Texas Southmost College
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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 20, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on August 20, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Delia Saenz, Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Vice Chair; Mr. Edward Camarillo, Secretary; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete; Mr. Edgar Garcia; and Mr. J.J. De Leon. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Dr. Tony Zavaleta.

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Saenz at 5:30 p.m. She called roll and confirmed a quorum.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Trustee Aldrete led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Hearing on proposed 2026 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Texas Southmost College District

Chair Saenz reviewed the purpose of the public hearing, which was to give taxpayers an opportunity to express their views on the proposed tax rate: a maintenance and operation tax rate of $0.096148 and a debt tax rate of $0.003586 per $100 of valuation. She noted the proposed tax rate has been published on the TSC website since August 23, 2026, as well as in the local newspaper on August 15, 2026. She then called on Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration to provide additional information on the tax rate.

Mr. Pecero reviewed the key items that make up the property tax rate, as well as the three property tax rate options the Board may consider. The board asked for confirmation that the proposed tax rate would be lower than the previous year's rate, which Mr. Pecero affirmed.

Chair Saenz asked if there were any speakers signed up to provide feedback regarding the tax rate. There were no public speakers. Chair Saenz reported that the Board would vote on the tax rate during the regular board meeting, immediately following the public hearing.

4. Adjournment

Trustee De Leon made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Saenz at 5:40 p.m.. She called roll and confirmed a quorum. Board Members present were Ms. Delia Saenz, Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Vice Chair; Mr. Edward Camarillo, Secretary; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete; Mr. Edgar Garcia; and Mr. J.J. De Leon. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Dr. Tony Zavaleta.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Trustee Aldrete led the pledges of allegiance during the public hearing.

3. Public Comment

Chair Saenz asked if there were any speakers signed up for public comment. There were no public speakers.

4. Chairwoman's Report

Centennial events

Chair Saenz provided an overview of events celebrating TSC's centennial anniversary since the Board last met. Both events were sponsored by HEB, a Centennial Legacy Sponsor. Chair Saenz noted that the college is very appreciative of their partnership in raising scholarship funds for students through the Centennial events.

The Summer Movie on the Lawn was held on the South Hall Lawn June 26th, featuring *Hoppers* and *Superman*. Chair Saenz said it was wonderful to see generations of families enjoying a beautiful evening on campus, and she thanked Vice Chair Lopez Harris and Secretary Camarillo for joining her in participating in the event. Next, the Fourth of July Drone Show Spectacular was held at ITECC on July 2nd. The event featured a car and truck show, an ITECC program showcase, live country music, line dancing, free food, and more. The event's finale was a drone show, which provided a modern twist on traditional fireworks. Chair Saenz thanked Vice Chair Lopez Harris and Secretary Camarillo for joining her in participating in the event, and she thanked Dr. Rodríguez, Dr. Garcia, and the entire TSC team for continuing to make the TSC Centennial events a great success.

DOL Visit

The U.S. Department of Labor's Acting Secretary Keith Sonderling visited South Texas August 13th. He toured a number of TSC programs at ITECC, including the pipefitting lab, the police academy, and the nursing simulation lab. He then participated in a roundtable discussion and engaged with students, including a phlebotomy apprentice, who recently completed his training. Chair Saenz thanked Trustee Aldrete and Trustee De Leon for participating in the event, and offered a special thank you to Trustee Aldrete for connecting TSC with the DOL and helping to facilitate the visit with Secretary Sonderling.

Sen. Hinojosa visit

TSC hosted State Senator Adam Hinojosa on campus August 20th. He participated in discussions regarding the current community college legislative funding model under House Bill 8, as well as other issues relevant to TSC. Chair Saenz said the college is very appreciative of the time the Senator spent at TSC, as well as his support for the college since he assumed office last year. She said TSC looks forward to continuing to strengthen its working relationship with Senator Hinojosa as the new legislative session approaches. She thanked Secretary Camarillo and Trustee Garcia, who serve on the TSC Legislative Committee, for joining her for the visit.

5. President's Report

Graduations

Texas Southmost College held two graduation ceremonies during the summer. The Littlest Scorpions graduated from the Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center on June 25th. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Saenz and Secretary Camarillo for participating in the ceremony. The college also celebrated a new class of graduating nurses on August 6th at the LVN Pinning Ceremony. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Saenz, Vice Chair Lopez Harris, and Secretary Camarillo for participating in the ceremony.

WTCE New Courses

To provide even more opportunities for its communities, the Workforce Training and Continuing Education has been hard at work launching a number of new programs. TSC held an information session for the new Medical Aesthetics program on July 30th. President Rodríguez thanked Vice Chair Lopez Harris and Trustee Aldrete for participating in the event. New programs have also begun to train dental assistants, pharmacy technicians, and realtors. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Garcia, Dr. Fuentes, and the entire WTCE team for working with industry partners to create new opportunities and fill local workforce needs.

AG&P Americas Check Presentation

AG&P, a global, Texas-based company, made a new investment aimed at hiring more Texans. Their $25,000 gift will provide scholarships for students in the pipefitting and welding programs, which aligned with their company's focus on careers in oil, gas, and industrial construction. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Saenz for participating in the event.

TSC Ambassador Conference

TSC hosted its third annual Ambassador Conference July 14th-16th. The three-day conference brought together 35 high school counselors and administrators who participated in campus tours and engaged in hands-on learning experiences. President Rodríguez said the college is very appreciative of the exceptional collaboration with its secondary school partners. He thanked Dr. Plummer, Dr. Tipton, and the entire Student Development team, as well as the faculty and staff, who made the event successful.

Student Events

During summer months, the Student Life and Student Services teams hosted a number of events, designed to engage the community and promote student persistence, such as: Popcorn with Student Life, New Student Orientation, Snow Cone Social and Apply Texas and Financial Aid workshop.

In addition, TSC will host Sting Day on Saturday, August 22nd. The event will include free food, a silent disco, foam party, games, as well as student club and program information. President Rodríguez thanked the entire Student Life and Student Services teams.

Fall Convocation

Fall Convocation was held on August 17th. During the event, President Rodríguez spoke about the benefits of continuously improving communication and teamwork, similar to the precision of a NASCAR pit team. In addition, Vice Presidents provided updates in their areas and included calls to action that will promote cross-divisional cooperation. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Saenz and Secretary Camarillo for offering words of support and encouragement to the TSC team during the event.

SACS COC Update

During the new academic year, TSC will strive to achieve several milestones with its accrediting body, SACSCOC, now called the Commission on Colleges and Universities. President Rodríguez called upon Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Vice President of Instruction, to provide an update on this work. Mr. Hernandez reported that TSC hosted two teams from the Commission over the past year: one for the College's 5th year Interim report and one for the new Bachelor of Applied Technology degree program. The College is in the process of submitting additional information to the Commission and expects the work to move forward at the Commission's meeting in December.

Video Presentation

President Rodríguez shared a video, which highlighted college activities that have occurred since the board last met.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment to the college and the communities it serves. He also thanked the entire campus community for their dedication in preparing for a new fall semester.

6. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meetings:

a. Regular Meeting – June 18, 2026

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2026. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Special Meeting – June 22, 2026

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 22, 2026. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Regular Meeting – July 2, 2026

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 2, 2026. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Finance Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Vice Chair Lopez Harris to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the award of RFP 26-13 for emergency phone tower system with surveillance camera

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the RFP timeline, description of services, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring tabulation, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. Two vendors responded to the RFP, with International Global Solution, Corp receiving the highest score from the committee. The board engaged in a brief discussion to clarify the evaluation process, description of services, tower locations, and ongoing maintenance.

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to award RFP 26-13 for emergency phone tower system with surveillance camera to International Global Solution, Corp. in the amount of $365,085 including one year cell phone service and managed services and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contracts, as presented. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of Budget Amendment 26-003 in the amount of $4,904,426

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the excess revenue to be recognized by the proposed budget amendment, which was comprised of FAST appropriations, investment income, and tuition and fees. He noted that the additional funding would be used for one-time capital purchases. The board engaged in a brief discussion regarding the development of the proposed expenditures.

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 26-003 for Fiscal Year 2026 as presented. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on approval of the Texas Southmost College District Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the three fund types that make up the proposed college budget, with each achieving a balanced budget for the coming year. The board engaged in a brief discussion to affirm that the proposed budget is a balanced budget and includes a 2% across-the-board raise for all employees.

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to approve the Texas Southmost College Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budget as presented. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Consideration and possible action on the adoption of the 2026 Texas Southmost College District Ad Valorem Tax Rates

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the key items that make up the property tax rate, as well as the three property tax rate options the Board may consider. He also presented the property tax rate adoption schedule, which included the August publication dates of the *Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase* on the TSC website and in the local newspaper. Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, presented the following resolution:

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the certified tax rolls for the Year 2026 have been received for the Texas Southmost College District; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to set a tax rate for the Year beginning January 1, 2026:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District that there will be levied for the Year 2026, on all property owned within the limits of the Texas Southmost College District, as of the first day of January 2026, except so much thereof as may be exempt by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of this State, the following tax:

An ad valorem tax assessment for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2026 at $0.096148 per $100 valuation at an assessment rate of 100% for **maintenance and operation** of the Texas Southmost College District.

An ad valorem tax assessment for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2026, at **$0.003045** per $100 valuation for the 2015 Limited Tax Refinance Bonds, and **$0.000541** per $100 valuation for the 2017 Limited Tax Bonds.

ADOPTED this 20TH DAY of AUGUST 2026.

_____
Delia Saenz
Chair, Board of Trustees

_____
Edward C. Camarillo
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to adopt a maintenance and operations tax rate of $0.096148 and a debt tax rate of $0.003586 per $100 of valuation. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

e. Consideration and possible action on adoption of a bank resolution for signature card authorization

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reported that the proposed resolution will allow the college to update its banking signature cards. Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, presented the following resolution:

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Resolution

Whereas, Texas Southmost College (the "College") needs to maintain banking relationships with various financial institutions; and

Whereas, Such financial institutions require the College to designate officers who are authorized to sign documents on behalf of the College; and

Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Texas Southmost College designates the following officer(s) and/or authorized signatory(ies) as Authorized Signers to establish bank accounts on behalf of the College, close such accounts, operate such accounts, and designate persons to operate such accounts.

Name and Title

1. Delia Saenz – TSC Board Chair
2. Edward C. Camarillo – TSC Board Secretary
3. Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez – TSC President
4. Mr. Carlos Pecero – Vice President of Administration

Resolved further, that a banking institution may rely upon this resolution in its entirety until receipt of notice in writing of any modification and/or revocation of authorized persons.

Upon motion duly seconded, the above resolution was passed at the special meeting of the Board of Trustees held on the Day of August 20, 2026.

_____
Delia Saenz
TSC Board Chair

_____
Edward C. Camarillo
TSC Board Secretary

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to adopt resolution for signature card authorization. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

f. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended June 30, 2026

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He presented the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ending June 30, 2026.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

g. Third Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the Third Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2026. He presented the item.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

h. Consideration and possible action on television and digital advertising contract

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and External Relations; and Mr. Ricardo Vasquez, Executive Director of Marketing, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia noted that the Board previously approved Televisa as a vendor. This proposal recognizes the legal name of the vendor: Alternative & Innovative Marketing dba "AIM" Representative of TelevisaUnivision U.S./Mexico Border States. Mr. Vasquez also reviewed the services provided through the contract, which includes the live broadcast of home soccer games, digital streaming, and social media. The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the proposed services, viewership, and analytics analysis.

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to approve the contract for television and digital advertising with Alternative & Innovative Marketing dba "AIM" Representative of TelevisaUnivision U.S./Mexico Border States through exempted purchasing method in the amount of $70,944 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

i. Report on grants awarded to Texas Southmost College through July 2026

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and External Relations, was called upon to present the report on grants awarded to Texas Southmost College through July 2026. Dr. Garcia presented the report.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

8. Academic Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee Garcia to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Wave Healthcare

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Vice President of Instruction; and Dr. Herminio Guajardo, Dean of Health Professions, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Guajardo said the new affiliation would provide clinical training for Respiratory Care Science students. The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the students who would benefit from this agreement and available transportation assistance.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Weave Healthcare and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action to approve the addendum to the clinical affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Texas Health Care Imaging

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Vice President of Instruction; and Dr. Herminio Guajardo, Dean of Health Professions, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Guajardo said the proposed addendum adds two new clinical training sites; one in Harlingen and one in Weslaco. These locations will provide students enrolled in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Radiologic Technology programs with additional clinical opportunities.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the addendum to the clinical affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Texas Health Care Imaging and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the addendum, as presented. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action to approve the affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Texas A&M University Kingsville

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed agreement updates the previous MOU with Texas A&M University Kingsville, with the goal of continuing to develop transfer pathways.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Texas A&M University-Kingsville and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Consideration and possible action to approve the revised Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) Subaward Agreement between Texas Southmost College and the Brownsville Independent School District

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and External Relations; and Dr. Angelica Fuentes, Associate Vice President of Workforce Training and Continuing Education, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia said the proposed agreement updates the indemnification provision, which has been reviewed by TSC Legal.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the revised Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) Subaward Agreement between Brownsville Independent School District and Texas Southmost College and authorize President Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Student Services Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of Artificial Intelligence (AI) One Stop Contact Center with CollegeVine

Mr. Rene Villarreal, Associate Vice President of Administrative Technology, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed exempted purchase would extend contact center service to 27/7 coverage, helping to manage inbound calls and peak times, and freeing up temporary and part-time employees for other duties. The service would also provide more time for full-time staff to devote to complex calls. The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the vendor's experience with other higher ed institutions and project implementation.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the contract for AI One Stop Contact Center from Canopy Education, Inc. dba CollegeVine through exempted purchasing method in the amount of $85,000 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Texas Southmost College NJCAA intercollegiate teams update

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development; Dr. Prisci Tipton, Associate Vice President of Educational Partnerships and Outreach; and Mr. Mario Zamora, Director of Recreation Center and Athletics Operations; were called upon to present the item. Dr. Plummer noted that that the men and women's soccer and cross-country teams are entering another season. Dr. Tipton provided an overview of the teams and their schedules, sharing that 16 student-athletes earned Region 14 all-academic honors and 13 earned NJCAA all-academic honors. The board engaged in a brief discussion of gametimes, special events, and fundraising.

The item was for information only. No action was taken

10. Facilities Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee De Leon to present the report.

a. Facilities Update

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration; Mr. Ronald Robles, Executive Director of Facilities and Physical Plant; and Mr. Gerardo Mascorro, HVAC Supervisor; were called upon to present the item. Mr. Robles provided an update on the following items: tennis, basketball, and pickle ball court rendering and thermal plant chiller installation design and construction status. Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and External Relations, provided an update on the exterior, interior, and wayfinding signage project.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

11. Policies Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the following TASB Update 50 Local Policy: EFAA–Instructional Programs and Courses Academic Course (add)

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He provided an overview of the proposed policy that clarifies the development and adoption of a core curriculum for TSC.

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve TASB recommended action on the following local policy: EFAA. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action to approve the following TASB Update 51 Local Policies:

i. CS–Information Security (revise)
ii. FB—Admissions (revise)
iii. FDA—Tuition and Fees: Residency (revise)

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the three local policies.

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve the following Update 51 local policies: CS, FB, and FDA. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.

12. Executive Session

a. Consultation with Attorney on Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Section 551.071 Texas Government Code

b. Consultation with Attorney on Pending Real Estate Issues, Section 551.072 Texas Government Code

c. **Deliberation on Personnel Matters, Section 551.074 Texas Government Code**

d. **Deliberation regarding cybersecurity infrastructures, security devices or security audits; Section 551.0761 Texas Government Code**

e. **Deliberation on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter, Section 551.071 Texas Government Code**

f. **Trustee Aldrete made a motion that the Board of Trustees authorize and approve President Rodríguez and his designees to contact endowment donors to obtain agreements, as discussed in Executive Session. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:42 p.m.

13. **Action on Executive Session Matters**

a. **Consideration and possible action on FY25-26 Salary Schedule**

Trustee Garcia made a motion that the Texas Southmost College Board of Trustees approve the salary schedule for FY 2025-26, as discussed in executive session. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. **President's Evaluation**

Trustee De Leon made a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the President's salary increase and contract, as discussed in executive session. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

14. **Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates**

a. **Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, September 24, 5:30 p.m.**
b. **Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, October 15, 5:30 p.m.**

15. **Adjournment**

Trustee De Leon made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Ms. Delia Saenz
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mr. Edward Camarillo
Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Public Hearing and Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on August 20, 2026 is available on the TSC.EDU website. These minutes were prepared by Dr. Angela K. McCauley, Chief Institutional Editor and Special Projects. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996.