

MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT
May 14, 2001

The Called Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District opened in the Isensee Board Room, Harvin Center, Del Mar College East Campus, Baldwin and Ayers, Corpus Christi, Texas, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2001, with the following present:

From the Board:

Mrs. Chris Adler, Mrs. Minnie Arriaga, Rev. Willie Davila, Mrs. Olga Gonzales, Mr. Jacob Muñoz, Mr. Gabe Rivas, Mrs. Dorothy Spann, Ms. Beverly Winters, and Mr. Guy Watts

From the College:

Dr. Terry Dicianna, President; Mr. J. L. Alaniz, Vice President of Business and Finance; Dr. Richard Armenta, Vice President of Instruction and Student Development; Mrs. Vickie Natale, Dean of Administrative Services; Ms. Barbara Riley, Executive Secretary to Vice President of Business and Finance; and other administrators, faculty, and staff.

From the Attorney's Office:

Mr. Stephen Hilmy.

Others:

Mr. Jack Solka and Ms. Patricia Lozano, Project Architects for Center for Early Learning; representatives from the local bookstores; and other interested citizens.

Mrs. Olga Gonzales, president of the Board, presided and called the meeting to order. With a quorum present, she requested a moment of silence.

Mrs. Gonzales opened the meeting with Public Comments and reminded everyone of the five minute time limit.

Mr. Buck Sosa, president of the Coastal Bend Tejano Democrats, expressed his opposition to the proposed campus bookstore, along with his concern for the other two bookstores.

Dr. Bill Farmer, with Ray High School, informed the Board of several maintenance problems in the Wolfe Recital Hall and voiced concern over possible rental rate increases. Dr. Farmer also expressed his opposition to a bookstore and pointed out that, in his experience, prices had been higher at college bookstores.

Mrs. Sheryl Starry, owner of Student Bookstore, commented on the sale of spirit items at the bookstore,

and reported that they would be lowering prices on their books.

Mr. Howard Karsh, auditorium manager, read an excerpt from a SACS report on the bookstore. He commented on the student activity fee, rentals in the auditorium, and accused Mr. Alaniz of mismanagement of funds.

Mrs. Gonzales asked Mr. Karsh to put his concerns and suggestions in writing and forward to her for review.

Mr. Frank Hankins, retired Del Mar College librarian, suggested the Board leave the decision of the bookstore and using the auditorium as a revenue stream up to the new College president. Mr. Hankins advised that the Board attempt to minimize any controversy beforehand.

(Mr. Watts left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.)

Mr. Hal George, with the Kleberg Law Firm representing the Del Mar Bookstore, addressed the Board concerning the controversy related to a campus bookstore.

Dr. Jerry Sansing expressed his opposition to the College's involvement with a campus bookstore.

Mr. Eddie Flores, speaking as a taxpayer, asked the Board to make a decision on the bookstore and not to postpone the issue any longer. Mr. Flores requested that the Board consider holding all their meetings at 5:30 p.m. because of the opportunity for employees to attend.

The first item of business was related to review of the proposals for a campus bookstore. Mrs. Lenora Keas, chairperson of the Bookstore Committee, introduced other members of the committee. She provided an overview of the events for the previous 18 months. Mrs. Keas reviewed information on the preliminary study and the process for Requests for Proposals. She reported that three firms had submitted proposals: (1) Barnes & Noble; (2) Follett; and (3) Student Bookstore; and that a committee had been formed to review the proposals. Mrs. Keas pointed out that all concerns mentioned had been discussed by the committee. She reviewed the matrix and evaluation process used, and informed the Board that the committee had rated the bookstores as (1) Barnes & Noble; (2) Follett; and (3) Student Bookstore. Mrs. Keas pointed out the committee's evaluation conclusions, announced that it was the consensus of the committee to support the President's recommendation that the Board explore the feasibility of an on-campus bookstore, and recommended the firm of Barnes & Noble. She then provided information on the proposal submitted by Barnes & Noble.

Board members questioned the costs to the College associated with providing the facilities to the bookstore, proposed location, and scholarship monies. Mrs. Keas informed the Board that the issues

would be discussed in contract negotiations. (Mr. Watts returned to the meeting at 6:36 p.m.)

After extensive discussion on the issues, Mr. Muñoz requested that the information on associated costs, location, and scholarships be provided in order for the Board to consider a proposal. Another lengthy discussion followed on the information requested, and whether or not the Board should approve the concept of a proposal in order to negotiate.

Mrs. Spann made a motion that the Board not adopt the feasibility or proceed with the campus bookstore issue. Mrs. Arriaga seconded the motion, and after a brief discussion, the motion failed with Rivas, Arriaga, and Spann voting in favor; Muñoz, Adler, Davila, Winters, and Gonzales voting against; and Watts abstaining.

Mr. Muñoz then made a motion that the Board accept the recommendation for a campus bookstore; and that administration provide the Board a cost analysis on associated costs to the College, proposed location, and amount of scholarship monies in order to negotiate; and that a proposal from Barnes & Noble be submitted to the Board. Mr. Watts asked that information on existing services in the Harvin Center be provided. Mr. Muñoz agreed, and asked that a plan for the future use of the Harvin Center be included in the information to the Board. Rev. Davila seconded the motion, and it carried with Muñoz, Adler, Davila, Gonzales, and Winters voting in favor; Spann, Arriaga, and Rivas voting against; and Watts abstaining.

In response to a request to address the Board, Mrs. Gonzales informed Dr. Nicholas Beller that public comments had been made earlier in the meeting.

After a five minute break, the Board moved on to the next agenda item related to the Center for Early Learning. Rev. Davila announced that Mr. Jack Solka would provide a presentation on the preliminary plans and that a timetable and funding options would be discussed. Mrs. Linda Ard, chairperson of the Department of Human Services, provided a brief history of the task force working on the Center for Early Learning project. She informed the Board of the urgency to move forward in order to assist the growing numbers of single-parent families, and the availability of funds. Mrs. Ard reviewed a proposed four-year operating budget. Mrs. Pat Townsend, director of the Office of Development, announced that the Del Mar College Foundation, Inc., strongly supports the Center for Early Learning and reminded the Board of the capital campaign that the Foundation would be undertaking to raise funds for the Center. She informed the Board that several proposals for funding had been submitted.

Mr. Jack Solka introduced Ms. Patricia Lozano, who had assisted with the preliminary plans for the Center for Early Learning. Mr. Solka reviewed the proposed site plan and provided a slide presentation of the floor plans and each room. He reviewed the anticipated time line of the project: drawings should be

completed by late September 2001; allow one month for the bid, and award the contract at the October 2001 Board meeting; begin construction on November 1, 2001; complete the project in July 2002; move in during August 2002 in time for fall classes. Mr. Solka reported that the original budget was \$3.2 million, but with the addition of the kitchen, the proposed budget was \$3.9 million. A brief discussion followed. Mrs. Ard pointed out that the children who will be accepted at the Center would be from students, staff, and the community. The Board commented on several of the features in the plans.

Mrs. Adler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Winters, to approve the preliminary drawings for the Center for Early Learning as presented by Mr. Solka, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rev. Davila reminded the Board that they also accepted the timetable included with the drawings. He then asked that the Board consider the options for interim financing. Mr. Alaniz reviewed the options available and informed the Board that the financial advisor, Mr. Noe Hinojosa, would be in town later in the week and would provide information to assist them in forming a plan of action. Mr. Alaniz also reviewed the refunding and potential savings associated with the current bonds and asked that the Board address the issue at the June meeting.

Mrs. Gonzales announced that the Board would enter into closed session in accordance with Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Government Code, beginning at 8:40 p.m.

(Mr. Watts left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.)

The Board ended its closed session and reconvened at 9:01 p.m.

Mr. Rivas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muñoz, to offer the position of interim president to Dr. Richard Armenta, with contract negotiations to be held with Mrs. Gonzales and Mr. Hilmy, and brought back to the Board for approval. The motion carried by acclamation.

Under Calendaring, Mrs. Gonzales announced that she had asked Mr. Muñoz to serve as chairperson of the search committee to select the College president. She requested that administration provide a list of names for the committee structured similar to those on the previous search committee. It was also the consensus that an individual from the Foundation and a student from the East and West Campuses be asked to participate on the committee.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.