \$55,000 for each year.

Regent Loeb made a motion to adopt the order as presented for the 2025-2026 Tax Exemptions. 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, Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb in favor.

5. Discussion and possible action related to Board approval of proposed revisions, deletions, and additions to DMC policy B2.4 Committees, Cabinets, and Councils to ratify and establish the Del Mar College Faculty Council in compliance with new Texas Education Code Section 51.3522 (SB37)Ms. Tammy McDonald
(*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Ms. McDonald provided information regarding new requirements for Texas Senate Bill 37 (SB 37) that was enacted in the regular session of the 89th legislature. This proposed policy will authorize and ratify the establishment of our Faculty Council at Del Mar College to be in accordance with SB 37, which is part of the Texas Education Code Section 51.3522. Ms. McDonald stated a proposed policy has been drafted for the Board's consideration and approval.

Ms. McDonald and Mr. Dale Anderson responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Regent Loeb made a motion to approve the policy provisions as stated. 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, Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb in favor.

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, and the seeking of legal advice from counsel, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents did not go into Closed Session.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr