



LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT

Laredo, Texas

The public hearing of the Laredo College Board of Trustees on the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget and 2025 property tax rate convened on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, beginning at 6:02 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 convened the public hearing.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President

Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President

Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary

Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian

Erica Benavides Garcia

Mercurio Martinez, Jr.

Adriana Alexander (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Lizzy Newsome

Karina "Kari" Elizondo

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.

Rusty Meurer

MEMBERS ABSENT

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3. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AND 2025 PROPERTY TAX RATE – MR. CESAR VELA

Mr. Rangel presided as Chair of the public hearing and provided information about the hearing. He announced that anyone wanting to express their views on the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget and 2025 property tax rate may approach the podium.

There being no speakers, Mr. Rangel indicated that the public hearing was concluded. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:08 p.m., Ms. Vela moved to adjourn the hearing. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened immediately following the public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget and 2025 property tax rate 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 meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Esteban Rangel, President
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian
Erica Benavides Garcia
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Adriana Alexander
Lizzy Newsome
Karina "Kari" Elizondo

OTHERS

Minita Ramirez, Ph.D.
Rusty Meurer
Ruben Villarreal
Gilberto Martinez, Jr., Ed.D.
Patricia Barrera
Gabriel Lozano
David V. Arreazola, Ed.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

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3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No one signed up for public testimony.

4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL

4.A. INTRODUCTION OF PERSONNEL/PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The new hires and personnel actions for the month were announced – Angelica Alvarado, Mathematics Tutor Coordinator; Gregorio Cantu, III, Forensic Technology Skills Instructor; Amanda L. Castaneda, Academic Advisor; Antonio Cavazos, III, Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Instructor; Anabel Y. Contreras, Recreation Coordinator; Bianca Cubriel, Global Learning and Leadership Initiatives Coordinator; Dr. Jose E. Gomez, Jr., Chemistry Instructor; Edgar J. Fulgham, Homeland Security Studies Instructor; Victor A. Gallardo, Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Instructor; Carolinda Garza, Auto Body Collision and Paint Technology Technical Instructor (South); Melissa Garza, Human Resources Benefits & Leave Specialist; Lizette G. Henry, Government Instructor; Hammad Kahn, Geology Instructor; Michael A. Mireles, Technology Support Specialist; Hugo Ortega, Construction Management Instructor; Roberto Peralta, Jr., Criminal Justice Instructor; Evette Santos, Enrollment Coach; Andrew G. Thorp, Art Instructor; Astrid J. Veliz, Student Life Coordinator; Samantha M. Gonzalez, Academic Project Coordinator; Tracy A. Humphries, Assistant Professor of Associate Degree Nursing and Program Director; Dr. Laura L. Ramirez Cruz, Dean of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Antonio G. Carranza, III, Professor of Organizational Leadership.

5. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT – DR. GILBERTO MARTINEZ, JR.

Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Jr., presented a draft of the Faculty Council.

Mr. Rangel recognized the presence of Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax Assessor Collector.

Dr. Martinez reported on Senate Bill 2615.

Ms. Elizondo moved to bring up Agenda Item 9.A. – *Approve Modification to Laredo College Board Policy BGC(LOCAL) – ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION: COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATES AND ADOPT AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION AND RATIFICATION OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL.* Ms. Leven-Ramos seconded the motion; motion passed.

9.A. – APPROVE MODIFICATION TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BGC(LOCAL) – ADMINISTRATIVE

Ms. Elizondo moved to have the administration, legal counsel, and faculty discuss this item further and bring it back to the Board for approval. Mr. Rusty Meurer, College Attorney, explained the item

**ORGANIZATION:
COUNCILS AND FACULTY
SENATES AND ADOPT
AMENDED RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE
CONTINUATION AND
RATIFICATION OF THE
FACULTY COUNCIL – DR.
MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA**

which does not need to be approved prior to September 1st. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed (Ms. Leven-Ramos voted against).

**5. FACULTY COUNCIL
REPORT (CONTINUED)**

Discussion continued on Senate Bill 2615.

Ms. Newsome moved to bring back Agenda Item 9.A. – Approve Modification to Laredo College Board Policy BGC(LOCAL) – ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION: COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATES AND ADOPT AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION AND RATIFICATION OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.A. – APPROVE
MODIFICATION TO
LAREDO COLLEGE
BOARD POLICY
BGC(LOCAL) –
ADMINISTRATIVE
ORGANIZATION:
COUNCILS AND FACULTY
SENATES AND ADOPT
AMENDED RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE
CONTINUATION AND
RATIFICATION OF THE
FACULTY COUNCIL – DR.
MARISELA RODRIGUEZ
TIJERINA**

Ms. Newsome inquired about the modified policy and amended resolution. The items were in the Board meeting materials that each Board member received. The Board passed a motion to have the presentation of this item at a future meeting.

**5. FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT
(CONTINUED)**

Dr. Martinez presented a Faculty Senate resolution voted on April 2025 by faculty regarding faculty assignments.

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 August 18th. The Board recognized the student orientation leaders.

**6.B. FINANCE & AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING
REPORT – MS.
ERNESTINA “TITA” CANTU
VELA**

Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on August 19th.

Ms. Elizondo moved to bring up Agenda Item 9.C. – *Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and 2025 Property Tax Rate*. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

**9.C. FISCAL YEAR 2026
BUDGET AND 2025
PROPERTY TAX RATE –
MR. CESAR VELA**

9.C.1. Resolution Adopting FY 2026 Budget

Ms. Elizondo moved to adopt the FY 2026 budget.

Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution adopting the FY 2026 budget.

*Resolution Adopting Budget for
Fiscal Year 2026*

WHEREAS, each year the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District is required to have a budget prepared, showing the estimated revenue and proposed expenditures for the succeeding school year, and to cause the same to be filed in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Board; and

WHEREAS, such a budget has been prepared and the public has been given notice that such budget would be presented for discussion and adoption on August 20, 2025, at the time and place specified in such notice; and
WHEREAS, such budget has been discussed and a majority of the Board of Trustees wish to adopt same for Fiscal Year 2026;
BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that such budget be adopted and same is hereby adopted in all things.
Adopted on this 20th day of August, 2025, by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Martinez seconded the motion; motion passed.

9.C.2. Resolution Adopting 2025 Property Tax Rate

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved that the Laredo College Board of Trustees adopt a property tax rate set at \$0.229249 per \$100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which \$0.194779 shall be for maintenance and operations and \$0.034470 shall be for debt retirement and approve the resolution. Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution.

*Resolution of Laredo College District Board
of Trustees Adopting Tax Rate for
Fiscal Year 2026*

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District, in order to levy ad valorem taxes, is required to set and establish a tax rate each year; and

WHEREAS, such Board of Trustees has considered this matter and desires to set the 2025 property tax rate;

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, that on August 20, 2025, the 2025 property tax rate be, and the same is hereby set at \$0.229249 per \$100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which \$0.194779 shall be for maintenance and operations and \$0.034470 shall be for debt retirement.

Such taxes are to be assessed and collected by the tax officials designated by Laredo College.

Adopted on this 20th day of August, 2025, by the Board of Trustees.

A record vote was taken.

APPROVED

Esteban Rangel	Adriana Alexander
Jackie Leven-Ramos	Lizzy Newsome
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela	Karina Elizondo
Cindy Liendo	
Erica Benavides Garcia	
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.	

NOT APPROVED

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PRESENT and not voting

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ABSENT

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9.C.3. Resolution Authorizing Collection of General Use Fee and Expenditure of Funds for Fiscal Year 2026

Ms. Leven-Ramos "moved that the Laredo College Board of Trustees approve and adopt the resolution authorizing the collection of a general use fee set at \$50.00 per semester credit hour for fiscal year 2026 and the expenditure of funds for fiscal year 2026 as itemized in the resolution read into the record". Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution.

Resolution Authorizing Collection of
“General Use Fee” and Expenditure of Funds
for Fiscal Year 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Laredo College District is authorized to fix and collect tuition and fees from students for the use of its property, buildings, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, such Board of Trustees has deemed it necessary and advisable to collect a “General Use Fee” from students for the use of its property, buildings and facilities and to apply such proceeds to the payment of principal and interest of certain revenue bonds issued and sold in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2020 for expenses generally associated with construction, reconstruction, remodeling, and repair of its property, buildings, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, such Board of Trustees has determined that such “General Use Fee” should be set at \$50.00 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2026, to be used as follows:

1. Approximately \$4,324,333.00 for revenue bond debt service;
2. Approximately \$1,000,000.00 to be retained as general revenue for expenses related to physical plant operations and maintenance;
3. The balance for payment of construction, reconstruction, remodeling, and repair of property, buildings, and facilities;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that a “General Use Fee” be collected from students at the time of registration, in the amount of \$50.00 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2026.

Adopted on this 20th day of August, 2025, by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

**7.A. FY 2024-2025 GRANT
ACTIVITIES – MR. GABRIEL
LOZANO**

Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Director of Grants, provided a Grants Office activities report for FY 2025.

**7.B. FOREIGN TRADE
ZONE DESIGNATION
REQUESTS – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ**

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President, informed the Board that letters of concurrence were issued for Brennan & Company, Inc. and OF Customs, Inc. for foreign trade zone designations.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Liendo moved 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 July 30, 2025, and Special Board Meeting of August 7, 2025
- Agenda Item 8.B. – July 2025 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 8.C. – Approval of Annual Subscription for the Library SirsiDynix Enterprise System
- Agenda Item 8.D. – Approval of Annual License Renewal for Turnitin Feedback Studio Enterprise
- Agenda Item 8.E. – Approval for Purchase of Equipment and Supplies for the Forensic Sciences Program
- Agenda Item 8.F. – Approval of Computer Solutions Annual NetWatch Managed Services Agreement
- Agenda Item 8.G. – Approval of Insurance Premium Renewals for Academic Year 2025–2026

Ms. Alexander and Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion passed.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**9.B. APPROVAL OF
SENATE BILL 17 FY 2025
COMPLIANCE
CERTIFICATION – DR.
DAVID V. ARREAZOLA**

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management, presented Senate Bill 17 FY 2025 Compliance Certification for approval. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:57 p.m., Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to go into executive session on the following item:

- Agenda Item 10.A. – Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Amendment to Donor Agreement, Pursuant to Texas Government Code §§ 551.071 and 551.073

Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion; motion passed.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:03 p.m. Mr. Rangel noted that no action was taken during executive session.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**11.A. CONSIDERATION
AND RATIFICATION OF
AMENDMENT TO DONOR
AGREEMENT**

Ms. Liendo moved that the Board approve the ratification of the amendment to the donor agreement. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; 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 in the meeting materials.

**12.B. PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS** – DR. MINITA
RAMÍREZ

Dr. Ramírez remarked on the following:

- Fall semester
- De Llano Trust donation
- FY 2026 Board meeting schedule
- 89th legislative session laws
- SACSCOC 5th year report
- FY 2026 budget

Mr. Rangel reminded the Board to complete any missing trainings that need to be complied with and noted that the new bill will require additional trainings for the Board in the new year.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:11 p.m., Ms. Vela, Ms. Liendo, and Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion; motion passed.

Mr. Esteban Rangel
President

Ms. Jackie Leven-Ramos
Secretary