



Board of Trustees

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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

April 17, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on April 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Ms. Delia Saenz, Vice Chair; Dr. Norma Lopez Harris, Secretary; Mr. Edgar Garcia; and Mr. Edward Camarillo. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent were Dr. Tony Zavaleta and Ms. Alejandra Aldrete.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Vice Chair Saenz 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:

Foundation Gala

Chair Garza said the TSC Foundation Gala, held April 12th, was a wonderful event with a lot of support from the community. The event raised \$135,000, of which every dollar goes to student scholarships. She said that each year, the Gala Committee has tried to improve upon the previous year, and she is looking forward to celebrating TSC's 100th anniversary at next year's gala.

La Cultura Vive Conjunto Competition

TSC hosted the third annual La Cultura Viva Conjunto Competition on April 5th. Chair Garza had the opportunity to speak to students and parents and welcome them into the Scorpion family. She also connected with Sunny Saucedo, the Governor's appointee to Texas Folklife, and looks forward to future collaborations with the organization.

Meeting with Commissioner Tino Villareal

Chair Garza invited Brownsville City Commissioner Tino Villarreal to tour Texas Southmost College. She thanked President Rodríguez, Mr. Richard Mesquias, and Mr. Ricardo Trevino for providing an exceptional experience for the commissioner. She said the future is bright for TSC, as the college keeps bringing friends on board.

Chair Garza recognized Ms. Claudia Hernandez for her exceptional service to the board and the constituents of TSC.

5. President's Report**Texas Success Center ROSE award**

TSC received a state-wide recognition from the Texas Success Center earlier this month: the Texas Pathways Recognition of Scaling Excellence—or ROSE—award, part of the Talent Strong Texas Pathways. President Rodríguez congratulated the Instructional and Student Services teams for their ongoing collaboration to ensure students are achieving program learning outcomes and are able to transfer this knowledge for success, whether continuing their education or entering the workforce. He also thanked Vanessa Vasquez, Judy Moreno, Oscar Hernandez, and Dr. Chris Alves for providing leadership for this initiative and continuing to showcase TSC's great work at the state level.

Health and Human Services Childcare Center Inspection

The TSC Raul J. Guerra Early Childhood Center, which is the only Early Childhood Center in South Texas that holds the prestigious accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, passed their most recent inspection with flying colors. The Texas Department of Health and Human Services conducted an unannounced monitoring inspection on March 13th, during which the center received zero findings. President Rodríguez congratulated Ms. Marisela Nava and her team for their dedication to the littlest Scorpions and their families.

Criminal Justice events

TSC recently hosted two events led by the college criminal justice programs. First, U.S. District Judge Fernando Rodríguez was featured in the Scorpion Speaker Series. During his presentation, *The Role and Impact of the Legal System in Our Society*, he shared real-world examples of how the law impacts individuals. He also provided inspirational advice to students, as they prepare for careers in the legal and justice fields. Second, State District Judge Juan A. Magallanes held a hearing in the Ruben Herrera Legal Center. Students were able to observe an actual Motion to Suppress Hearing to enrich their understanding of court hearings. President Rodríguez shared that hosting this type of event was the vision that former trustee Ruben Herrera had when he advocated for the Legal Center, and he thanked the TSC Trustees and Scorpion Community for honoring Mr. Herrera's memory through this activity.

CTE Signing Day

TSC hosted its second annual CTE signing Day on April 10th. The college welcomed high school seniors from the Brownsville high schools, Harlingen high schools, , IDEA Frontier, IDEA Riverview, IDEA San Benito, Jubilee, Port Isabel high school, Triumph high school, San Benito high school, South Texas ISD Medical Professions, Edinburg high school and even a student from a San Antonio high school. During the event, students affirmed their commitment to continue their education through TSC's Workforce Training and Healthcare Programs. President Rodríguez thanked the teams in Student Services, Workforce Training, and Health Professions for their collaboration in welcoming these students to the TSC Family. He also thanked

Vanessa Vasquez and Judy Moreno for their leadership in coordinating this event, as well as Chair Garza and Secretary Lopez Harris for helping to celebrate the students. Chair Garza said it was an amazing event and she is proud that TSC celebrates Workforce Training students with a signing ceremony.

Building Financial Capacity Coalition

TSC partnered with the Brownsville Independent School District and the Building Financial Capacity Coalition to host the Congressional Financial Education Summit. TSC's Performing Arts Center was almost full to capacity as high school juniors and seniors showcased their financial literacy presentations. President Rodríguez said it was a great opportunity to talk to them about TSC's commitment to affordability for families, and he thanked Chair Garza for participating in the event.

Play Day at the Zoo

TSC's Teacher Education Program hosted Play Day at the Zoo this month for the local community. The annual event promotes early childhood education, and TSC students designed a variety of interactive learning stations for children to enjoy as they strolled through the zoo grounds. President Rodríguez thanked Program Coordinator Diana Cortez-Castro for organizing another wonderful event.

Student Services Events

The Student Services Division hosted a number of events designed to engage students, including:

- Student Leadership Academy workshops
- Intramural volleyball, dodgeball, and flag football

Video Presentation

President Rodríguez shared a video highlighting college activities held since the board last met.

President Rodríguez thanked the Board of Trustees for their continued commitment and support to the college and the communities TSC serves, as well as the faculty and staff as they support students in finishing out the spring semester Scorpion Strong.

6. Presentation from Workforce Solutions Cameron

Chair Garza called upon Rafael Vela, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Cameron (WSC), to present the item. Mr. Vela said he has a close personal connection to Texas Southmost College and is proud to be collaborating on behalf of Workforce Solutions Cameron. He shared intangible skills that he believes will be helpful to TSC students as they prepare to enter the local workforce. He provided an overview of the challenges the region faces, such as the absence of high paying industries which leads to chronically low household incomes. His team at WCS is dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing industry and enriching lives. Chair Garza said WCS is essential for helping community members access educational opportunities at TSC.

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

- 7. Consideration and possible action on approval of the minutes of the following meeting:**
a. Regular Meeting – March 27, 2025

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 27, 2025. Trustee Camarillo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Finance Committee

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

- a. Consideration and possible action on approval of VXRail Network Technology Replacement Equipment purchase**

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed servers would replace equipment that has reached its end-of-life.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion approve purchase of VXRail Network Technology Replacement Equipment in the amount of \$151,704 from Dell Technologies through DIR contract and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the purchase order contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- b. Consideration and possible action on passing a resolution to designate office to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for Tax Year 2025**

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller and Interim CFO, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed resolution complies with the requirements of Texas Property Tax Reform Act of 2019.

Mr. Frank Perez, Board Legal Counsel, read the resolution:

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Texas Southmost College District authorizes a designated officer or employee to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or the voter-approval tax rate for; and

WHEREAS, Section 26.04(c-1) of the Texas Tax Code provides that the governing body of a taxing unit will designate a person to also certify the accuracy of the tax rate calculations sheet.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Texas Southmost College District, acting through its governing body, hereby requests, in accordance with Section 26.04 (c-1) of the Texas Tax Code, the Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, Carlos Pecero, to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for tax year 2025 in the manner provided for a special taxing unit.

ADOPTED this 17TH DAY of APRIL 2025.

Adela G. Garza
TSC Board Chair

Dr. Norma Lopez Harris
TSC Board Secretary

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve resolution to designate officer to calculate the no-new-revenue and/or voter-approval tax rate for Tax Year 2025. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (I have Trustee Garcia as making the second but not sure if this was the first time or the revised motion at the end of the meeting).

c. Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended February 2025

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller and Interim CFO, was called upon to present the Monthly Financial Statement Report for the month ended February 2025.

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

d. Second Quarter Investment report for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller and Interim CFO, was called upon to present the Second Quarter Investment Report for the period from November 30, 2024 to February 29, 2025.

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

e. Report on grants awarded to Texas Southmost College for the month of March

Mr. Carlos Pecero, Controller and Interim CFO, was called upon to present the report on grants awarded for the month of March.

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

9. Academic Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Garcia to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on approval to purchase additional hours of online tutoring services for FY2024-2025

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President of Information Technology, and Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Educational Technologies, were called upon to present the item. Mr. Hernandez said increased enrollment has led to an increase in usage of online tutoring services. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the positive impact of the tutoring services on student success.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the purchase of 2,000 additional online tutoring services hours with Brainfuse, LLC in the amount of \$46,000 and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on an agreement between Texas Southmost College and Camron County through its County Judge for use of the County Airport

Mr. Richard Mesquias, Vice President of External Relations and Workforce Development, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposal is a renewal of the contract, which allows TSC to provide police safety training courses and exercises at the county airport. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the annual days of usage, as well as the increasing size of the police academy cohorts.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the agreement between Texas Southmost College and Cameron County through its County Judge for use of the County Airport and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the agreement, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on Agreement for Federal (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act) Program instructional services between Brownsville Independent School District and Texas Southmost College

Mr. Richard Mesquias, Vice President of External Relations and Workforce Development, was called upon to present the item. He said the proposed agreement is a renewal of a contract with the Brownsville Independent School District to provide students with certification and job skills training.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve the Agreement for Federal (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act) Program Instructional Services between Brownsville Independent School District and Texas Southmost College and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the Agreement, as presented. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Facilities Committee

Chair Garza called upon Trustee Camarillo to present the report.

a. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 25-04 for South Building Modular Air Handler Replacement

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff, and Mr. Ronald Robles, Director of Operations- Facilities were called upon to present the item. Mr. Robles presented the RFP scope of work, evaluation committee, scoring tabulation, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. Two vendors responded to the RFP with Gulf Mechanical Solutions, LLC receiving the highest score from the committee. Mr. Gerardo Mascorro, HVAC Supervisor noted that the previous unit had been in operation from 1988. The board engaged in a brief discussion of contingency costs.

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to award RFP 25-04 for South Building Modular Air Handler Replacement to Gulf Mechanical Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$72,504 plus five percent contingency to cover unforeseen events and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Facilities Update

Dr. Stella Garcia, Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Chief of Staff; Mr. Ronald Robles, Director of Operations- Facilities; Mr. George Hinojosa, Coordinator of Administrative Services; and Mr. Gerardo Mascorro, HVAC Supervisor, were called upon to present the item. The projects reviewed included: 1. Dedicated Chiller Plants for TSC RECK Center & Child Care Unit 2; 2. Thermal plant cooling tower installation; 3. Pipe Fitting Lab expansion; 4. National Fitness Campaign fitness court; 5. Hydronic line replacement project; 6. PUB Water Tower Demolition; and 7. Amphitheater renovation.

The board engaged in a discussion of the National Fitness Campaign fitness court features as well as future plans for the renovated amphitheater. Chair Garza complemented the team for steadily moving projects forward.

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

11. Student Services Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 25-08 for Baseball Field Renovation

Dr. David Plummer, Vice President of Student Development, and Dr. Armando Ponce, Executive Director of Athletics and Civility, were called upon to present the item. Dr. Ponce reviewed the RFP timeline, scope of work, evaluation committee, scoring tabulation, evaluation criteria, and budget and financial impact. Two vendors responded to the RFP with Ryan Sanders Sports Services (RS3 Turf) receiving the highest score from the committee. The board engaged in a brief discussion of the timeline for the renovations, as well as future maintenance and funding.

Secretary Lopez Harris made a motion to award RFP 25-08 for Baseball Field Renovation to Ryan Sanders Sports Services (RS3 Turf) in the amount of \$105,250 plus five percent contingency to cover unforeseen events and authorize President Rodríguez to execute the contract, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. Policy Committee

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

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the revisions to the following LOCAL policies: BBB, BBE, DBD, DC, DCA, DEA, DEAB, DEC, DGBA, and GD

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

- BBB (LOCAL) Board Members: Elections - updating election years
- BBE (LOCAL) Board Members: Elections – incorporating requested revisions
- DBD (LOCAL) Employment Requirements and Restrictions: Conflict of Interest – using similar language to outside employment policy
- DC (LOCAL) Employment Practices – Incorporating requested revisions
- DCA (LOCAL) Employment Practices: Term Contracts – requested revisions, including moving tenure language to DC
- DEA (LOCAL): Compensation and Benefits: Compensation Plan – recommended revisions including salary provisions moved from DJ
- DEAB (LOCAL): Compensation Plan: Wage and Hour Laws – requested revisions
- DEC(LOCAL): Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences – incorporating revisions to medical certification requirements
- DGBA (LOCAL): Personnel-Management Relations: Employee Grievances – based off of model AJC with requested revisions
- GD(LOCAL): Community Expression and Use of College Facilities – incorporating revisions to the *limitations* section

The board engaged in a brief discussion of faculty recognition options and comp time.

Vice Chair Saenz made a motion to approve the following policies: BBB, BBE, DBD, DC, DCA, DEA, DEAB, DEC, DGBA, and GD, as presented. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

13. Executive Session

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:14 p.m.

14. Action on Executive Session Matters

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

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

d. Deliberation regarding security devices or security audits; Section 551.089 CLOSED MEETING.

No action was taken.

15. Announcement of Proposed Meeting Dates

a. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, May 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

b. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, June 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Trustee Camarillo made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Lopez Harris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Ms. Adela Garza
Chair, Board of Trustees



Dr. Norma Lopez Harris
Secretary, Board of Trustees

The video recording of the Special Board of Trustees meeting held on April 17, 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.