

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

May 13, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 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, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Mr. Bill Kelly, Mr. David Loeb, and Dr. Laurie Turner.

Not Present:

Ms. Libby Averyt.

## **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; Mr. Jeff Olsen, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Communication and Marketing; Dr. Natalie Villarreal, Associate Vice President, External & Government Relations and Strategic Planning; and 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:**

- State of Texas Senate Resolution No. 21 presented to Del Mar College by the Office of Senator Adam Hinojosa ..... Dr. Natalie Villarreal  
(*I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Villarreal recognized Texas Senate Resolution No. 21 presented to Del Mar College by Ms. MK Walling from Senator Adam Hinojosa's office which designates February 3, 2025, as Del Mar College Day at the Texas State Capitol for its contributions to the community and its high-quality instruction in a wide range of academic and technical disciplines.

- Sarah Contreras, Professor of Speech, led the Vocal Vikings Students in 2024-2025 State competitions. Students earned individual Bronze, Gold, and two team Silver Sweepstakes ..... Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
(III Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Dr. Halcomb recognized Ms. Sarah Contreras and the 2024-2025 Vocal Viking students that competed in the '24-'25 State championship. The group of students earned several awards including the two team silver sweepstakes and individual bronze and gold medals. Ms. Contreras is their mentor and travels to tournaments after teaching all week. Ms. Contreras thanked the Board of Regents and the College for their continued support for this academic and worthy activity.

- Sergio Trejo, Del Mar College Dual Enrollment Senior from Harold T. Branch Academy, won the 1st place award in the Texas State Welding competition at the District 12 and Texas State SkillsUSA Conference hosted by Del Mar College in April 2025 and earned the opportunity to advance to the Skills USA Nationals competition in Atlanta, GA in June 2025 ..... Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
(III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Dr. Halcomb introduced Sergio Trejo, a Del Mar College Dual Enrollment Senior from Harold T. Branch Academy. He won the 1st place award in the Texas State Welding competition at the district 12 and Texas State SkillsUSA Conference hosted by Del Mar College in April 2025 and earned the opportunity to advance to the Skills USA Nationals competition in Atlanta, GA in June 2025. Sergio provided words of thanks to Del Mar College for the recognition and for the opportunities he has accomplished. Instructor Ryan Gutierrez and Assistant Professor Jose Cortez provided words of thanks for the College's support of the Welding program.

- Adelfino Palacios, Professor of Accounting, was recently honored by the Westside Business Association at its annual "Bienvenidos a Mi Casa" event and received the Association's Legacy Award 2025 for his contributions and significant impact in the community ..... Dr. Jonda Halcomb  
(III: Cultivate, Goal I: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential)

Dr. Halcomb recognized Adelfino Palacios, Professor of Accounting for being honored by the Westside Business Association at the "Bienvenidos a Mi Casa" event and received the Association's Legacy Award for 2025 for his contributions to the community. He has also been the coordinator of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) initiated by a partnership established by Del Mar College and the IRS in 2002 to provide free tax preparation to the community. Mr. Palacios thanked the Board of Regents and Del Mar College for their recognition and support.

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

- April 9, 2025: Freedom to Dream Presentation to Nueces County Commissioner's Court  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

President Escamilla presented details regarding the Freedom to Dream tuition waiver program to the Nueces County Commissioner’s Court and stated it was well-received.

- April 10, 2025: TACC & CCATT Joint Legislative Meeting (Virtual)  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla participated in the TACC & CCATT Joint Legislative Meeting virtually.

- April 14-17, 2025: American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Conference, Nashville, TN  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla attended the AACC Annual Conference and stated he was proud of the DMC team that presented at the Conference which included Mr. Jeff Olsen, Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, and Mr. Ali Kolahdouz.

- April 23, 2025: TACC Quarterly Board Meeting (Virtual)  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla participated in the TACC Quarterly Board meeting virtually.

- April 25, 2025: Appointed to the Standing Advisory Committee for Public Junior Colleges  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla reported that he was appointed to the Standing Advisory Committee for Public Junior Colleges for an extension of three years.

- April 28, 2025: Reappointed to the HB 8 Outcomes Subcommittee  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla reported that he was reappointed to the HB8 Outcomes Subcommittee which is a short-term group which should conclude before the current Legislative session.

- April 28, 2025: Freedom to Dream Presentation to CCISD Board  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla presented the Freedom to Dream program to the Corpus Christi Independent School District Board Trustees.

- May 8, 2025: TACC & CCATT Joint Legislative Committee (Virtual)  
(I: *Communicate*, Goal 2: *Connect beyond the College*)

Dr. Escamilla participated virtually at the May 8, 2025, TACC & CCATT Joint Legislative Committee.

## STAFF REPORTS:

- Community Colleges and Upward Mobility By: Dr. John Friedman  
..... Mr. Sushil Pallemo and Ms. Lenora Keas  
(III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking student experience)

Ms. Lenora Keas stated that the College recently received recognition at the Bellwether Institute in San Antonio. The College focuses on exceptional performances in boosting students' upward mobility, particularly for those from low-income families. The presentation used data from Dr. John Friedman, a Professor of Economics at Brown University, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the New York Times. Dr. Friedman's research, "The Fading American Dream," highlights a decline in the percentage of children earning more than their parents, making upward mobility more challenging nationwide. A map illustrating regional differences shows how upward mobility varies across the country, with the Gulf Coast region showing relatively high upward mobility. Children of parents earning around \$25,000 annually in this region typically earn around \$40,000. Dr. Friedman identified key characteristics of high-mobility neighborhoods, which the College addresses through its various programs and student services that support families and lower poverty rates by dealing with issues such as hunger.

Mr. Sushil Pallemo reviewed the mobility report cards which assess how community colleges enable upward mobility for low-income students. Del Mar College demonstrates that a significant percentage (16.4%) of students from the bottom 20% of parental income move up to the top 20%. Del Mar College is positioned favorably, indicating high access for low-income students and a high upward mobility rate compared to other colleges and outperforms those large Texas colleges, including Blinn and Alamo Colleges, in both access and success rates for upward mobility.

Mobility Index is a nationally recognized measure created by the New York Times, combines access and success and creates an index for ranking colleges. Del Mar College ranks in the top 8% of two-year colleges nationwide and in the top 10% of all two-year and four-year colleges. The College ranks third among large colleges in Texas for providing economic mobility.

Mr. Pallemo stated that data from the Texas Workforce Commission shows Del Mar College graduates in career tech programs earn significantly higher wages than the median wage of graduates from peer colleges, indicating the College prepares students for high-demand, high-wage jobs. Our students earn more than 15% or 16% compared to the median wage of peer graduates from peer colleges.

Del Mar College programs like dual enrollment, workforce and academic pathways, community partnerships, Valdar's Market, health plans, and the Freedom to Dream Tuition Waiver program, along with House Bill 8 initiatives, contribute to College's success.

Del Mar College plays a crucial role in boosting the upward mobility of its students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. The College's strategic initiatives and strong performance data demonstrate its commitment to providing opportunities for students and their families to improve their economic prospects.

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

- Freedom to Dream Tuition Waiver Initiative Update  
..... Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez and Mr. Raul Garcia  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*

Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez provided an overview of the Freedom to Dream Tuition Waiver Program which is designed to increase student completion rates by providing tuition waivers to eligible students, allowing them to use funds for other educational or living expenses. The goal is to accelerate the time to completion by encouraging full-time attendance. She provided the qualifications for the program and there are presently 2,138 requests for information regarding the program. Per the ApplyTexas admission app, students are selecting majors such as nursing, industrial technology, liberal arts, which is under English and Philosophy Department. Also, 60% of students who have declared through ApplyTexas are interested in pursuing a transfer degree such as an AA, an AS, or an AAT.

Outreach for this program has been vigorous and includes attending 30 Continuing Education Pinning Ceremonies, holding 18 high school recruitment events, 3 College campus presentations, 3 One-Stop Shop Saturdays, 1 RTA Board Retreat, the Buc Days parade, the College's Spring graduation ceremony, Superintendent's meeting held at Oso Creek Campus, plus TV, social media, and radio promotions.

Dr. Escamilla expressed his gratitude to everyone who has been working diligently and tirelessly on this initiative.

Mr. Raul Garcia discussed financial sustainability for this initiative. He stated that at the March Board of Regents meeting, the College presented a sustainable financial plan for the Freedom to Dream pilot program. Although the plan was based on projected student profiles for the 2023-2024 academic year, there is stronger than expected student interest in the program, with over 2000 informational requests received. Considering this new data, the College has developed an updated financial plan based on the revised projections of 1,000 and 1,500 eligible students. In both scenarios, the program remains financially sustainable with a projected surplus by the end of the three-year contract period in the amount of \$3.6 million surplus. A 70% return over three years (approximately 24% annually) is projected and even with 1,500 students, the program is projected to remain financially sustainable with a 65% return over three years (approximately 22% annually).

The program is funded by HB8 state performance dollars and the Del Mar College Foundation.

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez provided information regarding a dashboard the College is developing to further share data. Continued outreach events will be promoted, and a bi-weekly committee of stakeholders collaborates on the program and addresses challenges. A Freedom to Dream signing event will take place May 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the White Library.

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

- Strategic Marketing and Communication Plan ..... Mr. Jeff Olsen  
*(I: Communicate, Goal I: Collaborate Across the College and Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*

Mr. Jeff Olsen highlighted the marketing and communications plan that supports the College's overall Strategic Plan. He introduced the new Executive Director of Communication, Ms. Jessie Chrobocinski. She stated that they are sharing the College's story with key audiences (students, alumni, community, and media) to build awareness, pride, and advocacy. The objective is to support the Strategic Plan by focusing on collaboration across the College and connecting beyond the College.

Ms. Chrobocinski discussed successful media campaigns that reinforced the College's value across local and regional media outlets, which focused on the College's role in keeping talent local. A specific example was the campaign around the launch of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Management and Leadership.

She discussed the Viking Vanguard Student Ambassador Program which is a program where students receive a \$500 scholarship per semester and help to personalize the College experience, promote equity in peer-to-peer representation, support student leadership, and foster pride in being a Viking. The ambassadors assist with events, such as the White Library grand opening. The program has grown from 5 ambassadors in Fall 2024 to 11 in Spring 2025 and communicated future set for the launch of Freedom to Dream Tuition Waiver Program.

Mr. Jason Houlihan provided a marketing update with the four objectives relating to Goal 1 of the Strategic Marketing Plan. He also stated they have shifted from brand awareness marketing to enrollment marketing. This involves guiding prospective students through personalized, targeted communication journeys.

The Customer Relationship Management tool (CRM) - Element451 implemented a system for the first time in the College's history. This tool allows for automation and analysis of communications interactions with students. The goal is to provide specific information to inquirers based on their program of interest (e.g., dual enrollment, aviation maintenance). The system captures leads, tracks interactions, and automates follow-up. This tool is currently being used for the Freedom to Dream program and is used to log outbound calls

made to prospective students, including notes and information to facilitate more strategic

Mr. Houlihan stated they maximized on the College's dream equity in the community by highlighting alumni in various career stages who graduated from Del Mar College. Campaign ads are placed on Meta platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok) to capture emails and phone numbers for targeted communication. The campaign focuses on student outcomes, such as graduation and meaningful careers.

Discussion regarding Viking Fest which began as a welding competition and turned into a collaboration with various departments. The first Viking Fest raised \$26,500 for emergency scholarships and other initiatives. The next Viking Fest is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2025.

Ms. Chrobocinski, Mr. Houlihan, Mr. Olsen, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Update  
..... Ms. Cheryl Sanders and Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez  
(III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking student experience)

Ms. Cheryl Sanders stated the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan will focus on three goals, recruitment and marketing, student onboarding, and retention and persistence. Ms. Sanders emphasized accomplishments related to the latter two goals which align with the Strategic Plan's "Cultivate" guiding star, focusing on nurturing faculty/staff and optimizing the Viking Student Experience.

The Retention Alert Program has been rebranded as CARE Connection (Campus Advocacy and Resource Education). This program aims to provide a more holistic and less stigmatizing approach to student support. Key changes include replacing terms with more welcoming language, providing easy access to support services and referral forms via QR codes on various platforms, allowing students to self-refer for support, adding more specific categories to CARE Connection referrals including technology resources, academic support, physical and emotional wellness, and more basic need options for food, shelter, childcare, transportation, financial, legal, and employment assistance.

Ms. Sanders provided detailed information regarding counseling.

She also stated that the road ahead will include improving efficiency and fostering collaboration within the College campus community, Strategic Enrollment Plan goals are improving capacity to serve students; execution of Strategic Enrollment Plan strategies are adaptable to dynamic College environment, and onboarding, retention, and persistence are keys to meeting strategic goals.

Ms. Sanders, Dr. Benavides-Dominguez, Ms. Rita Hernandez, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- 2024-2029 Strategic Plan: Charting the Viking Way ..... Dr. Natalie Villarreal  
(I: Communicate, II: Elevate and III: Cultivate)

Dr. Villarreal provided an update on the College's Strategic Plan adopted in June 2024, outlining its vision, mission, and operationalization. The plan was created in response to a rapidly evolving higher education environment in 2023. Key factors included shifting student demographics, increasing student needs, changes in the Texas economy, the post-pandemic world, and questioning the value and return on investment of higher education. The plan emphasizes a strong vision to bring the College back to its dreams. The mission focuses on transforming, building, and enriching the lives of families, friends, and neighbors.

Putting the Plan into action includes leadership that is intentionally focused on translating the plan into concrete actions. Ms. Keas created specific, focused work groups with agendas and timelines to ensure Strategic Plan objectives were addressed. Human Resources, the Assessment office, and the Business Office are collaborating to ensure personnel choices, assessments, and budget allocations align with the strategic plan.

The Strategic Plan is kept at the forefront of all decision-making processes, from small to large. Utilizing HB8 is used as a blueprint for strategies, particularly in funding allocations. The College is leveraging new software tools (like a CRM) and consultants to bring in fresh ideas and perspectives.

Key Strategic Goals include communicate, elevate, and cultivate. Communicate by collaborating across the College and connecting beyond the College. Elevate by increasing completion for all students and maximizing resources entrusted to the College. Cultivate by nurturing our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential as well as optimizing the Viking student experience.

The next steps will be to continue operationalizing the work with different teams, focused meetings, and timelines, prepare for state and federal changes, prioritize future initiatives, building upon current successes, and present Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in November to demonstrate progress and identify areas for further improvement.

Dr. Villarreal responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- HB 8 (88th) and Legislative Updates ..... Dr. Natalie Villarreal  
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Dr. Villarreal provided a summary of the legislative updates and their impact on community colleges. SB 1786 - 89<sup>th</sup> Legislation Session (Cleanup Bill from HB 8 88<sup>th</sup> Session) addressed issues stemming from the previous legislative sessions' House Bill 8 and focused on including funding for students transferring to independent colleges and universities (ICUT - Independent Colleges and Universities). The Bill was voted on by the House floor on April 23, 2025, and will become law on September 1, 2025.



SB1/HB1 – General Appropriations Act was divided into Nine Articles of Appropriation and Education falls under Article III. Both budget bills currently include the full amount requested by THECB for funding community colleges. Outcomes-based funding increased by \$160 million and FAST funding was added in both budgets to equal \$86.6 million. The Bill passed the Senate on March 19, 2025, and passed the House on April 11, 2025. The bill will become law on September 1, 2025.

SB 37/HB 4499 – Governance of higher education institutions, includes review of curriculum and certain degree/certificate programs, the powers and duties of faculty council or senate. This Bill expands the authority of governing boards on matters such as final approval on hiring administrative positions and on matters related to academic policies and will create the Office of Excellence in Higher Education at the THECB. SB 37 was voted on in K-16 Education Committee on April 3, 2025. HB 4499 was referred to the Higher Education Committee on April 3, 2025. On April 16, 2025, SB 37 was voted out of the Senate and Committee substitute on May 6, 2025. The next step in the process is to move forward to Committee.

House Bill 3093 - Ad Valorem Tax Bill. This bill addresses the calculation of ad valorem taxes and the impact of industry challenges. It is favorable for coastal communities. HB 3093 voted out by the Senate Local Government Committee on May 1, 2025, and will head to the Senate floor.

House Bill 19 - Issuance and Repayment of Debt. This bill related to the issuance and repayment of debt by local governments, included the adoption of an ad valorem tax rate and the use of ad valorem tax revenue for repayment of debt. This Bill requires tax or bond elections to be held on the November uniform election date. The Bill is currently in the House and Ways Committee. If voted on favorably, will go to the House.

As for Federal Legislative updates, the College is working with AACC and ACCT at the federal level to monitor changes happening through executive orders and within the Department of Education. Dr. Villarreal provided examples of how some executive orders and federal changes are already impacting the day-to-day work of the College.

Dr. Villarreal, Dr. Sydney Saumby, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget ..... Mr. Raul Garcia  
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia reported the College has submitted their 2025 Budget Book to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The GFOA encourages and assists State and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and local levels. The 2025 Budget Book is available on the Business Office website.

Ms. Jackie Landrum provided information regarding the budget process and reviewed the Budget Plan Calendar for FY 2026. Mr. Garcia advised the Board of Regents of recent

business developments and proposed legislative changes that could impact the College's brief reviews of the potential external factors and challenges.

Ms. Landrum discussed the revenue challenges and assumptions for the FY 2026 budget. The challenges discussed for tuition and fees included no increase in tuition rate and evaluation of levels of enrollment. Property tax challenges include the overall tax rate evaluation, assumption of a 2% net valuation growth, and \$500 million in new construction. The challenges for state appropriations will be determined in June or July and FAST increased to the amount received for FY 2024. The budget for FY 2026 will be further discussed in more detail at the June Board meeting.

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

**PENDING BUSINESS:**

Status Report on Requested Information

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:  
Regular Board Meeting, April 8, 2025  
*(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)*
2. Acceptance of Investment Report for April 2025  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*
3. Acceptance of Quarterly Financial Report for March 2025  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

4. Discussion and possible action related to the College's Internal Audit Activity including:  
FY 25 Plan status; Internal audit reports for SB 17; and Bursar and Accounts Payable and Disbursements.....Ms. Tammy McDonald

*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*

Ms. McDonald introduced Dan Graves, an internal auditor with Weaver. Mr. Graves provided an overview of Senate Bill 17 (SB 17) compliance. SB 17 includes prohibitions on DEI requirements in hiring and admissions, restrictions on DEI statements, limitations on DEI offices and programs, and annual reporting requirements. The details were discussed in closed session due to potential legal ramifications.

Mr. Weaver discussed the financial aid audit and stated it was nearing completion. The last financial aid audit was in 2015, indicating a need for a new in-depth review. While the annual financial audit touches on financial aid, the internal audit examines it in more detail. The focus is on verifying that controls identified in prior audits are still in place and operating effectively.

Mr. Weaver discussed the Maintenance audit and stated it is in the planning phase. Potential topics include facilities maintenance, construction repairs, tool supplies, custodial and grounds maintenance, and deferred maintenance. Fieldwork is expected to begin by the end of the month and be completed by August 31.

A follow-up audit was conducted on the Bursar's Office, which had six findings in the original 2024 audit. The results determined that their one finding has been partially remediated, four findings have been fully remediated, and one finding has been closed with formalization of procedures underway. Mr. Weaver reviewed the results for the Accounts Payable and Disbursements and Information Security audits. Mr. Graves concluded his presentation by reviewing future planned annual requirements. The Board deferred action until after Closed Session.

5. Discussion and possible action related to Annexation Adopted by the City of Corpus Christi - HUT Enterprises.....Mr. John Strybos  
*(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)*

Mr. Strybos explained Texas Education Code Section 130.066, Automatic Annexation of Certain Territory, as the City of Corpus Christi annexes property allows Del Mar College to annex new property. On April 15, 2025, the City of Corpus Christi approved an ordinance to annex and rezone a 12.778-acre tract of land comprised of 2.194-acre tract of land petition located southwest corner of FM 43 and State Highway 286, and the abutting 10.58-acres section of FM 43, approving the related service plan, adding the annexed area to the City Council District number 3, rezoning the 2.194 acres from Farm Road Farm Rural District to CG-2 General Commercial District in a convenience store where the gas stations proposed for the 2.194-acre tract.

Regent Kelly made a motion to annex the property 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 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Kelly, Loeb and Turner in favor. Regent Garza abstained from this vote.

At 4:07 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

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, with possible discussion and action in open session; and the seeking of legal advice from counsel on pending legal or contemplated matters or claims, including, 1.) CPS Energy proposal, 2.) Corpus Christi Housing Authority and Cameron County Housing Finance Corporation property ownership agreements and tax-exempt issues; with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
- 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; including, 1.) Evaluation of College President, and 2.) Board Self-Evaluation, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 5:18 p.m. with the following actions taken:

Regent Crull made a motion to accept the findings of the internal audit as presented. Regent Kelly 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, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb and Turner in favor.

Regent Babbili made a motion to authorize the College President and General Counsel to proceed with taking the necessary and appropriate action, including the engagement of outside counsel to protect and pursue the College's legal status and potential claims in connection with the CPS

Energy proposal as outlined in Closed Session. 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 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Kelly, Loeb and Turner in favor. Regent Garza abstained from this vote.

Regent Loeb made a motion to authorize the College President and General Counsel to proceed with taking the necessary and appropriate action, including the engagement of outside counsel to protect and pursue the College's legal status and potential claims in connection with the Corpus Christi Housing Authority and Cameron County Housing Finance Corporation's tax-exempt issue as outlined in closed session. Regent Kelly 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, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Kelly, Loeb and Turner in favor.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr