**LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT**
Laredo, Texas

The regular monthly Board meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, September 24, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Adolfo C. and Maria de Jesus De La Garza Building Room 101, at the Fort McIntosh Campus, West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Rangel called the Regular Monthly Board Meeting to order.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

| MEMBERS PRESENT | OTHERS |
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| Esteban Rangel, President | Minita Ramírez, Ph.D. |
| Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President | Rusty Meurer |
| | Ruben Villarreal |
| Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary | Mariana Rodriguez |
| Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian | David V. Arreazola, Ed.D. |
| Erica Benavides Garcia | Jessica Trevino |
| Mercurio Martinez, Jr. | Gabriel Lozano |
| Adriana Alexander | Francisco Reyes |
| Lizzy Newsome | Esmeralda Vargas, D.P.T. |
| Karina "Kari" Elizondo *(arrived at 6:03 p.m.)* | Veronica Martinez, Ph.D. |

MEMBERS ABSENT
—

A quorum was established.

**3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

There was no public testimony.

**4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS** – *MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL*

**4.A. RECOGNITION OF GRANTS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Director of Grants, and Mr. Francisco Reyes, Grant Writer, were recognized for securing resources that support college programs, faculty initiatives, and student opportunities.

**4.B. LAREDO COLLEGE'S OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) FACULTY FELLOWS – COHORT 2**

The second cohort and its program leadership were recognized for completing the fellowship and expanding access to affordable instructional materials.

**4.C. RECOGNITION OF LAREDO COLLEGE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS CENTER GED GRADUATES**

The Board recognized the accomplishments of 54 students who earned high school equivalency credentials during the 2025–2026 program year, as well as the faculty and staff who supported them. A recognition ceremony was held July 31, 2026.

**5. LAREDO COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT – MS. MARIANA RODRIGUEZ**

Ms. Mariana Rodriguez, Assistant Director of Student Life, introduced the candidates for the 2026–2027 Student Government Association. Voting was scheduled to conclude at 11:59 p.m. that evening, with the results to be announced at noon the following day. Trustees commended the candidates for their willingness to serve. Mr. Rangel requested that the election results be emailed to all trustees.

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**6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**6.A. STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT** – *MS. ERICA BENAVIDES GARCIA*

Ms. Benavides Garcia summarized the Student Success Committee meeting held on September 21st.

**6.B. PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT** – *MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS*

Ms. Leven-Ramos summarized the Program/Policy Committee meeting held on September 21st.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to defer the following agenda items:

- Agenda Item 10.A. - Consultation with the College District Attorney to Evaluate Legal Advice Provided to the Board by Outside Counsel as it Pertains to Proposed Changes to the Board of Trustees Procedures Manual, Board Travel and Board Policy BD(LOCAL)-BOARD MEETINGS. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Agenda Item 10.B. - Consultation with the College District Attorney Concerning Legal Advice Provided to the Board by Outside Counsel Relating to Implementing a Laredo College Clear Communication Matrix. Closed Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074
- Agenda Item 11.A. - Approve Amendments to Laredo College Board of Trustees Procedures Manual and Board Policy BD(LOCAL)-Board Meetings
- Agenda Item 11.B. - Approve Implementing a Laredo College Clear Communication Matrix and Adding the Matrix to the Laredo College Board of Trustees Procedures Manual

Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion passed.

**6.C. BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT** – *MS. CINDY LIENDO*

Ms. Liendo summarized the Building Committee meeting held on September 23rd.

**6.D. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT** – *MS. ERNESTINA "TITA" CANTU VELA*

Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on September 23rd.

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**7.A. 2026 COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS TRUSTEES (CCATT) ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT** – *MS. ERICA BENAVIDES GARCIA/MS. CINDY LIENDO*

Ms. Liendo and Ms. Benavides Garcia reported on the Community College Association of Texas Trustees annual conference they attended. Sessions addressed trustee governance, student success, workforce and education policy, and data-informed advocacy. Ms. Benavides Garcia was congratulated on her election as an at-large director of the CCATT Board.

**7.B. REPORT ON THE ASPEN COLLABORATIVE/COUNSELING TASKFORCE** – *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MS. JESSICA TREVIÑO*

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Student Success and Compliance, and Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, reported on efforts to improve the student enrollment cycle and enhance communication across departments. The proposed student success software agreement under Agenda Item 8.Q - *Approval of Agreement with Element451 for Admissions, Marketing, and Student Success Software Services* was discussed as supporting these efforts.

**7.C. PRESENTATION BY THE LAREDO COLLEGE GRANTS DEPARTMENT ON FY 2025-2026 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS** – *MR. GABRIEL LOZANO*

Mr. Lozano, with Mr. Francisco Reyes, presented the Grants Department's annual report.

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**7.D. DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES OPEN HOUSE** – *DR. ESMERALDA VARGAS*

Dr. Esmeralda Vargas, Dean of Health Sciences, announced the Health Sciences Open House, scheduled for October 20, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Laredo College South Campus, College of Health Sciences Building.

**7.E. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE DESIGNATION REQUEST** – *DR. MINITA RAMIREZ*

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, reported that a concurrence letter supporting a minor boundary modification within Foreign Trade Zone No. 94 had been submitted for GTM America LLC, located at 15308 Mercury Drive in Laredo.

**7.F. NOTIFICATION OF THE SERVING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT LAREDO COLLEGE FACILITIES, AS PER LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY GDA(LOCAL)-COMMUNITY EXPRESSION AND USE OF COLLEGE FACILITIES: CONDUCT ON COLLEGE DISTRICT PREMISES** – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Dr. Ramírez notified the Board of a request from the Future of the Region of South Texas to serve alcoholic beverages at the evening reception for its conference on October 15, 2026, in the lobby of the Visual and Performing Arts Building.

**7.G. LAREDO COLLEGE U.S. TRADEMARK UPDATE** – *DR. MINITA RAMIREZ*

Dr. Ramírez reported that Laredo College received final trademark approval for its three main marks: the Palomino, the Laredo College name, and the college seal.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Liendo made a motion to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 8.A. - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of August 20, 2026 and Special Called Board Meeting of August 22, 2026
- Agenda Item 8.B. - August 2026 Preliminary Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.C. - Approve Modification to Laredo College Policy CDB(LOCAL)-ACCOUNTING INVENTORIES
- Agenda Item 8.E. - Report of Fiscal Year 2026 Accounts Receivable Write-Offs
- Agenda Item 8.G. - Approval of Cisco Security Enterprise Agreement
- Agenda Item8.H. - Approval of Texas DIR Telecom Service Annual Renewal
- Agenda Item 8.I. - Approval to Use 100% of 2026 Operating Surplus Funds to Fund Deferred Maintenance Projects
- Agenda Item 8.J. - Approval of Change Order for the Veterans Center Project
- Agenda Item 8.K. - Approval of Contract for Maravillo Gym Roof Restoration Project
- Agenda Item 8.L. - Approval of Contract for Adkins Building Roof Restoration Project
- Agenda Item 8.M. - Approve the Architectural Firms Recommended by the Scoring Committee and Authorize the College President to Negotiate and Execute Contracts and Related Documents with the Selected Firms
- Agenda Item 8.N. - Approve the Engineering Firms Recommended by the Scoring Committee and Authorize the College President to Negotiate and Execute Contracts and Related Documents with the Selected Firms
- Agenda Item 8.O. - Approve Modifications to Laredo College Policy AD(LOCAL)-EDUCATIONAL ROLE, MISSION, PURPOSE, AND RESPONSIBILITY
- Agenda Item 8.P. - Approval of Watermark Planning and Self-Study Services Agreement
- Agenda Item 8.Q. - Approval of Agreement with Element451 for Admissions, Marketing, and Student Success Software Services
- Agenda Item 8.R. - Approval for Three-Year Copier Lease for Print Shop Operations

Ms. Leven-Ramos and Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion passed.

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Agenda Item 8.D. - *Annexation of New Property for College District Purposes Which Has Been Annexed by the City of Laredo, Pursuant to Texas Education Code §130.066* and Agenda Item 8.F. - *Approval for Interlocal Agreement with El Paso Community College and Authorize the Purchase of Adobe Software Licenses Through the Competitive RFP Awarded by El Paso Community College and Authorize the President or Designee to Execute All Related Documents* were removed from Consent Agenda.

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**8.D. ANNEXATION OF NEW PROPERTY FOR COLLEGE DISTRICT PURPOSES WHICH HAS BEEN ANNEXED BY THE CITY OF LAREDO, PURSUANT TO TEXAS EDUCATION CODE §130.066** – *MR. CESAR VELA*

The Board considered the Resolution approving the annexation of new property into the College District for College District purposes. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution aloud.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY ANNEXED BY THE CITY OF LAREDO
INTO THE LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Laredo College District ("College District") is a public community college district organized and operating under the laws of the State of Texas; and WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas ("City"), has adopted ordinances altering and extending the corporate boundaries of the City through the annexation of additional territory; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-036 annexed approximately 0.25 acres of land, more or less, located south of FM 1472 and east of Iron Mine Road into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-037 annexed approximately 59.89 acres of land, more or less, located northeast of FM 1472 and the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-038 annexed approximately 13.735 acres of land, more or less, located north of FM 1472 and Ben-Hur Ranch Road into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-039 annexed approximately 275.67 acres of land, more or less, located west of IH-35, north of Beltway Parkway, and south of Reuthinger Parkway into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-040 annexed approximately 562.7735 acres of land, more or less, located northwest of FM 1472 and FM 3338 into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-126 annexed approximately 23.942 acres of land, more or less, located southeast of Cuatro Vientos and Sierra Vista Boulevard into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-127 annexed approximately 8.42 acres of land, more or less, located south of FM 1472 and west of Ben-Hur Ranch Road into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-128 annexed approximately 5.19 acres of land, more or less, located south of FM 1472 and north of Mercury Mine Road into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, City of Laredo Ordinance No. 2026-O-129 annexed approximately 150.8236 acres of land, more or less, located northwest of Nicolas D. Hachar Road and River Bank Drive into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo; and

WHEREAS, the territories described in the foregoing City ordinances total approximately 1,100.6941 acres, more or less, and the legal descriptions, metes and bounds, surveys, maps, and other exhibits contained in the respective City ordinances are incorporated herein by reference for purposes of identifying the territories subject to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that it is appropriate to incorporate the territories annexed by the City of Laredo into the boundaries of the Laredo College

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District, as authorized and provided by applicable law, and to take such actions as may be necessary to reflect the expanded boundaries of the College District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1. ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY. The Board of Trustees hereby approves the annexation and incorporation into the Laredo College District of the territories annexed into the corporate limits of the City of Laredo pursuant to City of Laredo Ordinance Nos. 2026-O-036, 2026-O-037, 2026-O-038, 2026-O-039, 2026-O-040, 2026-O-126, 2026-O-127, 2026-O-128, and 2026-O-129, subject to and in accordance with applicable law.

SECTION 2. DESCRIPTION OF TERRITORY. The territories annexed into the College District pursuant to this Resolution shall be those territories specifically described by the legal descriptions, metes and bounds, surveys, maps, and exhibits contained in the respective City of Laredo ordinances identified above, which are incorporated into this Resolution by reference as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 3. COLLEGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. Upon the effective date of the annexation, the official boundaries of the Laredo College District shall be deemed amended and extended to include the territories described herein, and such territories shall thereafter constitute part of the Laredo College District for all purposes authorized by law.

SECTION 4. AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION. The College President, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute, acknowledge, deliver, and file any documents and take any other actions reasonably necessary or appropriate to implement this Resolution, including providing notice or documentation to applicable governmental entities and updating the official records and boundary information of the Laredo College District.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any provision, section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Trustees, subject to any additional requirements or effective dates established by applicable law.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District at a duly called meeting held on the 24th day of September 2026.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the annexation of new property for college district purposes which has been annexed by the City of Laredo and to approve and adopt the related Resolution. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion passed.

**8.F. APPROVAL FOR INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF ADOBE SOFTWARE LICENSES THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE RFP AWARDED BY EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS** – *MR. CESAR VELA*

The Board considered the Resolution authorizing an interlocal cooperative agreement with El Paso Community College. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution aloud.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LAREDO COLLEGE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ADOBE SOFTWARE LICENSES THROUGH AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND AUTHORIZING THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT OR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, Laredo College is authorized under Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, the Interlocal Cooperation Act, to contract and cooperate with other local governmental entities to perform governmental functions and services, including the procurement of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, El Paso Community College conducted a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the procurement of Adobe software licenses and related services in accordance with applicable state procurement laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Laredo College has reviewed the procurement process, pricing, contractual terms, and resulting agreement and has determined that participation through the awarded contract provides the best value to the College; and

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WHEREAS, The acquisition of Adobe software licenses supports instructional, administrative, student success, and operational needs throughout the institution; and

WHEREAS, Utilizing an existing competitively solicited contract through an Interlocal Agreement promotes efficiency, reduces administrative costs, and ensures compliance with applicable procurement requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LAREDO COLLEGE THAT:

Section 1. Authorization
The Board of Trustees authorizes Laredo College to purchase Adobe software licenses and related services through the contract resulting from the competitive RFP issued and awarded by El Paso Community College.

Section 2. Interlocal Agreement
The Board authorizes participation in and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with El Paso Community College pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code for the purpose of utilizing the awarded contract for Adobe software licenses and related services.

Section 3. Best Value Determination
The Board finds that participation in the awarded contract represents the best value to Laredo College and satisfies applicable procurement requirements.

Section 4. Authority to Execute Documents
The President of Laredo College, or the President's designee, is authorized to execute the Interlocal Agreement, purchase orders, renewals, amendments, and any other documents necessary to implement and administer the purchase of Adobe licenses under the awarded contract.

Section 5. Funding
The purchase shall be funded from budgeted funds available for technology, instructional support, administrative operations, or other legally available funding sources as approved through the College's budgeting process.

Section 6. Effective Date
This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Laredo College on this 24th day of September 2026.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve and adopt the related Resolution authorizing the purchase of Adobe software licenses through the competitive RFP awarded by El Paso Community College and authorizing the President or designee to execute all related documents. Ms. Elizondo and Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

Mr. Rangel recognized Judge-Elect Letty Martinez and Ms. Rosa Martinez, who were in attendance.

**9.A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE POSSIBLE RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT OF MERCURIO MARTINEZ, JR., MEMBER OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY BBC(LEGAL)-BOARD MEMBERS: VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Mr. Martinez addressed the Board regarding his resignation from Trustee Position No. 3. He reflected on his association with the college as a student, instructor, administrator, and trustee; his role in establishing separate college governance; and the milestones achieved during his service. Trustees and Dr. Ramírez expressed their appreciation for his leadership, mentorship, and dedication to the community.

Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to accept Mr. Martinez's resignation. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Mr. Rangel requested a record vote. The following trustees voted affirmatively: Ms. Elizondo, Ms. Newsome, Ms. Alexander, Ms. Benavides Garcia, Ms. Liendo, Ms. Vela, Ms. Leven-Ramos, and Mr. Rangel; motion passed.

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**9.B. IMPLEMENT PROCESS TO FILL THE VACANCY IN LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES POSITION NO. 3, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICIES BBC(LEGAL) AND BBC(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS: VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, recommended that the Board implement the process to fill the vacancy in Position No. 3 on the Laredo College Board of Trustees resulting from Martinez's resignation, in accordance with Laredo College Board policies BBC(LEGAL) and BBC(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS: VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. Ms. Leven-Ramos so moved. Ms. Vela and Ms. Alexander seconded the motion.

Dr. Arreazola, and Dr. Veronica Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, outlined a 14-day application period beginning September 25, 2026, and ending October 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Rangel announced that a special called Board meeting would be scheduled following the application deadline to review qualified applications and consider an appointment.

A record vote was taken. The following trustees voted in favor: Ms. Elizondo, Ms. Alexander, Mr. Martinez, Ms. Benavides Garcia, Ms. Liendo, Ms. Vela, Ms. Leven-Ramos, and Mr. Rangel. Ms. Newsome abstained. The motion passed.

**12. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REPORTS**

**12.A. CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, AND TRAVEL REPORTS** – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Reports were provided to the Board as part of the meeting materials.

**12.B. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON RECENT HAPPENINGS IN THE COMMUNITY** – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Dr. Ramírez provided remarks on the following items:

- Thanked Mr. Martinez and his family for his service
- Report on campus activities
- Recognition of the Global Logistics Center by the Laredo Economic Development Corporation
- Discussion with Doctors Hospital CEO about internships and program needs
- Dr. Christopher Maynard's, Texas A&M Internation University President, investiture
- Discussion with Freer ISD
- World Teacher Day celebrations on October 2nd at the Fort McIntosh Campus and October 9th at the South Campus
- LC golf tournament on November 7th
- The September 28th kickoff of the college's 80th anniversary celebration

Ms. Benavides Garcia congratulated Dr. Ramírez on receiving the Ohtli Award from the Mexican government.

**13. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Monday, October 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – Veterans Center Groundbreaking in front of the old Guard House

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – Fall Fest at LC South Campus

**14. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A possible Special Called Board Meeting to be scheduled.

Thursday, October 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 8:13 p.m., Ms. Liendo moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

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| Mr. Esteban Rangel<br>President | Ms. Jackie Leven-Ramos<br>Secretary |

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