



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
LEE COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
March 27, 2025**

The Board of Regents of the Lee College District met on March 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at John B. Tucker Lecture Hall. Chairman Fontenot called the meeting to order stating that the meeting was duly posted and a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Daryl Fontenot, Chairman; Mark Himself, Secretary; Mark Hall, Assistant Secretary; Weston Cotten; Gina Guillory; Judy Jirrels; Pam Warford

Dr. Lynda Villanueva, President

VIRTUAL: Susan Moore-Fontenot, Vice Chair

ABSENT: Gilbert Santana

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Regent Pam Warford said the invocation, and led the Pledge to United States flag and Texas flag.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Chairman Fontenot thanked the basketball team and coaches for a wonderful season, and thanked Coach Nicholas Wade for attracting the Region XIV Basketball Tournament to Lee College.

Dr. Villanueva expressed pride in the coaching staff and players, in the team's growth throughout the year, in hosting the Region XIV Tournament for the first time, in the positive experiences described by all who attended and participated, and in the team effort by coaching staff, facilities staff, Marketing & Public Affairs, custodians, Café 34 staff, and numerous volunteers who gave up their Spring Break to support the tournament.

Regents in turn complimented and expressed pride in the season and in the tournament experience.

Coach Wade thanked Regents and Dr. Villanueva for their support, also security, student workers, finance department and others for support of the tournament. He thanked his coaches, asked for support of the volleyball team for next season, then introduced members of the basketball team.

22.25

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Regent Cotten made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the minutes for Special Virtual Board Meeting, February 5, 2025; Special Board Meeting - Tour, February 13, 2025; Special Board Meeting, February 13, 2025; Audit & Investment Committee Meeting, February 13, 2025; Building Committee Meeting, February 19, 2025; Policy Committee Meeting, February 20, 2025; Special Board Meeting, February 21, 2025; Board Meeting, February 25, 2025.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regent Santana was absent.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Noting he and several other Regents attended a Governance Leadership Institute last week, Chairman Fontenot remarked that, based on his interactions with trustees from other colleges, Lee College has a highly functioning board. Other Regents who attended shared takeaways in turn. Regent Jirrels asked to comment at the next board meeting after reviewing her conference notes and thoughts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Building Committee** – In the absence of Committee Chair Santana, Chairman Fontenot said the committee met yesterday, and continued its series of building tours today. He complimented results of the Tucker Hall renovation.
- **Policy Committee** – Committee Chair Gina Guillory reported the committee was scheduled to meet this week but had only one policy to review, so instead will meet next month.
- **Audit and Investment Committee** – Committee Chair Judy Jirrels reported the committee is scheduled to meet April 10.

Building and Facilities – Serving on the Building Committee are Gilbert Santana, Chair; Mark Hall, Pam Warford, and Daryl Fontenot

Policy Committee – Serving on the Policy Committee are Gina Guillory, Chair; Susan Moore-Fontenot, and Weston Cotten

Audit and Investment Committee – Serving on the Audit and Investment Committee are Judy Jirrels, Chair; Gina Guillory, and Mark Himself

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- **New CFO** – Dr. Villanueva welcomed Jacob Atkin, new Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance.
- **Funding Model Legislative Update** – During the current legislative session, changes in House Bill 8 as adopted in the previous session are proposed in House Bill 2010 and Senate Bill 1786, Dr. Villanueva reported. Funding on labor market outcomes was originally based on results after 10 years, but now is proposed on results after five years, she said, elaborating on anticipated consequences if these proposed changes are approved.
- **Regent Testifies in Austin** – Dr. Villanueva recognized Regent Susan Moore-Fontenot, who testified as part of a team in Austin today before the Senate education committee in connection with SB 1786. Regent Moore-Fontenot said the testimony was well received.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Resignations and Retirements – Dr. Lynda Villanueva, President

Tyrone Smith, Academic Advisor, Advising & Transfer Programs – Resignation

Chris Dowdy, Coordinator, Student Engagement & Recreation – Resignation

Paul Chance, Faculty, Process Technology – Retirement

Ethan Arbuckle, Faculty, Speech – Resignation

Financial Report – Annette Ferguson, Chief Operations Officer and Executive Vice President

Reporting financial results as of end of February, halfway through the fiscal year, Annette Ferguson said cash position is strong, with about \$31 million in reserve, about \$10 million set aside for various projects, and more than \$44 million in operating funds. Tuition & fee revenue is close to budget, at about 87%, she said, noting summer typically brings in 11-15% of tuition & fee annual revenue. A state appropriation payment of just over \$5 million was received in February.

Tax revenue is a little behind budget, Ms. Ferguson said, recalling that the tax rate was decreased after the budget was adopted. Projections are for a tax revenue shortfall of \$1 million to \$1.5 million, she said. Revenue in lieu of taxes is about \$600,000 less than what was budgeted, she added. Interest income is on track, she said. Fiscal year-end revenue projections indicate results will be close to budget for tuition & fees, on budget for state appropriations, a little below budget for tax revenue, and on target for other revenues.

Projected net revenue is for an operating surplus of \$1.4 million – year-end revenue is projected below budget, but just over \$2 million in expenses is expected to be saved, Ms. Ferguson said. Expense savings will be in salary & benefits, and in FAST (Financial Aid for Swift Transfer) program expenses, she said. At fiscal year end, salary & benefits cost projects to 98% of budget, operating costs just over 95% of budget, and debt service on budget, she said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

A. PERSONNEL

23.25 CONSENT Agenda – Consideration of New Hires

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the new hires as presented:

Dr. Kathy Dupree, Senior Accountant, Grant Accountant
Mr. Michael Childree, Faculty, Engineering
Dr. Jie Liang, Faculty, Computer Maintenance
Ms. Sarah Cummings, Coordinator, Employee Relations

Regent Warford made a motion, seconded by Regent Cotten, that the Board approve the recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regent Santana was absent.

B. NEW BUSINESS

24.25 Consideration of Approval of the Academic Calendar for January to December 2027

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Academic Calendar for the 2027 calendar year.

Regent Guillory made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the recommendation. In answer to a question by Regent Himself, Dr. Villanueva confirmed this calendar aligns with the Goose Creek CISD calendar.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regent Santana was absent.

25.25 Consideration to Pay GCCISD Teacher Stipends for the Spring 2025 Semester

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the President or her designee to pay teacher stipends in the amount of \$133,200 to Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

Regent Moore-Fontenot made a motion, seconded by Regent Guillory, that the Board approve the recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regent Santana was absent.

26.25 Consideration of Approval of Election Order Amendment for the May 3, 2025, Regents Election

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Election Order Amendment as it relates to Chambers County for the May 3, 2025, Regents Election.

Regent Warford made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regent Santana was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Regents closed the Open Session at 6:43 p.m. and convened into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act regarding:

1. Consult with Attorney to hear findings regarding employee grievance and complaint. [TX Gov't Code § 551.074]
2. Discussion with Board Attorney regarding legal issues related to branch campus agreement. [TX Gov't Code § 551.071]
3. Consult with Board Attorney regarding legal advice on any item on the agenda. [TX Gov't Code § 551.071]
4. Discussion of Lee College President's duties and responsibilities. [TX Gov't Code § 551.071]

No action is taken while the Board is recessed into Executive Session.

(Regent Moore-Fontenot arrived in person at 8:35 pm and entered the Executive Session meeting. She was not present at the Board table when Open Session reconvened.)

The Board ended Executive Session at 9:41 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 9:43 p.m.

27.25 Consideration of Lee College Employee Contracts for FY 2025-2026

The Administration recommends that the Board approve contracts for the academic year 2025-2026 for employees listed.

Regent Hall made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regents Santana and Moore-Fontenot were absent.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fontenot declared the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Chairman, Board of Regents

Secretary, Board of Regents