



Texas Southmost College

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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 24, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on September 24, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Delia Saenz, Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Vice Chair; Dr. Tony Zavaleta; 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 Mr. Edward Camarillo, Secretary.

REGULAR MEETING 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 Zavaleta led the United States Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

Chair Saenz asked if there were any speakers signed up for public comment. There was one person signed up for public comment. Mr. Dante Villarreal, who is a member of Brownsville Leadership Class 42, thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to share a personal story. His family moved to Brownsville from Michigan four years ago, and his daughter enrolled at Texas Southmost College. He commended the college for the phenomenal education his daughter received and the exceptional price point at TSC. After completing the first two years of her college education at TSC, she transferred to a four-year university and earned her bachelor's degree without accumulating debt. He noted that he and his fellow members of Brownsville Leadership Class 42, many of whom were present, were eager to learn how to contribute to the community's leadership.

4. Chairwoman's Report

Centennial events

Chair Saenz provided an overview of events celebrating TSC's centennial anniversary since the Board last met. Sting Day was held Saturday, August 22nd as a kick off for the new academic year. The event was cosponsored by the Greater Brownsville Economic Development Corporation and the TSC Foundation. The Scorpion community enjoyed free food, a silent disco, foam party, games, as well as student club and program information. Chair Saenz thanked Secretary Camarillo, Trustee Aldrete, and Trustee Garcia for participating in the event.



The Scorpion Community was invited to walk down memory lane during Generations Day, which was held September 14th. The event, cosponsored by Valley Regional Medical Center and the TSC Foundation, featured an exhibit that celebrated 100 years of service at TSC. There were also college yearbooks on display and a video highlighting several alumni, as well as a photo booth and giveaways. 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.

CCATT Annual Conference

Texas Southmost College Trustees participated in the annual conference of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees, also known as C-CATT, earlier this month. Chair Saenz, Secretary Camarillo, and President Rodríguez participated in sessions guided by the theme: Sustainable Success: Community College Governance and Long-Term Impact. Chair Saenz said the conference provided an important opportunity for participants to sharpen their skills and network with peers across the state. She also congratulated Secretary Camarillo for being elected by the membership to be the South Texas representative for C-CATT.

5. President's Report

Phlebotomy and Early Childhood Apprenticeship diploma ceremony



Students from the phlebotomy and early childhood development apprenticeship programs completed a significant milestone: their required training instruction. They now enter the second phase of their apprenticeship, which is fulfilling 2,000 hours of on-the-job-training. This initiative, funded by a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission through funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, facilitates a strong partnership with local employers. The employers support their current employees in earning credentials that qualify them for higher pay, and, at the same time, enhance the quality of services for communities. TSC is on track to serve 100 students through this program by the end of year one. President Rodríguez thanked Secretary Camarillo for participating in the diploma ceremony.

President Rodríguez also noted that TSC was recently visited by Dr. Trisha Evans, who is the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship and Training Representative. She reviewed TSC's Standard Operating Procedures, including documentation for student and program outcomes. Her feedback was extremely positive, confirming that the college is meeting or exceeding all program requirements. She also provided advice for growing the apprenticeship program in the future. President Rodríguez thanked the WTCE team, led by Dr. Stella Garcia, Dr. Angelica Fuentes, and Ms. Anna San Pedro for their dedicated work on the program.

BARSEA Presentation

President Rodríguez spoke to the Brownsville Area Retired School Employees Association about the great things happening at TSC on September 10th. He noted that there were a number of proud Texas Southmost College alumni in the group, with members having attended TSC in the 1950s. President Rodríguez thanked Chair Saenz, also a proud retired BISD school employee, for participating in the event.

Day of Service and Remembrance



The Scorpion Community marked the 25th anniversary of 9/11 with a ceremony at the ITECC Center Courtyard. The event included a posting of colors by the Rivera Early College High School Air Force Junior ROTC, and an inspiration message from keynote speaker, Deputy Fire Chief Eugenio Cardenas. President

Rodríguez thanked Secretary Camarillo for participating in the event, and he thanked the Student Life, Events, and Facilities teams for their collaboration in hosting a great event.

Student Events

During the fall semester, the Student Life and Student Services teams hosted a number of events, designed to engage the community and promote student persistence, such as: Scorpion Club Fair, Waffle Wednesday, and Constitution Day. President Rodríguez thanked the entire Student Life and Student Services teams.

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 noted that 100 years ago, in September 1926, 84 students and seven faculty gathered for the first college classes ever held in the Rio Grande Valley. Now, for an entire century, Texas Southmost College has been a cornerstone of higher education opportunity, workforce development, and community transformation. He said the Scorpion Community looks forward to the next 100 years.

6. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meetings: **a. Special Board Meeting – August 13, 2026**

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 13, 2026. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting – August 20, 2026

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting of August 20, 2026. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Student Services Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee Aldrete to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval of Ellucian Smart Planning and Registration Subscription

Mr. Rene Villarreal, Associate Vice President of Administrative Technology, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed exempted purchase is for software that allows students to build personalized academic degree plans and automatically updates them to accommodate changes. Smart Planning and Registration also allows students to register for courses directly from their personalized plans, reducing errors and keeping students on a clear path to graduation. The board engaged in a brief discussion.

Trustee Aldrete made a motion to approve a five-year contract for smart planning and registration subscription with Ellucian through exempted purchasing method in the amount of \$92,746 for the first year, for second year \$116,860, for third year \$122,703, for fourth year \$128,838, and for fifth year

\$135,280 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Finance Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action on award of RFP 26-10 for Temporary Staffing Services

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called upon to present the item. He reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, scoring tabulation, evaluation committee, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. More than 40 vendors responded to the RFP. The committee ranked the vendors and proposed awarding the RFP to the six highest ranked respondents. The board engaged in a brief discussion.

Vice Chair Lopez Harris made a motion to award RFP 26-10 for temporary staffing services to International Global Solutions, Corp, Spherion Staffing Services, Onin Staffing, LLC, Region Staffing, Inc., N2S Global Workforce Solutions, LLC, Compunnel Software Group, Inc. and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contracts, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended July 31, 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 July 31, 2026. The board engaged in a brief discussion.

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

9. Academic Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee Garcia to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval for Business, Engineering, Architecture, and Technology (BEAT) Programs' tool kits and supplies annual purchases for FY 2026-2027

Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Vice President of Instruction, was called upon to present the item. Mr. Hernandez said the proposed item is to continue purchasing student tool kits from CV Industrial Hardware, LLC. Dr. Miller said the cost increase is due to an increase in student enrollment. She also noted that the students keep the tools, which is an advantage for them following graduation, because many jobs require employees to supply their own tools.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve annual purchases for BEAT programs tool kits and supplies from CV Industrial Hardware, LLC through Buyboard contract for FY 2026-2027. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10. Facilities Committee

Chair Saenz called upon Trustee De Leon 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 and External Relations; and Mrs. Erika Fayett, Events and Leasing Manager, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Garcia reviewed the sponsorship request, lease estimate for use, sponsorship proposal, requesting organization's responsibility for Charro Days Fiesta, Inc. and Sunrise Rotary. The Board engaged in a brief discussion of liability insurance and sponsorship levels.

Trustee De Leon made a motion to approve Charro Days Fiesta, Inc. and Rotary Club of Brownsville Sunrise sponsorship requests, as presented. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. 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: parts room inventory and thermal plant chiller installation design and construction status.

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

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

11. 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 8:14 p.m.

12. Action on Executive Session Matters**a. Consideration and possible action on FY26-27 Salary Schedule**

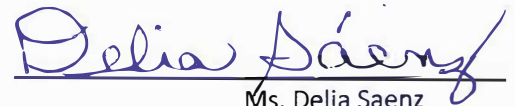
Trustee Aldrete made a motion that the Board of Trustees adopt the revisions to the FY 2026-27, as discussed in executive session. Vice Chair Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

- a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, October 15, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, November 19, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Trustee De Leon made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Aldrete seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 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 September 24, 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.