

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
GALVESTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
4015 Avenue Q
Galveston, Texas 77550
Room M-220 – Moody Hall
August 19, 2026
8:00 a.m.**

At the Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the Galveston Community College District Board of Regents, duly held on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, in Room M-220 of Moody Hall, commencing at 8:00 a.m., the following Regents were present:

Ms. Karen F. Flowers, Chairperson
Mr. Fred D. Raschke, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Michael B. Hughes, Secretary
Mr. Garrik Addison (excused)
Mr. Armin Cantini
Dr. Norman Hoffman
Mr. Raymond Lewis, Jr. (joined virtually)
Ms. Mary R. Longoria
Ms. Carolyn Sunseri

Faculty and staff present included Dr. Tracee L. Watts, President, Mr. Ed Chrnko, Mr. Ron Crumedy, Ms. Breanne Lorefice, Dr. Cissy Matthews.

- I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 AND THE PROPOSED 2024 TAX RATE:** Chairperson Sunseri opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 a.m. in Room M-220 of Moody Hall and determined a quorum was present.
- II. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Sunseri began with a moment of silence and asked Mr. Raschke to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. CERTIFICATION OF PUBLISHING AND POSTING NOTICES OF PUBLIC HEARING:** Dr. Watts confirmed that a notice of the Public Hearing on the proposed budget had been published in *The Daily News* on August 6, 2026, and posted on the Galveston College website on August 6, 2026, and the agenda for the meeting was posted on August 12, 2026. A notice of the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate was published on August 11, 2026, in *The Daily News* and posted on the Galveston College website August 11, 2026.
- IV. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** There were no individuals recognized as guests attending the meeting.
- V. PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 AND THE PROPOSED 2026 TAX RATE:** Dr. Watts presented the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The proposed budget is \$33,736,859, a 6.7 percent

increase over the prior year. This does include tuition and fees that were adjusted for enrollment changes, as well as a slight decline in State Appropriations. It does include the estimated \$821,000 that is the estimated supplemental request that the Texas Association of Community Colleges submitted on behalf of the community college sector. As far as expenses, we are presenting a balanced budget to you today. It does include a five percent increase for eligible employees. That is a three percent structure increase based on the salary survey and a two percent cost of living and that is for any employees that were employed here on or before April 15th of 2026.

The proposed tax rate is \$0.1299/\$100 of taxable value. This does remain below the voter approved tax rate. We have a certified taxable value decrease of 1.2 percent, and our estimated tax revenue would be \$20.3 Million.

- VI. CITIZENS DESIRING TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND THE PROPOSED TAX RATE:** There were no citizens present and desiring to appear before the Board on the proposed budget and proposed tax rate.
- VII. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING:** The public hearing was adjourned at 8:03 a.m.
- VIII. CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL MEETING:** Chairperson Sunseri opened the Special Meeting at 8:03 a.m. in Room M-220 of Moody Hall. A quorum was present.
- IX. CERTIFICATION OF POSTING NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING:** Dr. Watts confirmed that the notice of the Special Meeting had been properly posted on August 12, 2026.
- X. ACTION ITEMS:**
1. Consider Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27: Mr. Raschke moved to approve the budget for fiscal year 2026-27 as presented; Ms. Flowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. Consider Adoption of Resolution Levying 2026 Property Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operations of the Galveston Community College District: A resolution providing for the levying of the tax rate for 2026 was presented for adoption. Mr. Hughes moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.1299, which is effectively a 6.18 percent increase in the tax rate. He further moved that the Board adopt the resolution levying the College's 2026 property tax rate for maintenance and operations as presented; Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sunseri thanked the Board of Regents, Dr. Watts, Dr. Matthews, Mr. Crumedy, Dr. Patterson, Jeff Engbrock and Dr. Shelton for all of their work on the budget. It takes a lot to do what we do. I know that we are good stewards of our funds, we plan for large expenditures, we also plan for disasters, it is ok to have money in reserves. We have never asked our citizens for a bond issue, we have always funded our bonds in our projects for buildings. We gave our faculty and staff a cost-of-living increase, we have record enrollments, we are training our students for careers including employment, so to ask the community for just a little bit more, and to approve this for

the lives of our students, I am wholeheartedly in favor of what we did. Thank you to Dr. Watts, and the rest of the administrative team, because we could not have done it without you. I pledge along with the Board of Regents to continue doing good things for the College.

- XI. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the Special Meeting adjourned at 8:06 a.m.

Michael B. Hughes, Secretary

APPROVED AS CORRECT:

Carolyn L. Sunseri, Chairperson