

**TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**August 29, 2011**

**6:00p.m.**

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1. Call to Order. The Board of Trustees conducted a special meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2011, in the District Offices, May Owen Center, with Mr. Bill Greenhill presiding. Other trustees present were Mrs. Louise Appleman, Mr. O.K. Carter, Mr. Joe Hudson, Dr. Gwendolyn Morrison, and Mrs. Kristin Vandergriff. Mrs. Robyn Media Winnett was not present. Also present were Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley and members of the TCCD staff.
  2. Public Comment. Five community members addressed the Board with comments.
    - a. Randy Kressler, a Westworth Village councilman, admonished the Board to address their spending in light of the current economic conditions, stating that TCC has other options for providing arts events to students other than building a new building. He is alarmed that operating expenses in 2010 increased 22 percent over 2009 and increased 46.6 percent over the prior year. He said there was a 14 percent increase in staff benefits during the period 2009 to 2010 and from 2008 there were increased staff benefits of 26.7 percent.
    - b. Roger Latham complimented the Board for doing a great job, but expressed that he does have some concern about the \$35 million expenditure for the new performing arts facility, stating that TCC would likely rent Bass Hall for years to come with that amount of money.

- c. Darla Davis appealed to the board to consider the average working-class citizen of Tarrant County, most of which have to sacrifice. She was in agreement concerning the lack of need for a performing arts center, citing that a performing arts center is a *want* and not a *need*.
  - d. William Wright stated that TCC is supposed to be a non-profit organization, yet from 2008 to 2010 TCC's net assets increased \$283.5 million—at taxpayers' expense. He said that the chancellor reported TCC to be in an extremely strong financial position; however, he said, the taxpayers are in an extremely weak position. He said that the bad debt from students is increasing at about \$500,000 per year. He believes that bureaucracy is rampant, with increasing numbers of administrators in comparison to faculty members. He believes that having a diversity officer paid such a high salary is unacceptable. He spoke against the performing arts center near the Northeast Campus and said that the Board should vote to decrease the tax rate rather than increase it.
  - e. Jose Moreno reiterated some of the previous administrative decisions that he perceived to be bad decisions such as the new downtown campus 'fiasco'. He asked the Board to consider the retired taxpayers, the average people in the county, when they make their decision.
3. Public Hearing on 2011-12 Proposed Budget. (See Public Comments)
  4. Consent Agenda. On a motion by Mrs. Appleman, seconded by Mrs. Vandergriff, the Board voted, 6-0, approve the consent agenda as presented. Information relative to consent agenda items is available in the Supplemental Minutes Book (SMB).
    - a. Consideration and Approval of the Chancellor's 2011-12 Performance Goals

b. Consideration and Approval of Addendum to CF Jordan Construction Contract Award on New Parking Lot at Southeast Campus

5. Consideration and Action on Items removed from Consent Agenda. No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.
6. Presentation on 2011-12 Operating Budget. Section 44 of the Education Code provides that the Board must consider the budget and then consider tax increases to fill the budget.
  - a. Alliance Learning Center Roundtable Comments/Feedback.
  - b. Visual and Performing Arts Center Roundtable Comments/Feedback.

Mrs. Hadley Board members have received copies of the report provided by Dr. Elva LeBlanc for the Alliance Learning Center and copies of the report provided by Dr. Larry Darlage for the Visual and Performing Arts Center. Mrs. Hadley said that both of those are built around future job creation. There will be in the proposal as it is today a 1,000 seat auditorium to provide for a meeting place for faculty and staff, and also for training programs. A significant number of technical programs will be offered in that facility. She said that new programs are focusing on student success. She stated that it is short-sighted for an institution not to look forward. To be prepared to meet the needs of the community, you have to make plans. Mrs. Hadley stated that Tarrant County College has one of the lowest employee-to-student ratios of any of the large community colleges in Texas. She said that reports show that TCC students who transfer to four-year institutions always do as well as, and in some instances better than, those who began their college careers at the four-year institutions. It is our job to serve every citizen who comes to us. We have had a number of

Board workshops, an opportunity for all of you to have input, as well as for the general public to have input. We broadcast all of our Board meetings every time we meet and we also archive all of our meetings on our Website, so everyone can view those whenever they wish.

She said that needs from the district come from the bottom up, starting at the departmental level and move upward. Everyone who makes requests has to prioritize their requests.

Last year there was \$158 million of taxable value left on the table that TCC didn't get taxes for.

The budget for Renewal and replacement for 2010-11 was \$64.9 million. The increase in tuition of \$2 per semester hour credit, and going to the effective tax rate, would bring in an additional \$13.9 million. All of the money is placed in Renewals and Replacements in the budget. There is no money in that area to build any new buildings.

South Campus is now 44 years old; Northeast is 43 years old; Northwest is 36 years old, and those three campuses are beginning to show a need for renewal and replacement of facilities. Some of those changes are prescribed by federal laws, some by state law, some by local ordinances, and we are responsible for bringing things up to code that are no longer up to code.

Option B has an increase of \$897,527 targeted for Renewal and Replacement which would put it at \$65.8 million total for this area.

Option A shows a state appropriation increase of \$1.8 million. The state has constantly reduced the appropriate for higher education, especially

community colleges, and our enrollments continue to grow. As the economics get worse for people, they look to TCC for help in retraining to get jobs.

In Option B, the increase would be \$22.1 million for Maintenance and Operation. Non-credit hour tuition, the state's reimbursement for non-credit courses that students take, are anticipated to be reduced somewhat. Option B does not include a tax increase nor a tuition increase.

If the Board elects to increase tuition by \$2 per credit hour, in Option A, the proposed changes would make TCC the eighth lowest tuition rate for community colleges in the state. Option A would include a \$13.9 million increase in total revenue for the District this coming year, providing significantly more money for renewals and replacements. There is money in that \$64 million (or \$78 million in the other option) to move forward with the energy technology building on South Campus.

Mrs. Hadley provided a summary of capital improvement projects for each campus. A list of those is available in the SMB.

7. Consideration and Approval of 2011-12 Operating Budget.

Mrs. Hadley stated that we lost approximately \$9 million last year from state appropriation.

Mr. Carter said that the average homeowner would pay approximately \$17 more per year based on the new proposed tax rate.

On a motion by Mrs. Appleman, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Board voted, 4-2, to approve acceptance of the resolution of Option A for funding the 2011-12 operating budget. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mrs. Appleman, Mr.

Carter, Dr. Morrison, and Mr. Greenhill. Those voting against the motion were Mrs. Vandergriff and Mr. Hudson. Mrs. Winnett was not in attendance.

Mr. Hudson expressed his concern with the economic conditions and how it affects our citizens as the reason for voting against the increase. Mr. Carter restated his reason for supporting the increase to help create new certification programs for students to help improve their economic conditions. Mr. Greenhill spoke in favor of supporting the tax increase as well as the tuition increase. Mrs. Vandergriff said that she is not comfortable voting for the increases as she shares the same sentiments as Mr. Hudson, and that TCC can continue to operate effectively and efficiently to support student success without raising tuition or the effective tax rate.

On a motion by Mrs. Appleman, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Board voted, 4-2, to approve acceptance of the resolution of Option A for funding the 2011-12 operating budget. (A copy of Option A is available in the SMB.) Those voting in favor of the motion were Mrs. Appleman, Mr. Carter, Dr. Morrison, and Mr. Greenhill. Those voting against the motion were Mrs. Vandergriff and Mr. Hudson. Mrs. Winnett was not in attendance.

a. Consideration and Approval of Salaries and Benefits, 2011-12.

- i. Entry Salary Schedules. On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Appleman, the Board voted, 6-0, to accept the Entry Salary Schedules for 2011-12 as presented.
- ii. Employee Health Insurance Supplement. On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Board voted, 6-0, to approve the Employee

Health Insurance Supplement to provide \$1,000 per each full-time employee.

- b. Tuition Increase. On a motion from Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Board voted, 4-2, to approve a tuition rate of \$2 per credit hour beginning spring 2012. Those voting in favor were Dr. Morrison, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Appleman, and Mr. Greenhill. Mr. Hudson and Mrs. Vandergriff voted against the motion.
- c. Authority for the Chancellor to Establish Non-Credit Tuition and Fees. On a motion from Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mrs. Vandergriff, the Board voted, 6-0, to delegate the chancellor the interim authority for establishing non-credit tuition and fees, including the establishing of zero tuition if local resources and state funding provide sufficient contributions to cover the cost of offering the course.
- d. Authority for the Chancellor to Set Individual Salaries and sign Contracts. On a motion from Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Vandergriff, the Board voted, 6-0, to give the chancellor the authority to set individual salaries and sign contracts.
- e. Consideration and Approval of Tax Exemptions for Certain Disabled and Senior Citizens. On a motion from Mrs. Vandergriff, seconded by Mrs. Appleman, the Board voted, 6-0, to accept the resolution providing the approval of tax exemptions for certain disabled and senior citizens. Resolution is available in the SMB.
- f. Setting of Tax Rates for 2011. On a motion from Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Appleman, the Board voted, 4-2, to levy for the year 2011 on all property

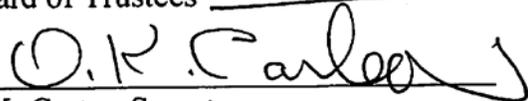
owned within the boundaries of the Tarrant County College District on the first day of the current year, January 1, 2011, except so much thereof as may be exempt by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the state, the following taxes: an ad valorem tax of and at the rate of 14.206 cents of the \$100 cash value thereof estimated in the lawful currency of the United States for the support and maintenance of the Tarrant County College District.

On a motion from Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Appleman, the Board voted, 6-0, to levy for the year 2011 on all property owned within the boundaries of the Tarrant County College District on the first day of the current year, January 1, 2011, except so much thereof as may be exempt by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the state, the following taxes: an ad valorem tax of and at the rate of 0.691cents of the \$100 cash value thereof estimated in the lawful currency of the United States to pay the principal and interest of the 2001 Series bonds, the 2004 Series bonds, and the 2005 Series bonds.

8. Adjournment and Announcement of 2011-12Meetings Schedule.A copy of the coming year's meeting dates is available in the SMB. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.



Bill Greenhill, President  
Board of Trustees



O.K. Carter, Secretary  
Board of Trustees