



Texas Southmost College

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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

October 16, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on October 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Saenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary; Ms. Alejandra Aldrete; Mr. Edward Camarillo; and Mr. Edgar Garcia. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent was Dr. Tony Zavaleta.

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 Aldrete 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

Chair Garza presented the following items:

STEM Nation

Chair Garza announced that the Rio Grande Valley Philanthropic Foundation made a \$10,000 gift to the TSC Foundation during their STEM Nation event. Dr. Diane Milliken Garza, RGV Philanthropic Foundation CEO, spoke about the importance of closing the gap in Latino representation in the STEM fields. During the presentation, Dr. Milliken Garza thanked Texas Southmost College for being the first institution of higher education who believed in the STEM Nation initiative and who stepped in to support it. Chair Garza thanked her fellow board members for their support of STEM Nation, and she thanked President Rodríguez and Dr. David Plummer for participating in the event.

Community Events

Chair Garza participated in a number of community events since the last Board meeting, including:

- The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Business to Botana Expo on September 24th showcased local businesses and restaurants, including TSC, which was well-represented.
- The City of Brownsville's groundbreaking for its new Public Safety Complex. The event was well attended by city and state leaders.
- The Chamber's Texas Talks events on September 30th, during which local elected officials participated and provided an update on the 89th Texas Legislative session. Also participating were Vice Chair Saenz, President Rodríguez, Mr. Mesquias, Mr. Pecero, and Mr. Hernandez.

Chair Garza said it was an honor to represent the college and the Board of Trustees at these events, as TSC continues to strengthen the relationships with business, industry, and elected officials.

5. President's Report**Living History Day**

Texas Southmost College hosted its ninth annual Living History Day on October 4th, which is designed to celebrate world cultures and eras through immersive learning. The event is a big draw for the community, including TSC's 21st Century Communities Learning Center families. President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Prisci Tipton and her team for the important student enrichment the program provides to families and the Instruction and Student Services teams for their collaboration in making the event a successful experience for attendees. President Rodríguez also extended a special thanks to the faculty for their work in planning their learning stations, dressing in historic costumes, and ensuring that the community has a great experience. Finally, President Rodríguez thanked Chair Garza and Trustee Camarillo for participating in the event.

Scorpion's Quill

President Rodríguez invited Dr. Chris Alves, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, to present the college's new literary journal, the *Scorpion's Quill*. Dr. Alves said the initiative originated from the TSC Communication and Language department as a vehicle for featuring students' talent. The journal includes student's creative works in memoir, poetry, visual art, photography, and photographs of sculpture. Signed copies were presented to the Trustees.

President Rodríguez thanked Dr. Alves, the faculty from the Communication and Language department, and all of the talented contributors for their work on the inaugural edition.

Dual Enrollment Symposium

TSC welcomed back dual enrollment partners for its annual symposium in September, designed to strengthen relationships as the college's dual enrollment program continues to grow. During the symposium high school counselors and administrators took part in interactive breakout sessions that provide them with important information such as policy changes, program updates, and the wide range of services available to dual credit students. President Rodríguez extended his thanks to Dr. David Plummer, Dr. Prisci Tipton, and the entire Student Services team for making the symposium a successful annual event.

Student Services Events

With the fall semester well underway, the hard-working Student Services team—led by Dr. David Plummer, Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, and Dr. Prisci Tipton—held a number of events to enhance the Scorpion community and foster student success. These included:

- Rec Bash
- Breast Cancer Awareness walk/run
- Student Leadership Academy workshops
- Coffee Day
- Mindful Mondays
- Pizza with the President
- Breakfast with the President
- Text Anxiety and Time Management workshop
- Pilates en el Paseo
- Intramural programs in flag football, volleyball, indoor soccer, ping pong, and tennis

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 and he thanked them for their leadership in setting the course to move forward with purpose and direction.

6. Brownsville Nite Lions Club Presentation

Mr. Pete Infante, Past-President of the Brownsville Nite Lions club, and his colleagues presented the TSC Foundation with a gift of \$2,000 to the student scholarship fund. He said the motto of the club is, “We Serve”, which guides their work in assisting a number of local organizations to benefit community members.

7. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meeting:**a. Regular Meeting – September 18, 2025**

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2025. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Consideration and possible action on a resolution nominating a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Cameron Appraisal District

Chair Garza reported that she had spoken with Trustee Aldrete, who agreed to serve as TSC’s candidate for the Board of Directors of the Cameron Appraisal District. Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT EXPRESSING ITS NOMINATION(S) FOR APPRAISAL DISTRICT DIRECTORS FOR THE CAMERON APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District are authorized to make nominations for each position to be filled in the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, these directors shall serve a term beginning January 1, 2026, and that all taxing entities associated with the Cameron Appraisal District are authorized to nominate up to five (5) individuals for said Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District must submit the names of the nominee(s) by written resolution to the Chief Appraiser by October 17, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT, THAT THE NAME:

Alejandra Aldrete

Is hereby nominated by the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District to the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors.

FURTHERMORE, the Board of Trustees for Texas Southmost College District directs the Chief Appraiser to submit said nomination for consideration by all taxing entities within the Cameron Appraisal District in the upcoming district appointments.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of October, 2025.

Board Chair for Texas Southmost College

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chair Garza made a motion to approve the resolution nominating Trustee Alejandra Aldrete for a position on the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Finance Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of the rollover FY25 purchase order commitments and pending projects with budget amendment 26-001

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero reviewed the report detailing pending purchase order commitments and committed project balances in the FY25 approved budget.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion approve the rollover of the FY25 purchase orders commitments and pending projects with budget amendment 26-001. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on approval of digital billboard advertising contract

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Mr. Ricardo Vasquez, Executive Director of Marketing, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia said the proposed item is considered sole source, because it is the only billboard at this location. Mr. Vasquez highlighted the location of the billboard, expected number of views, and the fiscal implications.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the length of the contract.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the contract for digital billboard advertising with ChatterBox Ads, LLC through exempted purchasing method in the amount of \$59,400 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on approval of streaming video and digital advertising services contract

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Mr. Ricardo Vasquez, Executive Director of Marketing, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia said the proposed item is considered sole source, and the college has previously used the vendor to stream soccer games. Mr. Vasquez described the additional proposed services and fiscal implications.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the expected viewership and other events programming.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the contract for streaming video and digital advertising services with Rio Sports Live through an exempted purchasing method in the amount of \$300,000 for a three-year contract and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Grants awarded to Texas Southmost College for the month of August

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 August.

The item was for information only. No action was taken

10. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of a data sharing agreement for a VIDA study from Economic Mobility Corporation

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Hernandez said the 10-year project will assess VIDA's impact on students' college education and employment outcomes.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the data sharing agreement with Economic Mobility Corporation and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. Student Services Committee

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

a. Update and information on Texas Southmost College's Texas ACE Program

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, and Dr. Prisci Roca Tipton, Associate Vice President of Educational Partnership and Outreach, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Tipton presented an overview of the Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) statewide initiative. TSC remains the only community college awarded the competitive grant. The initiative funds high-impact academic, enrichment, and college and career readiness programs for 10 middle schools and high schools in the Brownsville Independent School District. The program serves students before and after school, as well as through other activities such as summer camps and family engagement events. Last year, TSC was awarded additional funding, which supported 70 high school students in earning workforce training credentials.

The Board thanked Dr. Tipton for her exceptional work in serving local families.

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

12. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of Charro Days Festivities sponsorships in accordance with GD (LOCAL) Community Expression and Use of College Facilities

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Mrs. Erika Fayett, Coordinator of Events and Leasing Services, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia provided background on the process for local entities to request sponsorship for Charro Days events. Ms. Fayett presented the sponsorship requests from Charro Days Fiesta, Inc. and the Rotary Club of Brownsville Sunrise, including cost estimates and proposed sponsorship details.

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve Charro Day Fiesta, Inc. and Rotary Club of Brownsville Sunrise sponsorship requests, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Facilities Update

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, Mr. Ronald Robles, Executive Director of Facilities & 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, ITECC pipe fitting lab, rehab of the American Legion Building, and the PUB water tower demolition.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the use of the American Legion Building, and Chair Garza praised the Facilities team for their unity and exceptional work.

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

13. Policies Committee

Chair Garza called on Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action to approve revision to DIAA (LOCAL) Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation: Sex and Sexual Violence

Mr. Frank Perez, Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He noted that the revision consists of changing the Title IX coordinator's contract information.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve local policy DIAA. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Review Privacy Policy

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called upon to present the item. He provided context for the TSC privacy policy, noting TSC's commitment to ensuring the privacy and accuracy of the confidential information of students, employees, and community members, while complying with applicable federal and state laws, including: FERPA, Texas Cybersecurity Act, Texas Data Privacy and Security Act.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of preventing the transmission of students' personal information.

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

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

14. 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**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:38 p.m.

15. Action on Executive Session Matters

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

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

- b. Consideration and possible action on award of RFP 25-14**

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion that the Board approve and award RFP 25-14, as presented in executive session. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- c. Consideration and possible action to ratify and confirm the resolution of pending claim, Hernandez**

Trustee Aldrete made a motion that the Board ratify and confirm the settlement of the Hernandez litigation, as presented in executive session. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Consideration and possible action on pending real estate issues

Trustee Camarillo made a motion that the Board approve the hiring of an appraiser to appraise the property that the Border Patrol proposed to purchase, as discussed in executive session. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

16. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

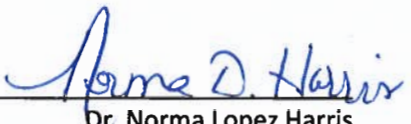
- a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday November 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, January 22, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

17. Adjournment

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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 October 16, 2025 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.