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TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 24, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session via videoconference on September 24, 2020 at 5:32 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Adela Garza, Chair; Mr. Ruben Herrera, Vice Chair; Dr. Tony Zavaleta, Secretary; Mr. Art Rendon, and Ms. Eva Alejandro. Also present was Dr. Jesús Roberto Rodríguez, President of Texas Southmost College. Absent board members included Mrs. Delia Saenz and Mr. J.J. De Leon.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garza, at 5:32 p.m.

2. Pledges of Allegiance

Secretary 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 was one speaker signed up, Mr. Antonio Guevara.

Mr. Frank Perez read the official guidelines for public comment. Chair Garza recognized Mr. Guevara as a speaker.

Mr. Guevara congratulated the entire TSC team for achieving reaffirmation of accreditation from SACSCOC through 2030.

He addressed agenda item 8C, Consideration and possible approval of the updated Tuition and Fee Schedule. He asked the board to consider two items: extending the 20% tuition discount into the Spring 2021 semester, and applying the discount to required fees. He said his recommendations come from a genuine desire to work collectively at TSC. He listed reasons to support his request. He shares the administration's desire to ensure local students have access to an affordable, high-quality education, and he noted college affordability continues to be a challenge for students during the pandemic. While tuition has been cut several times over the past few years, he said we must recognize college tuition continues to be a barrier for entry for many in our community. As a

Mr. Ariel De la Fuente reported on the status of the roofing renovations and the Oliveira Student Services renovations.

Dr. Zavaleta asked if there is an alert system if the exhaust systems in the welding booths fail. Dr. Fleishman said yes, there is an automated system that would shut down the system if there is failure and an alarm sounds to alert faculty and students.

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

b. Consideration and possible action on award RFQ 20-23 for “Architect/ Engineer Professional Services for Campus Parking Lot Improvements”

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. Dr. Figueroa discussed the Request for Qualifications timeline and a description of the services TSC is seeking. The college received six responses to the Request for Qualifications. Funding for the work will come from the parking lot fund. Dr. Figueroa stated the selection committee was confident any of the three highest rated companies could successfully complete the project.

Vice Chair Herrera said the committee recommended the contract be awarded to Ambiotec Civil Engineering Group, Inc., which is a local company so the funding for the project can stay in Brownsville.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Herrera to award RFQ 20-23 for “Architect/ Engineer Professional Services for Campus Parking Lot Improvements” to Ambiotec Civil Engineering Group, Inc. and authorize President Rodriguez to negotiate and execute the contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alejandro and carried with four votes and three absences.

c. Consideration and possible action on award RFQ 20-22 for “Architect/ Engineer Professional Services for ITECC Roof Renovations”

Dr. Gisela Figueroa, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was called on to present the item. She discussed the RFQ timeline and scope of work. The college received eight responses to the Request for Qualifications. Dr. Figueroa stated the selection committee was confident any of the three highest rated companies could successfully complete the project. Initial expenses will be funded through the current fiscal year budget.

Vice Chair Herrera said the committee discussed the item thoroughly and recommended the contract be awarded to a local company, Gomez/Mendez/Saenz, Inc.

Ms. Alejandro asked for clarification on why Gomez/Mendez/Saenz, Inc. was recommended even though they were ranked third highest. Vice Chair Herrera said since the companies were equally qualified to provide the services, the committee recommended to keep the assets in Brownsville.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Herrera to award RFQ 20-22 for “Architect/ Engineer Professional Services for ITECC Roof Renovations” to Gomez/Mendez/Saenz, Inc. and authorize President Rodriguez to negotiate and execute the contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Zavaleta and carried with four votes and three absences.

d. Consideration and possible action on award RFP 20-14 for “Internet Protocol (IP) Based Surveillance Camera and Door Access Control Systems”

Mr. Luis Villarreal, Vice President for Information Technology, and Mr. Jaime Salazar, Executive Director of Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management, were called on to present the item. Mr. Villarreal said because of the advancement in technologies, TSC was able to combine what, in the past, would have been two RFPs into a single solicitation that would allow for a contact with one company to provide services for surveillance cameras and integrated door access control systems. Mr. Salazar presented the RFP timeline and scope of work. Mr. Villarreal said the upgrades are anticipated to last for 8-10 years. Eight vendors submitted proposals in response to the RFP. The committee conducted conferences via Zoom with the four highest-ranked companies. Johnson Controls Security Solutions was the company that earned the highest-ranking by the committee because of their expertise, warranty coverage, project management and fiscal stability.

Vice Chair Herrera asked how many cameras were recommended for purchase. Mr. Villarreal said 285 cameras were proposed. Vice Chair Herrera asked how many doors would be included in the control system. Mr. Villarreal responded the contract would cover door access control systems for 580 doors. Vice Chair Herrera asked who would be responsible for ensuring the project works. Mr. Villarreal said the vendor, the IT Division, and Mr. Salazar would be responsible. Vice Chair Herrera asked who will man the 285 cameras. Mr. Villarreal said most of the cameras will be monitored via recording, however, Mr. Salazar’s office will monitor the cameras on a rotating basis – focused on high traffic areas during peak times.

Secretary Zavaleta asked if all cameras are being recorded, how long are the recordings saved, and how long can they be accessed. Mr. Villarreal said camera video is recorded and stored in the cloud. The college will negotiate the length of time the video will be stored, which will most likely range from 30-60 days. Secretary Zavaleta asked if other agencies can access the video. Mr. Salazar said other agencies do not have access to the video recordings directly, however, we can exchange data when needed. Secretary Zavaleta asked if we are guaranteed that the vendor will assist when there is a problem with the system. Mr. Villarreal said he has experience with several of the top-ranked vendors and he has been very pleased with their support response time. Secretary Zavaleta asked about the security of the system. Mr. Villarreal said the system would be very difficult to hack. He said in terms of risk management, he would rather accept that risk, rather than the risk of not having a comprehensive system.