

President's Report August 2022

Maintenance

Modular building is coming along nicely. It has been delivered and installed. Electrical work is static – we are waiting for AEP to deliver the transformer before the next phase is begun. Our paving contractor has declined the bid submitted. They stated that they omitted critical items in the calculation of the paving and sidewalk bid. They wanted to charge an additional \$70,000. We cancelled the purchase order and sought out an additional bid. The paving was awarded to Faglie Construction in the amount of \$47,000 for the paving and recondition of base surface. We are currently seeking additional quotes for the sidewalks and evaluating the potential of installing them in house.

The Witt building HVAC upgrade is progressing nicely. Again, we are going to be on hold until AEP delivers the new transformer (estimated date is November). Spoke with our nursing director and they are pleased with space in the ballroom and report no issues with continuing to use the space for clinical labs through the Spring semester.

Gym roof is ahead of schedule. Roofing contractor is ready to move to Eagle Pass Building C ahead of schedule.

After installing the meter on our well, we have determined that we need to purchase 50-acre feet of water rights. This would be a one-time cost and cover our campus irrigation needs for the current year as well as future use.

Working on a plan to decommission one wing of Hubbard Hall for the Fall 2023 semester to commence an inhouse renovation and upgrade that will occur throughout the year.

Backup generator has been installed at the Library to keep our I.T. network operational during power outages on the Uvalde campus.

Other

We were not awarded the Good Jobs Challenge EDA grant. However, we did receive additional covid dollars under the SSARP grant in the amount of \$1,317,488 half to be awarded directly to students and the other half for institutional use. Our plan is to hold the institutional portion until we have final census numbers and use the funds to help offset any loss revenue, then allocate the remaining funds for institutional projects.

Enrollment

Fall enrollment looks promising, we are ahead of where we were at this point last fall. Our target was to increase enrollment by 200 students over last fall. We are currently approximately 570 shy of that target.

Property Taxes

As you are probably aware property values have increased considerably. The highest increase was in Zavala County, due to fluctuations of mineral values (oil/gas). We are recommending a decrease in our tax rate from \$0.1535 to \$0.1339 per \$100 valuation which will provide property owners a decrease in their tax bill.

Campus Police

We have position vacancies posted for additional officers. We are recommending changes to our Campus Police Salary Schedule to better attract officers. In addition, we have issued a Request for Proposals for security services on the Eagle Pass and Del Rio Campuses. Ideally, we would like to have Licensed Peace Officers on those campuses, but plan to backfill with armed security personnel.

Law Enforcement Academy

In response to the Robb Incident, we have been reviewing our Academy curriculum and state requirement for topics covered. Our academy is directly aligned with the State mandated curriculum and is comprised of 720 instruction hours with 42 different modules. When the George Floyd incident occurred, we looked at our curriculum and sought ways to integrate additional training surrounding multiculturalism and racial profiling. Similarly, we reviewed the current curriculum to imbed additional training for Active Shooter incidents. Active shooter is not currently part of the Basic Peace Officer training prescribed by the State. However, we are adding an additional 16-hour Active Shooter Training on top of the State mandated curriculum. Our understanding it is only mandated for school-based peace officer within 180 days of their hire date (SBLE 2195). We are currently seeking out a consultant to come in and review our academy curriculum and training practices to give us an external set of eyes to identify areas that we can enhance the program.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

8/18	General Faculty Meeting
8/18	August Board Meeting
8/22	Fall – First Day of Classes
9/2-4	Palomino Festival
9/5	Labor Day Holiday
9/8	Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate
9/15	September Board Meeting