



**Board of Trustees**

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*Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, Ph.D.*

**TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**March 12, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on March 12, 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. Presentation by Cine Sol**

Chair Garza called upon Mr. Henry Serrato, Director of the Cine Sol Film Festival, to present. Mr. Serrato thanked the Board for allowing the 32nd annual Cine Sol Film Festival to be held at Texas Southmost College in December 2025. He said more than 45 independent films were screened during the three-day event, and all TSC students, faculty, and staff were granted free admission. He said the film festival was a great success and he hopes the partnership with TSC will continue.

**5. Chairwoman's Report**

**Charro days**

Chair Garza said the Board had a great time celebrating the Charro Days events, including the Charro Days parade, which was well attended, and the TSC Loteria event. She said the participants were very enthusiastic

during the Loteria event, which was very successful. She also noted that the college hosted Mr. Amigo on campus, who spoke highly of the Brownsville community.

#### **Meeting with Texas Governor**

Chair Garza and President Rodríguez recently attended an event during which they met with Governor Greg Abbott. She said it was a productive meeting with people who recognized the good work taking place at Texas Southmost College. The Point Isabel School District culinary arts program, a TSC dual credit partner, was featured at the event, and this partnership was highlighted for the Governor and other guests.

#### **Port of Brownsville**

The Brownsville Navigation District's Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation in honor of TSC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their February 4th board meeting. Chair Garza said it was a very nice recognition for the college.

### **6. President's Report**

#### **RGV Education and Career Expo**

TSC hosted the RGV Education and Career Expo held at ITECC last month. More than 900 high school juniors and seniors from across the Rio Grande Valley visited ITECC for career exploration. The event was hosted by RGV LEAD with support from Workforce Solutions Cameron, and more than 30 TSC programs were represented. President Rodríguez extend his thanks to all of the programs and departments that participated in the Career Expo.

#### **Faculty Art Exhibit**

The Arts and Sciences Division hosted the Spring 2026 Faculty Art Exhibit at the ITECC Art Gallery on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Guests explored faculty's diverse mediums and perspectives, showcasing the depth of talent and artistic excellence in TSC's Fine Arts program. President Rodríguez extend his thanks to TSC's faculty artists for sharing their work and inspiring students and the community to pursue their own creative journeys.

#### **RGV Texas Association of Assessing Officers**

President Rodríguez served as the keynote speaker during the February meeting of the Rio Grande Valley chapter of the Texas Association of Assessing Officers. During the meeting, he shared TSC's mission as a comprehensive community college and highlighted many of points of pride. He said he appreciated the opportunity to cultivate additional ambassadors for the good work taking place at Texas Southmost College.

#### **Student Services Events**

With the spring semester in full swing, the hard-working Student Services team—led by Dr. David Plummer, Ms. Vanessa Vasquez, Dr. Prisci Tipton, and Mr. Rene Villarreal—continue to host events, designed to engage the Scorpion community and promote student persistence, such as

- Student Leadership Academy
- BISD Veterans ECHS CTE campus tour
- Middle School open house, and
- Allied Health CTE tours

President Rodríguez extend his thanks to the entire Student Services team.

**VP Updates**

President Rodríguez called upon a number of the college Vice Presidents to highlight a few of the recent collective achievements. He noted that these undertakings are successful because college divisions are working collaboratively to fulfill the vision that the board has set through its new strategic plan.

- Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President for Information Technology, reviewed major upgrades to TSC's IT hardware and software infrastructure for student services functions, communication initiatives, new solutions for educational technology, the creation of a digital library, upgrades to administrative software and classroom technology, digital signage, and upgrades to IT infrastructure and security. He thanked the Board for their steadfast support of IT: their genuine value of technology, fiscal generosity, and care for students.
- Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reported on the college's fiscal health. The college's budget has grown while reducing tuition and fees, as well as the property tax rate. TSC's investments have also grown year-over-year. He said the members of the Board have been exceptional financial stewards, passing balanced budgets and earning the highest possible rating on audits, year after year, which are reported to a number of state agencies to remain in compliance with state regulations. In addition, Mr. Pecero reported on a steady number of additional employee positions while supporting employee pay raises, including an \$11,000 across-the-board increase for faculty.
- Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, highlighted several successful trends taking place in the Instructional Division. When TSC opened its doors in 2013, it offered 43 academic programs and has now grown to 75 active programs, with five more under consideration. He shared that TSC's enrollment has grown to record levels. The Fall 2025 semester, with 9,207 students, was the largest fall enrollment to date. The Spring 2026 semester is expected to exceed that record, with a projected enrollment of 9,695 students. In addition, TSC's three-year graduation rate surpasses the state's average by 4.2%. He thanked the Board for their support and commitment to the communities they serve.
- Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Relations, provided an update on the Centennial Celebration, TSC Foundation, and the Workforce Training and Continuing Education division. She said the centennial community events—the Conjunto Festival and TSC Loteria—have been so well received that the community has asked for them to be featured again in the future. Sponsorships for the events are going extremely well – Chair Garza has brought in several top Gala sponsors, and HEB has committed \$100,000 in sponsorships. All proceeds from the Centennial events will benefit student scholarships. Over the past four years, the TSC Foundation's scholarship allocations have grown from \$275,000 to \$470,000. Dr. Garcia also highlighted the Board's capital improvement investments that have benefited WTCE programs, including the pipefitting lab, which has doubled the college's capacity to meet the region's rapidly growing industry's needs.

Chair Garza thanked the Vice Presidents, and their teams, for their good work. President Rodríguez thanked the TSC Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and commitment in helping to continue to move TSC forward. He said their investments, as a Board, are reaping exceptional results through the productive collaboration of the entire team.

**Video Presentation**

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

Chair Garza and President Rodríguez shared that the President and the Trustees have been engaged in productive conversations with the Governor, City of Brownsville, and economic development organizations regarding the investments needed to develop a strong workforce.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued support of the college and the communities it serves. He noted that the college is just a few months into its year-long Centennial Anniversary celebration, and the Scorpion Community looks forward to much more to come.

- 7. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meeting:**  
**a. Regular Meeting – January 22, 2026**

**Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2026. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 8. Consideration and possible action to approve amended Notice of Election**

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Relations, was called upon to present the item. She said that the Cameron County Elections Department has provided an updated list of county-wide early voting sites and election day voting sites, which differs from the Notice of Election the Board of Trustees previously approved in November. Eight new locations were added.

**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve the amended Notice of Election of the Texas Southmost College District Board of Trustees for Places 1, 2, and 5. Trustee Aldrete 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 award RFP 26-04 for Structured Data Cabling Project for Academic Buildings**

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring tabulation, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. Five vendors responded to the RFP, with JSJ Rodríguez, Inc. Tele Pro-Communications receiving the highest score from the committee.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of the project timeline and the coordination that will take place with the instruction department, as well as the longevity of the materials.

**Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to award RFP 26-04 for Structured Data Cabling Project for Academic Buildings to JSJ Rodríguez, Inc. dba Tele Pro-Communications, in the amount of \$219,280 plus five percent contingency to cover unforeseen events and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**b. Consideration and possible action on approval of scheduling platform subscription contract**

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed item is for a renewal of classroom and event room scheduling software.

**Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve scheduling platform subscription contract with Ad Astra Information Systems, L.L.C. through exempted purchasing method in the total amount of \$120,983 for current fiscal year plus three subsequent years and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**c. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended December 31, 2025**

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 December 31, 2025.

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

**d. Annual Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2025**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero noted that the information is presented in the required standard format, covering the period from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

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

**e. Annual Financial Report and Audit for Texas Southmost College District for fiscal year ending August 31, 2025**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Pecero introduced Mr. Carlos Uresti, from Cascos and Associates, who presented the report. Mr. Uresti thanked the Board and the staff for their assistance in providing information for the audit. He said the college earned the highest opinion an organization can receive, an unmodified opinion. He then presented highlights from the report.

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

**f. Annual review of CAK LOCAL: Appropriations and revenue sources – Investments**

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, was called on to present the item. Mr. Perez noted that Government Code requires that the board review its investment policy not less than annually. No revisions have been made to the previous policy.

**Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to acknowledge annual review of CAK Local: Appropriations and Revenue Sources - Investments. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**g. Grants awarded to Texas Southmost College through January 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 January 2026.

The item was for information only. No action was taken

**10. Academic Committee**

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Zavaleta to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action to approve articulation agreement between Texas Southmost College and Texas State University**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Hernandez said the proposed agreement is intended to facilitate the smooth transfer of Texas Southmost College students to Texas State University's Organizational Workforce and Leadership Studies program, by ensuring that previously earned eligible credits are recognized and applied toward relevant academic requirements.

**Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the articulation agreement with Texas State University and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the articulation agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**b. Consideration and possible action to approve the clinical affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and South Texas Health System**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed agreement will provide clinical learning experiences for TSC students in the following programs: Associate Degree in Nursing, Vocational Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Laboratory Technology, Respiratory Care Science, and Emergency Medical Science programs, as well as non-credit programs such as Certified Nurse Assistant, Phlebotomy, and Patient Care Technician.

**Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the clinical affiliation agreement with South Texas Health System and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**c. Consideration and possible action to approve the affiliation agreement between Texas Southmost College and New Horizon Health Center**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed agreement will provide clinical learning experiences for TSC students in the following programs: Associate Degree Nursing and Vocational Nursing programs, Medical Laboratory Technology, and non-credit programs such as Phlebotomy.

**Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the affiliation agreement with New Horizon Health Center and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**d. Consideration and possible action on approval to pursue a certificate of proficiency level 2 in Limited Medical Radiologic Technician**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed item would allow for a feasibility study for the college's consideration in offering a certificate of proficiency level 2 in Limited Medical Radiologic Technician.

**Trustee Zavaleta made a motion to approve the Certificate of Proficiency Level 2 in Limited Medical Radiologic Technician and to seek THECB and SACSCOC approval to offer this program in January 2027. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**e. Consideration and possible action on approval to pursue an Associate of Applied Science in Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology degree**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed item would allow for a feasibility study for the college's consideration in offering an Associate of Applied Science in Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology degree.

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

**f. Consideration and possible action on approval to pursue an Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Mechanics degree**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed item would allow for a feasibility study for the college's consideration in offering an Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Mechanics Technology.

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

**g. Consideration and possible action on approval to pursue an Associate of Applied Science in Auto Body Repair degree**

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Interim Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. He said TSC currently offers a certificate level 1 in Autobody Technology. The proposed item would allow for a feasibility study for the college's consideration in offering an Associate of Applied Science in Autobody Repair.

The Trustees engaged in a brief discussion, noting that they are pleased that technical programs are being expanded to the associate degree level, qualifying graduates for higher pay and positions in their organizations.

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

**11. Facilities Committee**

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 26-07 for windstorm and hail insurance**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Ms. Keila Tuttle, Director of Operations- Safety and Risk Management, were called upon to present the item. Ms. Tuttle reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, evaluation committee, pricing and scoring tabulation, proposed options evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. Two vendors responded to the RFP, with HUB International Texas, Inc receiving the highest score from the committee

**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to award RFP 26-07 for Windstorm and Hail Insurance to HUB International Texas, Inc. in the amount of \$948,271 (presentation proposal option 3) and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion.**

During the discussion period for the item, Mr. Pecero noted that HUB International Texas Inc. provided two different options for consideration, based on the deductible amounts.

**Trustee Camarillo retracted his previous motion. He then made a motion to award RFP 26-07 for Windstorm and Hail Insurance to HUB International Texas, Inc. in the amount of \$1,109,317 (presentation proposal option 4) and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously**

Trustee Garza recognized the Student Government Association members in attendance and thanked them for their interest in the Board of Trustees meeting.

**b. Consideration and possible action on policy renewal for property and casualty insurance services for FY 2025-2026**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Ms. Keila Tuttle, Director of Operations-Safety and Risk Management, were called upon to present the item. Ms. Tuttle said the proposed item is for a renewal for property and casualty insurance.

**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to approve policy renewal of property and casualty insurance services with TASB Risk Management Fund through RFP 24-03 in the amount of \$762,626 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**c. 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: thermal plant cooling tower installation, hydronic line replacement, tennis court restoration RFP, ITECC pipe fitting lab, and rehab of the American Legion Building.

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

**12. Policies Committee**

Chair Garza called on Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

**a. Consideration and possible action to approve the following TASB Update 50 LOCAL policies: CS, DGBA, DGC, DHB, GB, GD**

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

- CS—Information Security: Recommended revisions to this policy incorporate HB 150, which requires a college to notify affected persons of cybersecurity incidents.
- DGBA—Personnel Management Relations, Employee Grievances: Language has been reorganized to clarify the structure of grievance processes.
- DGC—Employee Rights and Privileges, Employee Expression and Use of College Facilities: Recommended revisions throughout this policy incorporate SB 2972, which addresses the regulation of expressive activities on college campuses.
- DHB—Employee Standards of Conduct, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting: Recommended revisions incorporate SB 571, which requires the reporting of instances of child abuse or neglect to a law enforcement agency within 24 hours and amends the definition of law enforcement agency.
- GB—Public Complaints and Hearings: Language has been reorganized to clarify the structure of grievance processes.

- **GD—Community Expressions and Use of College Facilities:** Recommended revisions throughout this policy incorporate SB 2972, which addresses the regulation of expressive activities on college campuses.

**Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the following LOCAL policies: CS, DGBA, DGC, DHB, GB, and GD. Vice Chair Saenz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board of Trustees met members of the Student Government Association who were present and took a commemorative photograph.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.

### **13. 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 8:10 p.m.

### **14. Action on Executive Session Matters**

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

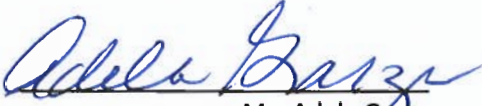
**Trustee Camarillo made a motion to authorize and approve the FY 2025-2026 Salary Schedule, as discussed in executive session. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **15. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates**

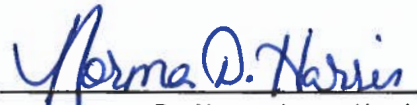
- a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday April 16, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**
- b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**

**16. Adjournment**

**Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 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 March 12, 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.*