



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
LEE COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
February 19, 2026**

The Board of Regents of the Lee College District met on February 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at John B. Tucker Hall. Chairman Santana called the meeting to order stating that the meeting was duly posted and a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Gilbert Santana, Chairman; Pam Warford, Vice Chair; Mark Himsel, Secretary; Gina Guillory, Assistant Secretary; Weston Cotten, Daryl Fontenot, Mark Hall (virtual), Judy Jirrels, Heron Thomas

Dr. Lynda Villanueva, President

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Regent Gina Guillory said the Invocation and led the Pledge to United States Flag and Texas Flag.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT – Audrey Vermillion, Access Center

Audrey Vermillion was introduced by Jose Martinez, Director of Student Conduct and Compliance, and Title IX Coordinator, who supervises the Access Center. He said Ms. Vermillion is an honors student pursuing a career in healthcare and preparing for medical school, and also is training to be a leader in the field of autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopment disabilities.

Saying she grew up in a cult, Ms. Vermillion discussed how this impacted her upbringing. Her desire to pursue a career, apart from having babies and keeping house, was not supported. She was home schooled, but the limitations of this left her feeling lacking. At a school started by the cult, she completed a degree in Biblical Ministry. Her biblical studies, her marriage in 2020, and release of a documentary about the cult, all contributed to her questioning her upbringing, she said.

As someone who has chronic illnesses and direct familiarity with the medical system and areas that are lacking, Ms. Vermillion said she began to consider what to do with her life. With key support from others, she has decided to make a difference for others who perhaps had experiences similar to hers with the medical system. She said her feelings of inadequacy and panic were terrifying – with pre-testing alone – as she entered Lee College. First semester support from key faculty members, beyond accommodations provided for her, has resulted in circumstances in which she is succeeding.

SPECIAL REPORT – Community College National Legislative Summit

Joey Beltran, Student Government Vice President; and Jeremiah Miller, Prayer Club President; were introduced by Kelli Forde Spiers, Vice President of Student Affairs. They reported on the ACCT National Legislative Summit that they recently attended in Washington, D.C., along with several Regents, Dr. Villanueva, and Michael Pounds, Student Government Advisor.

Highlights they named include visiting the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, White House, and museums, interacting with student leaders from other community colleges, learning how politics

affects community colleges, participating in conference sessions, attending the Texas Delegation Breakfast, and telling their stories – who they are, where they’re from, and their testimonies.

Meeting with U.S. Rep. Brian Babin, they expressed appreciation for the Congressman’s support of community college students – particularly Workforce Pell legislation. In the Texas Delegation for a meeting with Sen. John Cornyn, they saw and heard Dr. Villanueva speak with the Senator about Lee College. Also, they attended a fireside chat with Nicholas Kent, Under Secretary of Education, as well as a panel discussion by subject matter experts prior to their meetings with legislators.

8.26 DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Regent Jirrels made a motion, seconded by Regent Cotten, that the Board approve the minutes for Audit & Investment Committee Meeting, January 13, 2026; Building Committee Meeting, January 14, 2026; Board Meeting, January 15, 2026; and Special Virtual Board Meeting, January 26, 2026.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Santana congratulated Dr. Villanueva on receiving the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for students of two-year colleges. He said this award – the society’s highest honor for community college presidents – recognizes sustained exceptional commitment to student success.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Building Committee – Committee Chair Daryl Fontenot reported the committee met yesterday and heard updates for ongoing projects, and a presentation by Pfluger Architects on the facilities master plan schedule. A steering committee and working groups for the master plan have been formed. Deliverables are scheduled to be presented every six weeks to the Building Committee – all Regents are invited to attend these presentations, he said.
- Policy Committee – Committee Chair Mark Hall reported the committee met and reviewed policy BCB (Local) from Update 49, which is on the agenda for action tonight. Also, the packet for this board meeting includes the college’s telework policy, which was discussed by the committee, and is provided for review by all Regents. Update 50 is received from Texas Association of School Boards; revisions will be presented at future board meetings.
- Audit & Investment Committee – Committee Chair Judy Jirrels said the committee met Monday and discussed the international education travel program, professional development travel, convocation professional development training, and main campus risk assessment. Mr. Atkin noted that buildings referenced in the main campus risk assessment report have fire detection (alarms), but lack fire suppression, and discussed how this is being addressed.

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

Policy Committee – Serving on the Policy Committee are Mark Hall, Chair; Weston Cotten and Heron Thomas

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

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- **Kudos to Students** – Dr. Villanueva echoed pride expressed by Regents in Jeremiah Miller and Joey Beltran for their representation of Lee College, and advocacy on behalf of students.

- **Achieving the Dream** – The annual conference of ATD, which is designed specifically to help the community college sector, is in two weeks, Dr. Villanueva said. The Lee College dual credit team was asked to present at the conference. She commended Dr. Marissa Moreno, Dr. Priscilla Sanchez, and partners with Goose Creek CISD for their leadership.
- **Enrollment** – Compared to last year, enrollment is essentially flat, Dr. Villanueva said. She expressed thanks to everyone who has helped to recruit new students, and to everyone who helps ensure existing students remain on track.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Resignations and Retirements – Dr. Lynda Villanueva, President

Annette Ferguson, Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer – Resignation
 Dr. Rosemary Coffman, Executive Director, Student Success & Wellbeing – Retirement

Financial Report – Jacob Atkin, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance

Cash position is strong; operating fund has increased to \$41 million, Mr. Atkin said. This figure will peak in March, when essentially all ad valorem tax revenue is collected, then it will decrease into summer, he said. Restricted funds, consisting primarily of board reserves, total \$48 million.

Approximately \$1.1 million in unplanned excess revenue is forecast for the year, Mr. Atkin said. Under expenses, salary & benefits are tracking slightly above budget, but cost of goods is down for the bookstore. Other expense categories are tracking close to budget, he said. At this time, a positive variance of \$2 million is projected at year end.

Under facility projects, work continues on ADA Phase 2 with \$561,000 expended during January, Mr. Atkin said. Under capital projects, \$609,000 has been expended and \$1.2 million encumbered. For projects underway that will not be finished during the current fiscal year, the funds will roll into the next fiscal year. He reported status of restricted funds – federal, state, and private grants – and made a more detailed update on federal grants, noting that the college last summer budgeted some operating dollars in case federal grants such as CCAMPIS (child care) were reduced or cancelled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

A. PERSONNEL

9.26 CONSENT Agenda – Consideration of New Hires

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

- Ms. Brianna Carter, Advisor, Dual Credit
- Ms. Johnay Coulon, Advisor, Shared Dual Credit

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

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

10.26 Consideration of the Tuition Rate for Dual Credit Courses

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the President to set the tuition rate for dual credit courses to \$60.10 per semester credit hour for FY27.

Regent Guillory made a motion, seconded by Regent Warford, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

11.26 Consideration of Adoption of Board Policy Revisions for Local Policy

The Administration and Board Policy Committee recommend that the Board approve and adopt the revisions to the Local Board Policy as presented and recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Update 49.

Regent Hall made a motion, seconded by Regent Warford, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

12.26 Consideration of Naming Opportunity for Lee College Basketball Court

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the naming of the Lee College basketball court within the Sports Arena in recognition of Don Coffey's \$200,000 philanthropic gift to the College.

Regent Fontenot made a motion, seconded by Regent Himsel, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Regent Himsel expressed appreciation for this contribution, and for previous contributions made to the college by Mr. Coffey. In answer to a question by Regent Thomas, Dr. Villanueva said the agreement to be drafted will include revocation terms in the event that the pledge commitment is not fulfilled. Discussion continued as to the customary methods for such pledges to be fulfilled, the example this gift provides for other future possible donors, and the faithful support already provided to Lee College for many years by Don and Jenice Coffey.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Regents closed the Open Session at 6:50 p.m. and convened into Executive Session at 6:59 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act regarding:

1. Consult with Board Attorney regarding legal advice on any item on the agenda. [TX Gov't Code § 551.071]
2. 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.

The Board ended Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 9:21 p.m.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Santana declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Chairman, Board of Regents

Secretary, Board of Regents