

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT**

November 14, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas with the following present:

**From the Board:**

Ms. Carol Scott, Ms. Libby Averyt, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Mr. Mr. David Loeb, and Dr. Laurie Turner.

**From the College:**

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Mr. Ali Kolahdouz, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Vice President for Student Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Sanders, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. John Strybos, Vice President and Chief Physical Facilities Officer; Ms. Mary McQueen, Vice President of Advancement and Government Relations; Ms. Delia Perez, Director of CEO Office and Board Relations, and other staff and faculty.

**CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM CALL**

Chair Scott called the meeting to order with a quorum present. She requested a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Del Mar College Vision Statement.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS** – The public was given the opportunity to provide public comments (both general and specific to any agenda item).

There were no public comments made for this meeting.

**STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT**.....Mr. Dan Korus

- Corporate Services: State of Business and Workforce Development  
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

Mr. Dan Korus, Dean of Workforce Development and Corporate Services, provided the Board with the history of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) which has been active since 1998. The SBDC produces about \$4.41 for every \$1 that is invested. They excel in providing support to small businesses. The Contract Resources Center helps small businesses do business with billion-dollar companies which helped break \$8 million in commercial contracts this year. The Small Business Internship Program (SBIP) assists students with internships. There are currently 60 employers involved in the program and it also created 10 full-time jobs. The APEX Accelerator is a program

that helps small businesses doing business with the federal, state, county, or municipality governments. The program initially started with \$200 million in contracts and this past year it reached \$433 million in contracts.

Mr. Korus reviewed the grants and apprenticeships for the SBDC which include JET and TWC Grants. A total of \$1.5 million in grants was awarded. Workforce initiatives include listening to industry for their specific needs, and because the College is a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) facility, putting programs together and supporting the industry with the goal of a 90% placement rate.

Mr. Korus stated they work closely with Davis Merrell regarding the College achieving certifications. Two certifications the College has received are American Welding Society and the North America Process Technology Association which shows the College is recognized by industry as being leaders. The College has been asked for more in maritime classes/programs. Presently, the College has seven US Coast Guard approved classes, and is working on three more.

Mr. Korus provided information regarding the transportation training program which has been running for 25 years. The program has seen a 25% jump in students because of the demands in the economy. For the past three years, the College has broken \$1 million in revenue. The trucks have all been fitted with new wraps showcasing the program and displaying contact information. As a highlight, a student of the program was the winner of the 2022 Transition Trucking Award and was placed number one in the nation which gives the College more recognition nationwide.

Ms. Lenora Keas recognized Mr. Korus and his staff in attendance, stating that they are an amazing team and do a fantastic job.

Regent Loeb provided commentary regarding contacting companies in the community.

President Escamilla offered congratulations to the team for their work.

Chair Scott provided commentary regarding future opportunities for the College programs.

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT’S REPORT** .....Dr. Mark Escamilla

- September 28, 2023: Patricia Benavides-Dominguez was selected to serve on the THECB Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Dual Credit  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

President Escamilla stated Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Vice President for Student Affairs, was selected to serve on the THECB Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Dual Credit. President Escamilla thanked Ms. Benavides-Dominguez for volunteering to serve.

- October 16, 2023: Community College Leadership Team Meeting, Austin

*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

President Escamilla stated he participated in this Community College Leadership Team group which listens to rules being brought for consideration to committees to make sure they are thought out and are considered.

- October 19, 2023: Foundation Scholarship Dinner  
*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

President Escamilla stated he went to the Foundation Scholarship Dinner at the Dome located at the Windward Campus which had 420 people in attendance. President Escamilla personally thanked the anonymous donor that contributed the catered meals for the event.

- October 25, 2023: TACC Quarterly Meeting  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

President Escamilla attended the quarterly meeting for TACC.

- November 1, 2023: Community College Leadership Team Meeting (Virtual)  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

President Escamilla stated he stays in close touch post-HB8 as part of the team even though his time as an officer is completed.

- November 10, 2023: GCGV Tour, Windward Campus  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

President Escamilla stated he was not able to attend the Gulf Coast Growth Ventures (GCGV) Leadership Team tour. President Escamilla thanked Ms. Lenora Keas, Dr. Leonard Rivera, and Mr. Dan Korus for leading the visit on the Windward campus.

Ms. Keas stated they hosted GCGV which was made up of representatives from Exxon Mobil, and Saudi Arabia Basic Industries. Ms. Keas also thanked GCGV who presented scholarship checks in the amount of \$35,000 in total, and \$1.7 million from GCGV over the last three to four years.

## **REGENT'S REPORT:**

- October 9-12, 2023: ACCT Leadership Congress, Las Vegas, NV  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Chair Scott stated several Regents attended the ACCT Leadership Congress in Las Vegas. The Regents that attended provided comments about the conference and the sessions they attended.

Regent Averyt congratulated Chair Scott on her appointment to the ACCT Board of Directors representing the Western Region.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Student Enrollment Report  
.....Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Leonard Rivera, and Ms. Lenora Keas  
(Goal 1: Completion)

Ms. Keas indicated that they will be looking at the data which shows how the College has progressed over the last year in credit, continuing education and special programs. As the College moves into House Bill 8, the numbers being provided will be based more on tier performance, student-based, outcome-based and credentialing-based on how outcomes are measured.

The fundable performance tier outcome measures include: 1. 15 semester credit hour (SCH) dual credit; 2. General Academic Institution (GAI) transfer with 15 semester credit hours; 3. General Academic Institution (GAI) Co-Enrollment with 15 semester credit hours; 4. Licensure/certification (no credentials); 5. Institutional Credential Leading to License; 6. Occupational skills award; 7. Certificate I or II; 8. Advanced Technical Certificate; 9. Associate Degree, and 10. Bachelor's Degree. Ms. Keas reviewed the operating budget as well as the base year funding from 2018 through 2024, then introduced Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided the headcount data for spring 2019 to the current year which includes flex entry data. The College experienced a 6.1% increase for the spring 2023 semester and the fall headcount from fall 2019 to the current year stayed flat.

Dr. Leonard Rivera provided data regarding the contact hour reimbursement for Continuing Education (CE) in the amount of \$2.2 million, and the College is at the top of the State leading the 50 college districts. Del Mar College is in the top three of the 50 college districts at \$18 million with total State funding including contact dollars for credit and contact dollars for CE. Dr. Rivera proceeded with the transition to House Bill 8 for the fall '22 and fall '23 which showed a 1.9% increase in combined contact hours, and a 5.9% increase in credit and continuing education combined headcount. Dr. Rivera stated the numbers for the second eight-weeks still need to be counted but the numbers are trending upwards, and this data is moving upwards daily.

Dr. Rivera provided information regarding high school seniors that matriculated to the College. He stated almost 2000 attended Del Mar College with 137 (11.5%) earning a college degree or certificate by high school. An estimated 29.7% matriculated to Del Mar College within one year of completing high school, and 145 (12.2%) earned a college degree or certificate within one year of completing high school.

Dr. Rivera reviewed how House Bill 8 will impact the College's goals of completion, recruitment, and persistence. Dual credit, continuing education, and credit areas are all working to optimize completions within the College's strategic initiatives.

Ms. Keas, Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Dr. Leonard Rivera, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

**PENDING BUSINESS:**

Status Report on Requested Information

*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Notice to the Public

*The following items are of a routine or administrative nature. The Board of Regents has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless requested by a Board member or a citizen, in which event the item(s) will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in their normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The remaining items will be adopted by one vote.*

**CONSENT MOTIONS:**

*(At this point the Board will vote on all motions not removed for individual consideration.)*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Board Meeting, September 12, 2023

Regular Meeting, October 3, 2023

*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

2. Acceptance of Investments for September and October 2023

*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

3. Acceptance of Financials for September 2023

*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Regent Babbili made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Regent Loeb seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

## REGULAR AGENDA

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the College's Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending August 31, 2023.....Mr. Raul Garcia  
*(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)*

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. David McElwain from Patterson Group to discuss the College's investment performance and strategies.

Mr. McElwain provided the Board with information regarding the 2023 third quarter report and stated the inflation rate is going down and growth of employment has grown. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) report from July pointed to more disinflation. Both headline and core CPI increased by 0.2% on the month and on a year-over-year basis increased by 3.2% and 4.7%. Throughout August, markets continued to price in a more positive tone, leading to rates increasing. The 2-year US Treasury yield decreased 0.02% while longer term bonds increased as they are more reflective of growth. The 5-year US Treasury yield increased 0.07% and the 10-year US Treasury yield increased by 0.15%.

The debt service has been residing in the Pools with 73% of maturities will roll over in the next 12 months. Tax collection season is seeing a little bit of funds flowing into the coffers. He discussed recent investments and stated for the Fiscal Year '22-23, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the average College's book value is \$90 million with average total Fiscal Year earnings at \$2.5 million. The Series 2018 Tax Bond funds book value average is \$20 million for FY 22-23 with total fiscal year earnings of \$114,715.00. The Series 2020 Tax Bond funds book value average is \$10 million for Fiscal Year 22-23, and the total Fiscal Year earnings are \$57,684.00.

Regent Crull made a motion to approve College's Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending August 31, 2023 as presented. Regent Babbili seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

5. Discussion and possible action relating to San Patricio County Appraisal District Board of Directors 2024-2025 Election.....Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr.  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Mr. Rivera provided information regarding the election of the San Patricio County Appraisal District Board of Directors. He stated that there are seven nominees, and the College has a total of nine votes to cast out of the possible 5,000 votes of other taxing entities. Mr. Rivera reviewed some of the different entities and their allowed votes.

Regent Loeb made a motion to cast the College's nine votes in favor of Dr. Anne Matula. Regent Garza seconded

the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

- 6. Discussion and possible action on appointment of DMC representative to Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors.....Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr. *(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Mr. Rivera provided information regarding the College's right to appoint a representative to the Nueces County Appraisal District Board. Mr. Rivera provided information regarding candidate Ms. DeeAnna Heavilin who submitted her letter of interest and credentials for the Board's consideration.

Regent Babbili made a motion to appoint Ms. Deanna Heavilin as the College's representative to the Nueces County Appraisal Board. Regent Loeb seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 7-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Babbili, Crull, Garza, Loeb, and Turner in favor.

**CALENDAR:** Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.