

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

November 8, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened at the Oso Creek Campus, Culinary Arts Building, Tres Grace Community Room, 7002 Yorktown Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, with the following present:

**From the Board:**

Ms. Carol Scott, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Ms. Libby Averyt, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Ms. Susan Hutchinson, Mr. Bill Kelly, and Dr. Linda Villarreal.

**From the College:**

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; 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; 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.

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER QUORUM CALL**

Ms. 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.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

- Dr. Leonard Rivera, Dean of Continuing Education and Off Campus Programs and the Continuing Education Department received the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Star Award for Workable Stackable Credentials.....Ms. Lenora Keas (*Goal 1: Completion*)

Ms. Keas recognized Dr. Leonard Rivera, Dean of Continuing Education and Off Campus Programs, Ms. Rachel Benavides, Director of Adult Education Initiatives, and the Continuing Education Department for receiving the Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Workable Stackable Credentials. The award is in recognition of providing exceptional contributions and created postsecondary credentials of value for local targeted occupations in the workforce. The

result in the redesign and alignment of short-term credentials prepared continuing education students for employment and increased student accessibility to credit courses. The stackable courses take an industry-based credential and open the door for students to progress to a level one certificate and associates degrees. Chair Scott and Dr. Escamilla congratulated Dr. Rivera, Ms. Benavides, and their team. Dr. Rivera provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

- College Relations: National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) Awards  
.....Ms. Mary McQueen  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Ms. McQueen recognized the College Relations team, including Ms. Monica Benavides, Creative Service Manager for winning eight medallions at the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations event. The awards include recognition for the storyboards shared with the public in a multitude of streams that include gold medallion winner for the Oso Creek brochure and the College’s rebranding. Ms. Benavides provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

**STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT.....Dr. Jonda Halcomb**

- Students Engaged in Direct Advising (SENDA) Grant  
(Goal 3: Academic Preparedness and Student Learning)

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez reviewed Project SENDA’s history and stated the overall goal is to ensure the implementation of advising best practices across the College. To date, 107 unique faculty and staff have participated in the course offerings and will assist the institution in continuing to meet objectives set forth by the project. Ms. Benavides-Dominguez reviewed the Hispanic students earning associate degrees totals as well as stating the targets were met and exceeded. The time to completion has also been decreased from 5.1 years to 4.9 years. She thanked Mr. David Barrera, Grant Director, and Ms. Leticia Wilson, Director of Advising Initiatives.

Dr. Escamilla expressed his gratitude for the hard work the faculty and staff who train and improve their advising.

**REGENT’S REPORT:**

- Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TXCCCF) Recommendations  
.....Ms. Carol Scott and Dr. Mark Escamilla

Chair Scott and Dr. Escamilla provided an overview of the recommendations from the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. Chair Scott stated the recommendations were voted on at the October 17, 2022, meeting and passed unanimously.

Chair Scott mentioned that Dr. Harrison Keller, Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Texas and a group of South Texas presidents and trustees will attend a Workshop in Corpus Christi to discuss the recommendations on November 9, 2022.

Dr. Escamilla stated that three primary pillars have been developed to support the recommendations across the State but it must still go through the legislative process. He reviewed the final recommendations and provided detailed information for each of the following: 1) State Funding for Outcomes; 2) Affordability for Students; and 3) Investments in College Capacity.

Chair Scott provided commentary regarding the College competing with ourselves on outcomes-based funding. She stated that the State will now recognize credentials of value and include degrees, certificates, dual credit, and continuing education credentials, as well as students that transfer to a four-year institution.

Chair Scott and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- 2022 ACCT Congress  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Regents Kelly, Adame, Garza and Scott provided highlights from the ACCT Congress Conference they attended.

Dr. Escamilla stated it is critical that the Regents attend nationwide conferences as well as statewide conferences to be able to hear other ideas and thanked the Regents that attended for their time.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Tax Abatements Update.....Ms. Lenora Keas  
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Ms. Keas introduced Mr. Mike Culbertson, the Interim Chief Executive Officer, of Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation (CCREDC). Mr. Culbertson discussed how the CCREDC provides compliance reviews for the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, San Patricio County, Del Mar College, San Patricio County Drainage District, Corpus Christi Business & Job Development Corporation (Type A Board), and Corpus Christi B Corporation (Type B Board). The compliance procedures review all the requirements from the agreements, use of standard documents to test compliance, all of the company’s assertions, and report on findings to Del Mar College President. Mr. Culbertson reviewed existing Tax Abatement Agreements with M&G Resins and EPIC Y-Grade. He also reviewed the ten-year period net of incentives with M&G Resins and EPIC Y-Grade total Del Mar College taxes with investments in the amount of \$18.1 million.

Dr. Escamilla provided comments regarding abatements and thanked Mr. Culbertson for his work with the College.

Mr. Culbertson responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Enrollment Update.....Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez and Ms. Lenora Keas

*(Goal 2: Recruitment and Persistence)*

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez began the enrollment update presentation by providing an overview of enrollment which included information from the State of Texas Biennium; base year for contact hours, formula funding, credit headcount and contact hours, dual credit, and annual credit and continuing education contact hours. Ms. Benavides-Dominguez introduced Ms. Lenora Keas.

Ms. Keas discussed how the Texas Legislature funds community colleges on a base year during periods beginning the summer semester of the even numbered years prior to a legislative session. The base year begins in the Summer I semester and continues through the end of the following semester. The funding is calculated on certified contact hours earned during a semester. Contact hours are based on the total number of hours of instruction for each student and for each course that is taken. The census date for counting contact hours varies depending on the variety of enrollment periods during a semester. She stated that State appropriations based on contact hours presently is approximately 15% of the total \$114 million operating budget.

Chair Scott provided comments regarding a possible new funding model.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez reviewed the funding comparison between large college groups for 2022-2023.

Dr. Escamilla provided comments regarding Continuing Education contact hours.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez stated how formula funding has changed over time. The student Success Point rate will be \$264.78. The credit contact hours are down by 3% and the continuing education contact hours are up by 35.9%. Student Success Points funding allocates funds among institutions based on their performance on certain defined student success metrics. Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided detailed information regarding the Annual Weighted Success Points total, Spring Credit Headcount total, Fall Credit Headcount total, and Summer I and II Headcount totals. Enrollment struggles are still being experienced due to the pandemic and inflation. The College continues to focus on increasing second eight weeks.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided information regarding the Dual Credit program, which continues to grow. Although, from fall '20 to fall '21, enrollment took a slight dip. Overall, there is a five-year increase of 16.5%. The College currently has thirty-five high schools participating in the Dual Credit program. The College is in nine counties in its service area, and continually strives to strengthen their ISD partnerships.

Ms. Keas provided data regarding Continuing Education for the 2021-2022 year which had over 13,000 students enrolled. She stated that during the pandemic, the Transportation Services/CDL program, and health programs continued successfully. Ms. Keas reviewed the total annual contact hours for credit and continuing education courses, and stated the College continues to promote registration and leverage the HEERF

program, funds to assist with enrollment, and continues to work with their partners to stimulate enrollment.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez discussed fall headcounts for the College and large college cohorts. Del Mar College's fall 2021 headcount was 10,395 and the fall 2022 preliminary headcount was 9,725.

Dual credit students are monitored annually to see how many are earning a credential by high school graduation, how many enroll at Del Mar College upon completing high school, and how many earn a degree within one year of completing high school. The cohort of 2021 had 1,220 seniors, which was 9.3%, earning a credential, 28.4% enrolled at Del Mar College, and 13.1% earned a credential within one year of completing high school.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez reviewed the full-time First Time in College (FTIC) retention numbers including comparison with other Texas community colleges.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez and Ms. Keas responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) Update.....Mr. Raul Garcia (*Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability*)

Ms. Keas began with a review of the HEERF funding received by the College and how the funds were allocated to support the College and students. She introduced Mr. Garcia to continue with the presentation. He provided a history of the receipt of HEERF II and III funds which will be completed and allocated by May or June of 2023.

Ms. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez continued with an overview of how HEERF funding was directly allocated to students in the amount of \$11.4 million for emergency assistance.

Mr. Garcia stated the HEERF grant provided funding for lost revenues caused by the pandemic with a reported value. The College billed the grant close to \$3.9 million dollars which includes or is related to tuition, fees, revenues, food services, and childcare.

Ms. Tammy McDonald provided details regarding the College's voluntary COVID-19 vaccination incentive program for employees and students.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez provided information regarding the Success Outreach Plan which allotted \$4.6 million. HEERF funds were also used to help eliminate some student debt. The College was also able to use HEERF funds to run student focus, financial aid campaign ads.

Dr. Jonda Halcomb provided information how the HEERF funds were used for professional development including workshops and training for faculty to use equipment

needed for e-Learning classes should the need arise due to COVID-19 or a weather event.

Dr. Larry Lee provided information regarding the HEERF funds used for equipment and software. The funding afforded the College greater flexibility in delivering instruction, provided around the clock technical and student support capabilities, and expanded the ability to perform its business remotely, all in a safer online environment. Dr. Lee provided a summary of the greatly enhanced technology capacity the IT Department including cyber security, network services, remote learning technology, virtual student support, and virtual desktops.

Mr. John Strybos provided information regarding HEERF funds used for health and safety enhancements that included emergency generators to support IT connectivity, indoor air quality, social distancing furniture, decontamination, and touchless restroom fixtures and water fountains.

Ms. Benavides-Dominguez, Ms. Keas, Mr. Garcia, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

**COLLEGE PRESIDENT’S REPORT** .....Dr. Mark Escamilla  
*(Goal 4: Learning Environments)*

- SACSCOC Substantive Change Virtual Verification Follow-Up Visit for Level 2, RN to BSN, October 2-5, 2022  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Dr. Escamilla provided detailed information regarding the SACSCOC in-person visit to confirm findings on prior virtual visits which took place from October 2 – 5, 2022. SACSCOC Vice President, Dr. Mike Hoffer, and Chair of the Reaffirmation Review Committee, Jane McGuire spent a couple of days meeting with faculty, staff, and students. They concluded their visit for the final steps to the Level 2 change.

- Elections Accommodations at Del Mar College  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Dr. Escamilla discussed the importance of the Oso Creek Campus providing accommodations to facilitate the democratic process and partnering with Nueces County for the November 8, 2022, election. Del Mar College also has voting locations at the Heldenfels Administration Building on the Heritage Campus and the Emergency Training Building or the Dome at the Windward Campus.

- Fall Graduation, American Bank Center, 7:00 p.m., December 16, 2022  
*(Goal 1: Completion)*

Dr. Escamilla reminded everyone about the Fall Graduation taking place on December 16, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the American Bank Center.

- Oso Creek Campus Update  
(Goal 4: Learning Environments)

Dr. Escamilla provided an update regarding the construction of the Oso Creek Campus. The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy of the Administration Building was issued on October 26, 2022. There are two bus stops under construction on the campus by the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Transportation Authority. Also, the City of Corpus Christi Police Training Academy has advertised for construction bids.

Dr. Escamilla also announced the registration for the Spring 2023 semester has begun.

### **PENDING BUSINESS:**

Status Report on Requested Information  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)

Chair Scott reviewed the list of pending business.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:  
Workshop, September 13, 2022  
Regular Board Meeting, September 13, 2022  
Regular Board Meeting, October 11, 2022  
(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)
2. Acceptance of Investments for October 2022  
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)
3. Acceptance of Financials for September 2022  
(Goal 6: Financial Effectiveness and Affordability)

Regent Garza made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Regent Villarreal 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, Adame, Averyt, Garza, Hutchinson, Kelly, and Villarreal in favor.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

At 3:00 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session.

4. **CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:**

- A. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071**: (Consultation with Legal Counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, with possible discussion and action in open session, and the seeking of legal advice from counsel on pending legal or contemplated matters or claims, with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
- B. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a)(1)**: (Personnel Matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, with possible discussion and action in open session.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 3:47 p.m. with no action taken.

**CALENDAR:** Discussion held regarding upcoming calendar dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr