

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT

May 12, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at the Oso Creek Campus, Culinary Arts Building, Tres Grace Room, Corpus Christi, Texas with the following present:

From the Board:

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

Not present: Dr. Anantha Babbili and Dr. Laurie Turner.

From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Dr. Gerald Napoles, Executive Vice President and COO; 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; Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Dr. Leonard Rivera, Vice President of Dual Enrollment and Continuing Education; 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.

RECOGNITIONS:

- Del Mar College's SGA attended the Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) 2026 Convention on April 17-19, 2026, and received several awards:

SGA received Gold Level for Chapter Excellence Award; SGA President Sofia Jimenez earned Student of the Year; Vice President Isaiah Herrero earned first place for Event of the Year; and Ms. Beverly Cage was selected as Advisor of the Year.

Presenter: Ms. Cheryl Sanders

(III: Cultivate, Goal 1: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential and Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Ms. Sanders stated the Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) represents over 70 colleges and 700,000 community college students across Texas, advocating for student interests at multiple levels. She recognized Del Mar College's Student Government Association (SGA) who earned several honors at the April 2026 convention including Gold Chapter of Excellence. Ms. Sofia Jimenez was named Student of the Year; Mr. Isaiah Herrero won first place for Event of the Year; and Advisor Ms. Beverly Cage received Advisor of the Year after being nominated by student leaders. The recognition highlights SGA's impact and leadership, along with the contributions of its officers who serve in regional committees and roles supporting student engagement and governance. Ms. Cage and the students provided remarks about their experience and words of thanks to the Board of Regents.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Presenter: Dr. Mark Escamilla

- April 23, 2026: Port of Corpus Christi Servant Leader Course Keynote
(I: Communicate, Goal 1: Collaborate across the College)

Dr. Escamilla participated in the Port of Corpus Christi Servant Leadership course. He provided remarks regarding serving and leading and was proud to represent Del Mar College.

- April 24, 2026: Buc Days Parade Float
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Escamilla stated he was proud to participate in the Buc Days Parade on the float that was built and put together by college faculty and staff. He also stated the College provided a pancake breakfast to promote the end of the semester at each campus.

- April 29, 2026: TACC Quarterly Meeting
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Escamilla attended the TACC quarterly meeting to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Meetings are held on a regular basis, and they are also preparing for the annual summer meeting.

- April 29, 2026: DMC Received Leadership in Pathways to Success Award from Robstown ISD Education Foundation
(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Escamilla reported that the Robstown ISD Education Foundation awarded Del Mar College Leadership in Pathways to Success Award. Robstown ISD and the College partnership is doing great work together.

- May 14, 2026: CE High School Health Science Pinning Ceremony, Hilliard Center
(III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Dr. Escamilla stated the College will hold the Continuing Education High School Health Science Pinning Ceremony on May 14, 2026.

- May 15, 2026: Spring Semester Graduation Commencement Ceremony, Hilliard Center
(III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Dr. Escamilla stated the College will hold its Spring Semester Graduation Commencement Ceremony on May 15, 2026.

REGENT'S REPORT:

- Announcement of Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Ms. Carol Scott, Board Chair
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Chair Scott announced the formation of an Ad Hoc Facilities Committee to review regarding upcoming maintenance projects. Regents Crull, Garza and Loeb have been appointed to and will be serving on the committee.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Student Enrollment Report
Presenters: Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Jonda Halcomb, and Dr. Leonard Rivera
(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Escamilla provided introductory remarks and introduced Dr. Benavides-Dominguez. She provided an overview of the presentation and introduced Dr. Jonda Halcomb.

Dr. Halcomb reviewed the credit programs and enrollment trends for 2024–2026. Top programs by awards include Welding, Nurse Education (including a growing Bachelor of Nursing program), Process Technology, Liberal Arts, Architecture, and Air Conditioning. Various credentials are offered, including associate degrees (AA, AAS, AAT, AS), certificates, occupational skills awards, and bachelor’s degrees. In 2024–2025, the College awarded over 1,100 associate degrees, 900+ certificates, 130 occupational skills awards, and approximately 60 Bachelor of Nursing degrees.

Dr. Halcomb stated Liberal Arts remains the most popular major, followed by high-demand fields like Nursing, Pre-Med Tech, Welding, Process Technology, and Business Administration. Enrollment is increasing, with an 11.4% headcount rise from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026, driven by stronger recruitment, advising, and initiatives like Freedom to Dream. Adjusted reporting shows 10,942 students for Spring 2026 excluding

flex enrollment for state reporting consistency. Student engagement is also growing with credit contact hours increasing by 17.3%, indicating more full-time enrollment. Full-time students rose by 48.7%, largely due to the Freedom to Dream program and most students remain part-time at 78%. Dual credit enrollment has expanded significantly, growing 86% over 10 years and 43% over five years, reflecting strong partnerships with local school districts and continued expected growth. Overall, the College is experiencing strong growth in enrollment, program output, and student participation.

Dr. Rivera reported strong growth and demand across Del Mar College's programs, especially in continuing education (CE). As of Fall 2025, the top three CE program areas are healthcare programs like phlebotomy, EKG, CNA, and patient care technicians. Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) through the Texas Workforce Commission, is helping adults earn high school equivalency diplomas. Army Depot and workforce training programs delivered through career and technical education. He also stated dual enrollment continues to grow significantly, with nearly 6,100–6,200 students in Spring 2026, reflecting about a 9% increase year over year and aligning with long-term upward trends. Overall enrollment is rising rapidly for 2024-25, nearly 19,000 students, a 30% increase from the previous year. Contact hours grew to 5.37 million up 9.9%, driven largely by continuing education expansion. Spring 2026 unduplicated students served: 15,312, a 6% increase. The College anticipates total unduplicated enrollment for 2026 approaching 23,000–23,500 students, continuing strong growth trends. Graduation numbers are also at record levels with 924 students planning to walk across the stage for graduation, 1,248 applied for graduation, and 1,608 credentials are under review which is the highest ever recorded.

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

- Proposed Tax Abatement: Hut 8

Presenter: Ms. Jessica Alaniz Perez

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

Ms. Perez provided an overview and introduced Mr. Collier Pruner with Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Pruner provided information regarding partnerships at Hut 8 and introduced the company and its planned Beacon Point Data Center project near Corpus Christi. He also stated Hut 8 is an energy infrastructure company that develops large-scale power sites and monetizes them through compute (mainly AI data centers). It transitioned from bitcoin mining to focusing on AI and future compute applications. The company manages about 1.5 gigawatts across AI data centers, former mining sites, and smaller cloud services. The company is publicly traded (Nasdaq: HUT) with 300 employees.

Mr. Pruner stated the Beacon Point Project is in Nueces County near the AEP Lon Hill Substation and the total site is 525 acres with Phase 1 using 100 acres. Hut 8 will build a 1,000 MW substation to support the campus. The investment is estimated at \$20 billion, \$2.8 billion for infrastructure and \$7.1 billion for computing equipment. Construction is expected to begin soon, with first delivery during the third quarter in 2027 and Phase 1 complete end date in 2027 as well. He also provided economic and

community impact information with 115 permanent jobs per phase and a strong emphasis on local hiring and workforce development especially in partnership with the College. Their key goal is to deliver a large-scale AI data center that provides jobs,

economic growth, and long-term community partnerships, especially through education and workforce training.

Mr. Pruner responded to questions from the Board of Regents

- Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget

Presenters: Mr. Raul Garcia, Dr. Cathy West and Ms. Jackie Landrum

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

Dr. Escamilla provided introductory remarks and introduced Dr. Catherine West. She provided an overview of the upcoming budget preparations. Ms. Jackie Landrum provided information regarding the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award which was created in 1984 by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and recognizes high-quality government budget documents. To earn it, a budget must function effectively as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool. The College earned this award annually from 2010–2016, paused participation from 2017–2020, and resumed in 2021, earning it each year since along with the Triple Crown Award (which includes three major GFOA recognitions). The FY 2026 budget book is nearly complete and will be published soon. She also provided information regarding the five phases of the budget process and discussed key upcoming milestone dates.

Ms. Landrum discussed key risks and considerations such as the water crisis, possible state property tax reform, and changes to state performance funding weights. Overall, the College is actively progressing through its budget cycle and monitoring external financial and policy risks. She also discussed FAST funding and stated estimates from the coordinating board are expected in June or July. In the meantime, the team will analyze historical data and compare it with those estimates to decide the budget for FAST.

As for tuition and enrollment, the College is acknowledging the governor's request to not raise in-district tuition and enrollment is still being evaluated, including the continuation of Freedom to Dream Cohort 1, and interest in Freedom to Dream 2.0.

Regarding property tax revenue, values are about 4% higher than last year, but final numbers are uncertain due to upcoming Appraisal Review Board hearings and the ongoing impact of House Bill 9. The budget status regarding the O&M revenue & expenses is very preliminary and more details will be provided at the June Board meeting.

Dr. West stated the College works closely with our bond advisor, Mr. Dave Gordon of Estrada Hinojosa as current bonds are issued and monitored. The College strategically

structures its bond payment schedules to maintain flexibility in funding future projects and initiatives. It also actively monitors the bond market to identify opportunities for debt savings, such as the current limited refunding series planned for 2026. A key planning advantage is a significant drop in debt service requirement of nearly \$4 million between 2026 and 2027, which is being factored into the development of the 2027 budget.

Dr. Escamilla stated the information being presented is preliminary and intended to introduce variables for discussion rather than prompt immediate decisions. For example, the estimated \$500 million in new construction growth is considered a conservative baseline, reflecting historical trends and the College's ongoing, forward-thinking efforts. He stated that key opportunities arise from the institution's strategic progress, including the gradual retirement of debt. This creates flexibility to reinvest in and expand instructional programs that support students. The speaker highlights that meaningful progress does not require sweeping changes; instead, small, incremental improvements can produce significant long-term impact as they accumulate.

Dr. West, Ms. Landrum and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- TIRZ Task Force Update

Presenter: Ms. Jessica Alaniz Perez

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

Ms. Perez stated the TIRZ Task Force continues to meet monthly and has developed additional revisions to the College's Policy B4.37. Key updates include clarifying processes to better align with current Board procedures, ensuring consistency across workflows. The Task Force has also introduced enhanced monitoring and reporting requirements, including financial statements and staff reports for TIRZ entities. Additionally, new provisions focus on early coordination during TIRZ creation, allowing the Board to have input on project plans at the front end rather than after development. Minor refinements to terminology have also been made to ensure clarity and accuracy throughout the policy. The Task Force will meet again this month to review another revision, with the goal of presenting a final proposed policy to the Board in June or July for consideration and potential adoption.

- Dual Credit Pathways: Business Administration, Nurse Education and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM)

Presenters: Dr. Jonda Halcomb and Dr. Leonard Rivera

(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

>Associate of Arts in Business Administration offered at Oso Creek Campus to Veterans Memorial High School, Fall 2026

>Nursing Pathways program to be offered at London High School, Fall 2026

>Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Academy offered Summer 2026 to 3rd - 8th graders from West Oso ISD, Corpus Christi ISD, London ISD, and Flour Bluff ISD

Dr. Halcomb stated different pathways are being developed by faculty and staff. One pathway describes a proposed partnership between the College and Veterans High School to create an Eagle Business Academy. This program would allow selected students (about 20–24) to apply in their freshman year and complete a mix of college courses on the Oso Creek Campus and classes at their high school. Developed through collaboration between the Business Department led by Chair Brad Norquist and the high school principal. The goal is for students to graduate high school with an Associate of Arts in Business Administration. The plan is still being finalized by the high school.

Dr. Halcomb highlights the importance of introducing students to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) concepts early in their education. Dr. Leonard Rivera and Conrado Garcia organized a STEAM Summer Camp for grades 3–8, with support from a team of educators who developed hands-on, problem-based activities to build skills like critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, communication, and teamwork. The initiative emphasizes collaboration with ISD partners to strengthen STEM education early on, helping prepare students for future dual credit and college-level courses. Dr. Rivera provided additional comments regarding the STEAM Academy.

Dr. Halcomb, Dr. Jennifer Sramek, Dr. Rivera, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

PENDING BUSINESS:

Status Report on Requested Information

CONSENT AGENDA

Notice to the Public

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: Regular Board Meeting, April 7, 2026

(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

2. Acceptance of Investments for March 2026

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

3. Acceptance of Financials for March 2026

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

4. Discussion and action on annexation adopted by the City of Corpus Christi on March 17, 2026-BRBG Investments, LLC

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

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved by: Regent Crull | Seconded by: Regent Loeb

Vote: Carried unanimously, 7–0 by show of hands

In favor: Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Discussion and possible action regarding 2025 Instructional Review Report pursuant to DMC Policy B6.11

Presenter: Dr. Jonda Halcomb

(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Escamilla provided introductory remarks and introduced Dr. Halcomb. She stated that she and Dr. Saumby will review Del Mar College's instructional program review process and recent status report. The College conducts a comprehensive, faculty-led program review every five years, supported by administration, along with annual reviews to evaluate program effectiveness, identify improvement needs, guide curriculum and staff development, and ensure instructional quality and program viability.

The process also helps determine resource needs and supports budgeting decisions while maintaining compliance with SACSCOC standards related to institutional effectiveness and student outcomes. Typically, about a dozen programs are reviewed annually; this year, 15 programs are being evaluated.

Each academic division follows a five-year review cycle, illustrated by an example from the Business, Entrepreneurship, and Health Sciences Division. Programs reviewed this year will be reviewed again in five years (e.g., in 2030), and newer programs are scheduled accordingly.

Dr. Halcomb states that Dr. Saumby supports the process by training review committees, creating timelines, and coordinating with institutional research to gather necessary data.

Dr. Saumby presented and stated that the overall process remains largely unchanged. A structured 12-month review cycle led by faculty committees that sometimes include students, industry partners, and university collaborators. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness provides orientation, support, and guidance, while Institutional Research supplies extensive 5-year data packets. The review framework was streamlined from seven criteria to four sections (Program Overview, Assessment, Student Outcomes, and Operations Analysis), reducing redundancy and improving clarity while retaining all content. Overall, the update focused on streamlining, clarity, and continuous improvement while maintaining the rigor of the review process.

Dr. Halcomb clarified that program reviews include not only associate degrees but also all related certificates and Occupational Skills Awards under each program. Some disciplines are evaluated together because they share common requirements. The review reflects a "stackable" approach, considering all credentials within each program area. A total of 15 programs were

reviewed and recommended for positive status. Dr. Escamilla approved these recommendations.

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

Motion: Accept and approve the positive status for each of the programs as stated.

Moved by: Regent Adame | Seconded by: Regent Crull

Vote: Carried unanimously, 7–0 by show of hands

In favor: Regents Scott, Adame, Averyt, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Internal Audit Services Request for Qualifications

Presenter: Ms. Tammy McDonald

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

Ms. McDonald provided a brief background and stated the College's current internal audit services agreement, which began in March 2021, will expire on August 31, 2026, with no option for renewal. To ensure continuity of services, the College is developing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new engagement. Internal audit services will continue to report directly to the College President/CEO and the Board of Regents. Staff is seeking the Board's input and direction on four key areas outlined in the memo to refine the RFQ content.

Draft language has been provided, largely based on the RFQ issued over five years ago, with only minor revisions reflecting lessons learned. The materials shared focus specifically on the scope and description of services, while standard RFQ elements will be added separately. The College anticipates issuing the RFQ by June and is open to Board feedback or questions regarding the proposed service content.

Ms. McDonald and Mr. John Strybos responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

Motion: To direct staff to complete the development and release the RFQ for internal audit services

Moved by: Regent Loeb | Seconded by: Regent Garza

Vote: Carried unanimously, 6–0 by show of hands

In favor: Regents Scott, Averyt, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb.

Dr. Adame was not present for this vote.

7. Discussion and possible action on Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2026-03 approval of Architect, Engineering and related consultants to support Del Mar College projects on an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Basis

Presenter: Ms. Tammy McDonald

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

Ms. Tammy McDonald presented information regarding a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process which has already been completed, and 37 firms that responded were evaluated. This solicitation was for qualifications only and does not guarantee any project work or contracts. The result is a pre-qualified pool of firms eligible for future work under an IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity) arrangement. Any specific project assignments will be determined later in coordination with end users and administration, with funding decided case by case. If contracts are initiated, they may have terms of 2, 3, or 5 years. All responding firms had their references checked, and those recommended are included in the pre-qualified pool. The current contracts are expiring this month, necessitating the establishment of this new pool. This process creates a vetted list of qualified firms for future, as-needed projects, but does not commit any work currently.

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

Motion: Accept and approve the list of recommended qualified respondents for the IDIQ architect engineering and related consultants

Moved by: Regent Kelly | Seconded by: Regent Averyt

Vote: Carried unanimously, 6–0 by show of hands

In favor: Regents Scott, Averyt, Crull, Garza, Kelly, and Loeb.

Regent Adame was not present for this vote.

At 3:17 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session.

8. 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; and,

b. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.087: (Deliberation Regarding Economic Development), regarding discussion or deliberation of information received from a business prospect with which the College is conducting economic development negotiations and/or the deliberation of an offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect, with possible discussion and action in open session; and,

c. 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 Evaluation of College President.

The Board of Regents reconvened Open Session at 5:31 p.m. with no action taken and the meeting continued.

CALENDAR:

Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr