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Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, Ph.D.

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 22, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on January 22, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Saenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary; Dr. Tony Zavaleta; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete; Mr. Edward Camarillo; and Mr. Edgar Garcia. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledges of Allegiance

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

3. Public Comment

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

4. Chairwoman's Report

Conjunto Festival

Chair Garza said the community had a wonderful time at the Conjunto Festival, which kicked off TSC's 100th Anniversary celebration. She said the greatest beneficiaries of the event were the student musicians who competed. Parents reached out to let board members know how much they appreciated the event and that they are looking forward to next year.

The board engaged in a discussion of the highlights of the event, including families who turned out to support the very talented student musicians, and they noted how talented and personable Grammy-winning headliner Michael Salgado was. The board thanked the staff team, led by Dr. Stella Garcia, who worked diligently to ensure the campus looked beautiful and the event ran smoothly.

City of Brownsville Proclamation

The City of Brownsville issued the first proclamation for TSC's 100th anniversary. Mayor John Cowan and Commissioner Tino Villarreal, Jr. came to the college campus for a special presentation of the proclamation on Monday, January 19. The following day the proclamation was officially presented during the City Commission meeting.

Chair Garza said the partnership between the college and city is strong, with TSC training the city's workforce, and that the whole city commission is behind the college.

5. President's Report**Centennial Celebration kick-off**

President Rodríguez said that as the new year begins, there has never been a better time to be a Scorpion. He said Conjunto music was the perfect genre to launch TSC's centennial celebration. At the same time that Texas Southmost College became the first institution of higher education to be established in the Rio Grande Valley in 1926, conjunto music was developing rapidly in the Rio Grande Valley across South Texas, with early recordings dating back to the 1930s. The event brought the community to campus: students and their families, music teachers, local performers, and music lovers of all ages. President Rodríguez extended his thanks to the TSC Board of Trustees and Foundation Board members, staff and volunteers, and all of the community members who participated in the celebration.

Holiday Events

Since the board last met in November, the Scorpion Community celebrated the holiday season together. Among the many holiday events were the very popular TSC Tree Lighting, Brownsville Lighted Parade, and Holiday Employee luncheon. President Rodríguez thanked all of the Trustees who participated in the traditions, as well as the many faculty and staff who worked hard to make the season a little more magical—especially the Student Services division, Human Resources office, Events department, and Facilities department for their dedicated behind-the-scenes work.

Fall Commencement

Texas Southmost College celebrated the 2025 graduating class at Fall Commencement in December. Dr. Gilberto Flores, Jr. served as the commencement speaker; he is a proud TSC alum with an inspiring story. He shared how TSC helped him pursue his dream of becoming a physician, when he really needed a second chance. President Rodríguez extended his thanks to the trustees who were there to congratulate the graduates, and all of the faculty and staff who made it a memorable day for the newest alumni.

CJI graduation

The college community celebrated another class of cadets from the Criminal Justice Institute last month. Of the 31 graduates who took the TCOLE Basic Peace officer certification test, all 31 passed the first time. In addition, for the first time ever, TSC students took the TCOLE basic corrections officer test, and all eight of those graduates were hired locally. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza and Trustee Camarillo for participating in the graduation ceremony. Chair Garza noted that CJI instructor Cristobal Abrego has done a wonderful job in transforming the cohort members.

TPSA competition

Texas Southmost College is also helping prepare future generations of peace officers. On January 9th, the college hosted the Texas Public Safety Association Region 5 Competition at ITECC. Approximately 200 high

school students from across the region competed in 30 events, including skills essential for law enforcement, fire services, forensic science, legal studies, and correctional services. President Rodríguez thanked the Workforce Training team for helping to make the event successful for regional high school students.

Spring Convocation

Texas Southmost College held the annual Spring Convocation event on January 12th. President Rodríguez noted that it is always a high point to gather with full-time employees and share updates happening across the college. During the event, the official 100th Anniversary poster, designed by TSC art faculty, was unveiled. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza, Vice Chair Saenz, Secretary Lopez Harris, and Trustee Camarillo for participating in convocation.

Harlingen State of the State event

Representatives from Texas Southmost College attended the Harlingen State of the State event. Senator Adam Hinojosa, Representative Janie Lopez, and Representative Erin Gamez provided updates on the 2025 legislative session outcomes and what they hope to tackle in the next legislative session. President Rodríguez thanked Trustee Camarillo for joining TSC staff to represent the college at the event.

Employee recognitions/appointments

President Rodríguez announced that Dr. Stella Garcia was appointed to the RGV LEAD (Linking Economic and Academic Development) Board of Directors. The organization's mission is to ensure that youth have the skills and credentials needed to thrive in the 21st century. President Rodríguez said Dr. Garcia brings valuable experience to the board and will represent TSC well.

Martha Casquette, who is a long-time TSC physics instructor and department chair, was nationally recognized by the two-year college physics and astronomy community. She was named an OPTYCs Luminary—OPTYCs is the acronym for the Organization for Physics at Two-Year Colleges. The Luminary program recognizes individuals for their commitment to professional development and leadership in the community college physics community.

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 support of the college and the communities it serves, and he said the college community looks forward to celebrating TSC's 100th anniversary all year long.

6. **Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meeting:**
 - a. **Regular Meeting – November 20, 2025**

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2025. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Finance Committee

Chair Garza called upon Vice Chair Saenz to present the report.

a. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended October 31, 2025

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He presented the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ending October 31, 2025.

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

b. First Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero presented the First Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2026.

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

c. Grants awarded to Texas Southmost College for the month of October

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, was called upon to present the report on grants awarded to Texas Southmost College for the month of October.

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

8. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of purchase of two switch electrical vehicle lab kits for the Automobile Technology Program

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Emma Miller Dean of Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Hernandez said the proposed equipment purchase is contingent upon receipt of JET grant funding. He noted the kits would help students learn how to repair electrical vehicle equipment.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the purchase of two switch electric vehicle lab kits from Toolkit Technologies, Inc. (Switch Vehicles, Inc) through exempted purchasing method and contingent on grant funds in the amount of \$204,284 and authorized President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of furniture classroom purchase for the ITECC Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology academic division

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Emma Miller, Dean of Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Miller said the proposed purchase would replace classroom furniture in 13 classrooms throughout ITECC.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the furniture purchase for ITECC classrooms directly from the manufacturer Krueger International (KI) through OMNIA Partners contract in the amount of \$518,743 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on approval to pursue an Associate of Applied Science in Welding Degree

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Emma Miller, Dean of Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Hernandez said TSC currently offers welding instruction at the certificate 1 and 2 levels. This proposal would allow the college to pursue approval of welding instruction at the associate degree level.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the Associate of Applied Science in Welding and to seek THECB and SACSCOC approval to offer this program by January 2027. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Clinical affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Fox Hollow Post Acute

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, and Dr. Herminio Guajardo, Dean of Health Professions, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Guajardo said the agreement would provide an additional site for nursing students to acquire clinical skills training in Brownsville.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the clinical affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Fox Hollow Post Acute and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

e. Consideration and possible action on approval of a standard Memorandum of Understanding template for the Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Fund Standard

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Dr. Angelica M. Fuentes, AVP of Workforce Training and Continuing Education, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Fuentes said the template would allow the college to quickly address customized training opportunities for business and industry partners seeking training with TSC. The board engaged in a discussion of the use of grant-purchased consumables and equipment. Mr. Frank Perez, legal counsel, said the college legal team has carefully reviewed the MOU template.

Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve a standard memorandum of understanding template to be used for Skills Development Fund grant submissions and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the MOU with industry partners as opportunities arise. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Facilities Update

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Interim 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: thermal plant cooling tower installation, hydronic line replacement, restoration of hydronic line leaks on campus grounds, tennis court restoration RFP, ITECC pipe fitting lab, rehab of the American Legion Building, furniture purchase project, and the PUB water tower demolition.

The board engaged in a brief discussion of the proposed sports court flooring.

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

10. Student Services Committee

Chair Garza called upon Secretary Lopez Harris to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of furniture purchase for the Oliveira Student Services Center

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed purchase includes furniture for student common spaces, computer lab, study rooms, and a second-floor conference room in the Oliveira Student Services Center. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the proposed improved use of the space.

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to approve furniture purchase for the Oliveira Student Services Center directly from the manufacturer Krueger International (KI) through OMNIA Partners contract in the amount of \$118,203 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval for customer relationship management platform contract extension

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, and Mr. Rene Villarreal, Associate Vice President, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Villarreal said the proposed item is a three-year contract extension. He reviewed the RFP timeline, description of services, and financial impact.

The board engaged in a brief discussion of the software's performance and its positive impact on communication with students.

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to approve the customer relationship management platform contract extension with TargetX through RFP 21-05 in the total amount of \$183,250 for the three additional years. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. Policies Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the revisions the following TASB Update 50 LOCAL policies: BA, BAA, BBE, BD, CDB, CL, CM, and CRB

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

- BA - COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNANCE: Language from the policy has been moved to policy BAA
- BAA - COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNANCE: BOARD LEGAL STATUS: Now includes language from policy BA
- BBE - BOARD MEMBERS: AUTHORITY: Recommended revisions to this policy address HB 4310, which establishes a procedure for board members to access records maintained by the college while preserving the confidentiality of those records
- BD - BOARD MEETINGS: Recommended revisions to the policy incorporate HB 1522, which updates the meeting notice requirements under the Open Meetings Act to require that notice of a meeting be posted three business days before the scheduled date of a meeting
- CDB - ACCOUNTING: INVENTORIES: Recommended revisions address the Budget Requirements and Annual Financial Reporting Requirements for Texas Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Year 2025, which was recently released by the Coordinating Board. The document updates the definition of capital assets to recommend, rather than require, a minimum capitalization threshold of \$5,000, permitting community colleges to choose the threshold at which assets are capitalized.
- CL - FACILITIES PLANNING: This new policy addresses SB 8 from the second special legislative session, which requires community colleges to designate certain private spaces by sex consistent with the bill's provisions.
- CM - FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION: Recommended revisions address SB 1173, which increases the contract value threshold at which community colleges are required to utilize a statutory competitive procurement method for construction contracts from \$50,000 or above to \$100,000 or above

- **CRB - TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:** This new recommended local policy includes information related to AI Use by Employees and Students, including the parameters for use; compliance with privacy and data security law, policies, and regulations; and prohibitions on use of AI tools to harm, bully, or harass others.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the following LOCAL policies: BA, BAA, BBE, BD, CDB, CL, CM, and CRB. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:41 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 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**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:39 p.m.

13. Action on Executive Session Matters

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

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the FY 2025-2026 Salary Schedule, as discussed in executive session. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

14. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

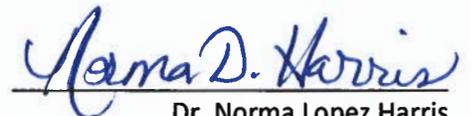
- a. **Regular Board Meeting – Thursday February 19, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**
- b. **Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, March 26, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**

15. Adjournment

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Ms. Adela Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees



Dr. Norma Lopez Harris
Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Public Hearing and Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on January 22, 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.