LAREDO COLLEGE DISTRICT
Laredo, Texas

The Laredo College Board of Trustees' public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget and 2026 property tax rate convened on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:02 p.m. in Room 101 of the Adolfo C. and Maria de Jesus De La Garza Building, located at the Fort McIntosh Campus, West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rangel called the public hearing to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS
Esteban Rangel, President	Minita Ramírez, Ph.D.
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President	Rusty Meurer
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary	Cesar Vela
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian	
Erica Benavides Garcia	
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.	
Lizzy Newsome	
Karina "Kari" Elizondo *(arrived at 6:07 p.m.)*	

MEMBERS ABSENT
Adriana Alexander - excused

A quorum was established.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to excuse Ms. Alexander's absence from the hearing. Ms. Benavides Garcia and Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET AND 2026 PROPERTY TAX RATE – *MR. CESAR VELA*

Mr. Cesar Vela, Vice President of Finance & Administration, stated that the public hearing was held to allow members of the public to comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget and 2026 property tax rate.

Mr. Rangel presided over the public hearing and called roll. Present were Esteban Rangel, Jackie Leven-Ramos, Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Cindy Liendo, Erica Benavides Garcia, Mercurio Martinez, Jr., Lizzy Newsome, and Karina "Kari" Elizondo. Adriana Alexander was absent.

Mr. Rangel invited members of the public to address the Board regarding the proposed budget and property tax rate.

There being no speakers, the public hearing was concluded. Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Benavides Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:07 p.m., Ms. Benavides Garcia moved to adjourn the hearing. Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

The regular monthly meeting of the Laredo College Board of Trustees convened at 6:07 p.m. following the public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget and 2026 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 Regular Monthly Board Meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leven-Ramos called roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS
Esteban Rangel, President	Minita Ramírez, Ph.D.
Ernestina "Tita" Cantu Vela, Vice President	Rusty Meurer
Jackie Leven-Ramos, Secretary	Ruben Villarreal
Cindy Liendo, Parliamentarian	David V. Arreazola, Ed.D.
Erica Benavides Garcia	Andrea Lopez
Mercurio Martinez, Jr.	Jorge Dimas
Lizzy Newsome	Jessica Treviño
Karina "Kari" Elizondo	Veronica Martinez, Ph.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT
Adriana Alexander - excused

A quorum was established.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to excuse Ms. Alexander's absence from the meeting. Ms. Liendo seconded the motion; motion passed.

3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mr. Prakash K. Mansinghani provided comments on the college's employee scholarship program.

4. RECOGNITIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS – *MR. RUBEN VILLARREAL*

4.A. RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORIC MILESTONE - OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAREDO COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT SWAT TEAM FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The official establishment of the Laredo College Police Department SWAT Team was announced. The following officers successfully completed the 60-hour Basic SWAT Course from May 25–29, 2026, and were recognized as the inaugural SWAT Operators:

Sgt. Ramon Salazar, SWAT Commander
Sgt. Jose Ipina, Operator
Officer Joshua Ayala, Operator
Officer Joseph Trevino, Operator
Officer Moses Ostiguin, Operator

4.B. TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD'S STUDENT SUCCESS ACCELERATION PROGRAM (SSAP) 3.0 GRANT AWARD

The Board received a report that Laredo College was awarded a $300,000 Student Success Acceleration Program (SSAP) 3.0 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to support the expansion of the Center for Learning, Academic, and Student Success (CLASS). Laredo College was one of 20 institutions selected for the grant. Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Dr. Veronica Martinez, and Ms. Michelle Perez were recognized for their work in securing the grant.

4.C. RECOGNITION OF MS. PATRICIA J. GODINES AND MS. CRISTINA GRECO FOR 2026 FLAMENCOFEST

The item was deferred.

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.A. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – *MS. ERNESTINA "TITA" CANTU VELA*

Ms. Vela summarized the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on August 17th.

5.B. PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – *MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS*

Ms. Leven-Ramos summarized the Program/Policy Committee meeting held on August 17th.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.A. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL TITLE IX COMPLIANCE REPORT – *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA*

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Student Success and Compliance, presented the President's 2025–2026 Annual Title IX Compliance Report, as required by Texas Education Code § 51.253(c). The report was presented for informational purposes only. No Board action was required.

6.B. SENATE BILL 17 FY2026 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION – *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA*

Dr. Arreazola and Ms. Andrea Lopez, Associate Vice President of Compliance & Risk Management, provided an overview of Laredo College's annual Senate Bill 17 compliance certification. The certification confirms compliance with applicable statutory requirements and is required for the expenditure of state-appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 2027. No Board action was required.

6.C. REPORT ON THE ASPEN COLLABORATIVE/COUNSELING TASKFORCE – *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MS. JESSICA TREVIÑO*

Mr. Jorge Dimas, Director of Admissions, presented the new student communications regarding application status, missing information, and official admission notices including 10-day, 25-day, and 45-day reminders.

Ms. Jessica Treviño, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, reported that enrollment had increased 0.62% compared to the same period last fall.

6.D. TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW OF THE TEXAS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (TEOG) PROGRAM – *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/MS. JESSICA TREVINO/MR. STEVEN AGUILAR*

This item was reported under Agenda Item 5.A. - Finance & Audit Committee Meeting Report.

6.E. SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP) PROJECT OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION – *DR. DAVID V. ARREAZOLA/DR. VERONICA MARTINEZ*

Dr. Arreazola presented information on the completion of Laredo College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Dr. Veronica Martinez, Associate Vice President of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, presented the QEP results and announced that Laredo College was selected as one of 17 institutions to receive the inaugural SACSCOC QEP Project of Excellence Recognition for demonstrating the impact on student learning and success.

6.F. LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS UPDATES – *DR. VERONICA MARTINEZ*

Dr. Martinez provided information regarding the Laredo College Trustee election, as posted on the College's website.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Liendo made a motion to approve all of the following items under Consent Agenda.

- Agenda Item 7.A. - Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of July 30, 2026 and Special Called Board Meeting of August 6, 2026
- Agenda Item 7.B. - July 2026 Financial Report
- Agenda Item 7.C. - Approval of Annual Subscription for the Library SirsiDynix Enterprise System

- Agenda Item Agenda Item 7.D. - Approval of Online Subscription Services for the Yeary and Zaffirini Libraries
- Agenda Item 7.E. - Approve Modifications to Laredo College Board Policy DMB(LOCAL)-TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT: TENURE
- Agenda Item 7.F. - Approve Modifications to Laredo College Board Policy DCB(LOCAL)-EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES: TENURE
- Agenda Item 7.G. - Approve Modifications to Laredo College Board Policy EGA(LOCAL)-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADING AND CREDIT Due to Prior Learning Assessment Initiative
- Agenda Item 7.H. - TASB Board Policy Update 51: Review Updated LEGAL Policies and Act on LOCAL Policies (see list below)
  - BBC(LOCAL): BOARD MEMBERS - VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
  - BGC(LOCAL): ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION - COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATES
  - CS(LOCAL): INFORMATION SECURITY
  - FB(LOCAL): ADMISSIONS
  - FDA(LOCAL): TUITION AND FEES – RESIDENCY ACTION
- Agenda Item 7.I. - Approval of Insurance Premium Renewals for Academic Year 2026-2027
- Agenda Item 7.J. - Approval of Budgeted Cash Matching Funds Required for a Grant Application for the Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation to be Submitted on behalf of Laredo College by the Grants Department to Benefit the Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (BASORG) Program and Students

Ms. Vela seconded the motion; motion passed.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

8.A. FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET AND 2026 PROPERTY TAX RATE – *MR. CESAR VELA*

Mr. Rangel recognized Ms. Elis Reyes-Sanchez, who was present on behalf of Ms. Patricia Barrera, Webb County Tax-Assessor Collector.

8.A.1. RESOLUTION ADOPTING FY 2027 BUDGET

Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

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, 2026, 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 2027;

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE, that such budget be adopted and same is hereby adopted in all things.

Adopted on this 20th day of August, 2026, by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve and adopt the resolution read into the record. Ms. Liendo and Ms. Vela seconded the motion. Mr. Rangel called for a record vote.

FOR

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

AGAINST

—

PRESENT and not voting

—

NOT PRESENT
Adriana Alexander

Motion carried.

8.A.2. RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026 PROPERTY TAX RATE

Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution Adopting 2026 Property Tax Rate.

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 2026 property tax rate;

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, that on August 20, 2026, the 2026 property tax rate be, and the same is hereby set at $0.225913 per $100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which $0.189519 shall be for maintenance and operations and $0.036394 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, 2026, by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to adopt the property tax rate set at $0.225913 per $100.00 valuation of taxable property, of which $0.189519 shall be for maintenance and operations and $0.036394 shall be for debt retirement and to approve the resolution read into the record. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion. Mr. Rangel called for a record vote.

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

AGAINST
—

PRESENT and not voting
—

NOT PRESENT
Adriana Alexander

Motion carried.

8.A.3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COLLECTION OF GENERAL USE FEE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

Ms. Leven-Ramos read the resolution Authorizing Collection of General Use Fee and Expenditure of Funds for Fiscal Year 2027.

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, 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 2027, to be used as follows:

1. Approximately $4,454,200.00 for revenue bond debt service;
2. Approximately $1,500,000.00 to be retained as general revenue for expenses related to physical plant operations and maintenance;
3. Approximately $745,800.00 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 2027.

Adopted on this 20th day of August, 2026, by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve and adopt the resolution authorizing the collection of a general use fee set at $50.00 per semester credit hour for Fiscal Year 2027 and the expenditure of funds, as itemized in the resolution read into the record. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion. Mr. Rangel called for a record vote.

FOR

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

AGAINST
—

PRESENT and not voting
—

NOT PRESENT
Adriana Alexander

Motion carried.

8.B. APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LAREDO COLLEGE BOARD POLICY BBD(LOCAL)BOARD MEMBERS: ORIENTATION AND TRAINING TO ADD THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNING BOARDS (AGB) BOARD MEMBER TRAINING MODULES AND LESSONS TO THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED ORIENTATION AND TRAINING CONTENT TOPICS – *MS. JACKIE LEVEN-RAMOS*

Ms. Leven-Ramos moved to approve the proposed amendment to BBD(LOCAL) to add the Association of Governing Boards board member training modules and lessons to the list of authorized, non-mandatory orientation and training. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion passed.

9. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REPORTS

9.A. CAMPUS POLICE, PERSONNEL, AND TRAVEL REPORTS – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Reports were provided to the Board as part of the meeting materials.

9.B. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON RECENT HAPPENINGS IN THE COMMUNITY – *DR. MINITA RAMÍREZ*

Dr. Ramírez provided remarks on the following items:

- Pathways to Success Center graduation
- Interview with Molly Maguire, Project Director at Sova Solutions, regarding our FAST funding.
- Summer orientations
- Commencement ceremonies

- Convocation
- Enrollment Management open house
- Upcoming Congressman Cuellar's grant announcement for support of Bachelor's in Protective Services
- 80th anniversary

10. NEXT MEETING DATES:

Saturday, August 22, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Special Called Board Workshop

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 7:27 p.m., Ms. Vela, Ms. Benavides Garcia, and Ms. Liendo moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Elizondo seconded the motion; motion passed.

Mr. Esteban Rangel President	Ms. Jackie Leven-Ramos Secretary