



TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DISTRICT

80 Fort Brown • Brownsville, Texas 78520 • (956) 882-3879 • Fax: (956) 882-8811

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Texas Southmost College District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 19, 2012

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Southmost College District convened in open session on January 19, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Gorgas Board Room at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Francisco G. Rendon, Chair; Dr. Roberto Robles, Vice Chair; Adela G. Garza, Secretary; David Oliveira; Ren  Torres; Trey Mendez; and Dr. Robert A. Lozano. Also present was Dr. Lily F. Tercero, President of Texas Southmost College.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rendon at 5:34 p.m.

2. Announcements

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to make the announcement. Dr. Tercero introduced the new Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, Dr. Robert Aguero. Dr. Aguero joins TSC with over twenty-five years of experience in the community college field, and has served as Vice Chancellor for three major community college districts in Texas. Dr. Aguero is extremely knowledgeable in the area of instruction and has extensive experience as a high school teacher. Dr. Aguero has also served as a former college president.

Mr. Rendon expressed his appreciation for Dr. Aguero having joined TSC.

3. Speakers to Agenda Items and Public Discussion

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. Joe de la Fuente, community member. Mr. de la Fuente informed the Board that he participated in a bid for the sale of the condominiums and is able to answer any questions that the Board might have.

4. Mission Statement

Chairman Rendon read the existing mission for the Texas Southmost College District as follows:

“Texas Southmost College is a comprehensive open admissions public community college whose mission comports with Texas Statute Subchapter A, Section 130.

Texas Southmost College offers programs leading to certificates of completion and associate degrees, developmental education to prepare students for college-level work, occupational and technical programs to prepare students for immediate employment, academic courses of study to develop the core skills, understandings, and knowledge appropriate for baccalaureate programs, and continuing education, counseling, guidance, adult literacy and personal enrichment.

Texas Southmost College advances economic and social development, enhances the quality of life, encourages respect for the environment, cultivates personal enrichment, and expands knowledge in service to its community. It convenes the cultures of its community and fosters an appreciation for the unique heritage of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It provides academic leadership in the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic life of the region it serves.

Texas Southmost College places excellence in teaching and learning at the core of its commitments. It seeks to help students at all levels develop the skills which will sustain life-long learning while respecting the dignity of each learner and the needs of the entire community.”

5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 15, 2011

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 15, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.

6. Audit Committee

Report

Chairman Rendon called on Mrs. Garza to give the report. She reported that the Audit Committee met on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. Present were Dr. Robert Lozano, Francisco Rendon, Elias Villarreal, Antonio Juarez, Dr. Lily Tercero, Chet Lewis, Nancy Saldana, and Carlos Pecero of Patillo, Brown and Hill.

The first item discussed was the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit for Texas Southmost College District for Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2011. The District completed the process of compiling a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, also known as a CAFR, for the Board's approval and for submission to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This will be the fifth consecutive year that the District has submitted the CAFR to the GFOA for the Certificate of Achievement and has, in turn, received the award for each of those submissions. The District's financial reports, accounting procedures and internal controls are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

Mrs. Garza stated that Patillo, Brown & Hill has conducted this year's audit and reported that the District had once again earned an unqualified opinion – or a clean opinion. Mrs. Garza thanked the TSC Finance Office and TSC District Office Staff for all their time and assistance in completing the report.

Mrs. Garza introduced Mr. Carlos Pecero to give a brief overview and to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Pecero reported that a single audit testing was performed and there were no findings within the report. Mr. Pecero also noted that the prior year comments, within the management letter, have all been corrected and implemented appropriately.

Mr. Pecero concluded by thanking Nancy Saldana, Chet Lewis, Kim Sanchez and the staff in the finance department for their assistance work.

Mr. Lewis reported that this is the second year that Patillo, Brown and Hill has been engaged to audit the District. Mr. Lewis thanked Nancy Saldana and her staff for assisting in the preparation of the audit.

Mr. Rendon also thanked Chet Lewis, Nancy Saldana and the finance staff for the continuous commitment to TSC.

7. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit for Texas Southmost College District for FY Ending August 31, 2011.

Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit for Texas Southmost College District for FY Ending August 31, 2011

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously. Exhibit "A"

8. Bond Construction Project Review

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to introduce the Spire Consulting Group, LLC. Dr. Tercero reported that the Board of Trustees voted late last year to engage the consulting firm of Spire Consulting Group, LLC to conduct a review and analysis of the construction management processes relating to the bond projects. The firm has completed the review and analysis. They have identified some areas of improvement and will be making recommendations. Dr. Tercero introduced Mr. Dana Fetrow and Mr. John Wolfe, from Spire Consulting Group, LLC.

Mr. Fetrow reported that the following four phases of review were completed: Phase I – Kickoff and Information; Phase II – Review & Evaluate Performance of Past Projects; Phase III – Prepare & Discuss Preliminary Findings; and Phase IV – Prepare & Issue Report of Findings. The review was divided into two major categories: program initiation and program execution. Mr. Fetrow reported that the Board initially issued an election for a \$100 million dollar bond and eventually received approval for \$68 million dollars. He also reported that the funding allocation for the bond projects through November 2009 amounted to \$109.8 million dollars, with additional funding for the projects coming from various sources, including maintenance notes, refinancing revenue, student fees, and interest earnings. He then presented areas for process improvement and provided recommendations.

Mr. Fetrow completed the presentation to the Trustees and answered questions. There was no action taken on this item. *Exhibit "B"*

9. Resolution to Hold Joint Elections

Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution to Hold Joint Elections

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. Lewis to present the item. Mr. Lewis reported that TSC will be holding early voting for Positions 6 and 7 from April 30th through May 8, 2012 and regular voting on May 12, 2012. An agreement has been reached with Brownsville Navigation District. The resolution to hold joint elections needs to be established in order to move forward with the election process.

Dr. Robles asked what will be the cost if TSC has the joint election.

Mr. Lewis reminded the Board that TSC has \$185,000 budgeted for elections, but this cost could be less if there is not a runoff.

Dr. Tercero reported that a meeting was held with the County Judge and his staff, and they have agreed to help TSC with the election, however, the extent of that help is not yet known.

Mr. Rendon read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Garza to adopt the Resolution to Hold Joint Elections as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried. Opposed by Dr. Robles. Exhibit "C"

10. Setting Date and Time for Drawing for Place on Ballot

Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Setting Date and Time for Drawing for Place on Ballot

Chairman Rendon called on Mr. Lewis to present the item. Mr. Lewis reported that as required by Texas Election Code Chapter 52, the order of a candidate name shall be determined by a drawing. The District must set a time and date for the drawing to take place. Staff is recommending holding a drawing on March 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gorgas Tower.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to Set the Date and Time for the Drawing for Place on Ballot on March 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gorgas Tower as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Garza and carried. Opposed by Dr. Robles. Exhibit "D"

11. Update on Strategic Planning

Chairman Rendon called on Dr. Tercero to present the item. Dr. Tercero reported that she is diligently working on over 900 items of data that have been gathered from the community summits. The process of placing the data and compiling into themes is continuing, however, she reported that excellent input and comments were provided by the participants. This process will continue to move forward and the board will be updated at a future date.

12. Executive Session

as provided by Government Code,
Chapter 551.071, 551.072 and 551.074.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:05 p.m.

13. Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

**Consideration and Possible Action
to Deliberation on Real Property Regarding
the TSC Fort Brown Condo Villas I and II**

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveira to accept the bid for condo 6012 of Villas I as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres to direct Dr. Tercero to negotiate with the second bidder as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lozano and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendez to declare Villas II as a surplus property and include a minimum price per unit bid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torres and carried unanimously.

Exhibit "E"

14. Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Thursday, April 19, 2012


Thursday, May 17, 2012

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rendon at 7:08 p.m.



Mr. Francisco G. Rendon
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Ms. Adela G. Garza
Secretary, Board of Trustees

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on January 19, 2012, is on file at the District Office of the Texas Southmost College District. The master tape is on file at UTB/TSC Media Services. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Max E. Roca, Administrative Secretary. Videotaping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KBSD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.