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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.