

# TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## Meeting of the Board of Trustees

August 12, 2014

6:00 p.m.

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1. Call to Order. The Board of Trustees conducted a special meeting on Tuesday, August 12, in the District Offices, May Owen Center, with Mrs. Louise Appleman presiding. Other trustees present were Mrs. Kristin Vandergriff, Mr. O.K. Carter, Dr. Gwendolyn Morrison, Mr. William Greenhill, Mrs. Robyn Medina Winnett, and Mr. Conrad Heede. Also present were Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley and members of the TCCD staff.
2. Public Comment. None
3. Budget Workshop IV.
  - a. Capital Improvement Projects – Chancellor Hadley reviewed major capital improvement projects for 2013-14 and listed proposed projects for 2014-15. The latter included continued construction of the South Campus Energy Technology Center, Phase II of the Northeast Campus Early College High School, a new South Campus entrance road, the start of the South Campus Early College High School, and various mechanical, electrical, and plumbing projects. Total budget for the proposed projects, she said, is about \$60 million.
  - b. Debt-at-a-Glance – Chancellor Hadley showed figures on the debt obligations of the 10 largest community college districts in Texas. TCC has by far the least at \$8,130,000. TCC also was lowest in per-student debt at \$135.
  - c. Supplemental Instruction (SI) – Dr. Joy Gates Black, vice chancellor for academic affairs and student success, explained the origin of Supplemental Instruction and how the process works – providing peer support from students who have been successful in a given course. She emphasized that the process targets high difficulty courses, not individual students taking these courses. She listed the benefits of SI to faculty, to the student SI leaders, and to participating students. She explained that SI was piloted on South and Northwest Campuses and had received high marks through the Innovation Forum process and from the Academic Council.

Dr. Elva LeBlanc, president of Northwest Campus, gave highlights of the SI program at TCC, giving much credit to the Districtwide SI Committee. She noted that an SI support feature had been added to WebAdvisor, that some marketing had been done on the campuses to explain the program to potential participants, and that student SI leaders had undergone a two-day period of training. She emphasized the need for a dedicated program budget that would fund not only SI leaders, but also a director for each campus as well as a district director.

Dr. Peter Jordan, president of South Campus, presented national data for SI indicated a success rate for SI participants of about 75 percent as opposed to about 54 percent for non-SI students. Nationwide, participants had a grade point average in their SI classes of 2.64 against 2.06 for non-participants. He explained how courses had been chosen for SI on South Campus – a combination of low success rates and high enrollment. Data for three semesters at South Campus show that SI students succeeded at a rate far higher than for non-participants in all semesters. The grade point averages were correspondingly higher. Cost figures for the program on South Campus were displayed. By far the greatest expenditure was the wages of student leaders, but a good deal of this amount had been covered by the federal Work-Study Program.

d. Preliminary Budget.

- Estimated revenue for 2014-15 is \$327,327,179, an increase of \$9,814,000. This figure includes \$286,262,259 Educational and General (up \$10,630,278), \$34,309,920 Capital Improvement Plan (up \$619,722), \$6,755,000 Debt Service and Interest (down \$1,436,000). These figures were unchanged from those given at the August 4 workshop.
- Proposed new expenditures for 2013-14 total \$10,630,278. Included are
  - A 3 percent salary increase for most full-time employees,
  - Six new positions, five of them faculty, and money for additional on-call staff,
  - A \$1 per contact hour increase for adjunct faculty and full-time faculty teaching overloads,

- funding for promotions in rank and for an increase in TCC's minimum salary rate to \$12,
  - additional funding for fringe benefits, utilities and trash collection, advertising and promotion, outsourced security services for the Alliance Center, early college high school expenses, the Innovation Forums, the Office of Emergency Management, and project software.
  - Chancellor Hadley showed historical data on TCCD's ad valorem tax rates. For the 2013 tax year, taxes on the average Tarrant County residence homestead were \$226 at the combined M&O and debt service rate of 14.95 cents. Going to the effective tax rate for tax year 2014 (a total tax rate of 15.458 cents) would result in an annual increase of \$8 for the average homeowner. Maintaining the existing tax rate for 2014-15 would yield an additional \$11.7 million, while going to the effective tax rate would yield that \$11.7 million plus an additional \$7.04 million. Should the board decide to go to the effective tax rate or some rate between the existing and effective rates, considerations for the additional income would include the purchase of a District warehouse, phased renovation of the existing warehouse on Northeast Campus, and additional infrastructure projects.
  - Funding for Supplemental Instruction (\$1.4 million) would come from the 2014-15 "sticky space" tuition allocation.
  - Tuition levels would be the same as for 2013-14.
- e. Questions, Comments, and Discussion.
- Mr. Carter said that he is opposed to increasing the tax rate, favors keeping the sticky space allocation intact, favors the 3 percent salary increase and adjunct increase, and finds the proposed \$12 minimum hourly wage excessive.
  - Mrs. Vandergriff said she has no problem diverting sticky space funds to Supplemental Instruction and considers SI equally effective as sticky spaces.
  - Chancellor Hadley clarified that the sticky space money for 2013-14 used to hire 15 success coaches will roll over as a regular personnel expenditure and that the only diversion of sticky space funds for 2014-15 would be to fund SI.
  - Mr. Heede inquired as to the proposed cost of SI as opposed to the figures shown for South Campus by Dr. Jordan. He was told that the proposed

funding included scaling the project up Districtwide and hiring administrative staff.

- Mrs. Vandergriff said her recollection of sticky spaces is that they are intended partially to foster peer to peer engagement and that SI fits this description.
  - Chancellor Hadley then asked trustees for guidance on salary increases (including the new minimum hourly rate), the funding of sticky spaces from tuition, and keeping the same tax rate as opposed to going to the effective tax rate or to some rate between the two. Trustees indicated they favor the wage and salary proposal, excepting Mr. Carter's reservations about the increased minimum hourly rate. All trustees except Mr. Carter indicated support of the plan to fund Supplemental Instruction. Trustees were more uncertain about increasing the tax rate, but were told that issue was not a part of the 2014-15 budget as proposed and could be decided at the August 12 meeting.
4. Closed Meeting. Mrs. Appleman announced that no closed meeting would be conducted.
  5. Consideration and Action on Closed Meeting Items. N/A
  6. Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting. Mrs. Appleman announced that the regular August meeting will be at 6 p.m. on August 18, at the May Owen Center. She adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.



Louise Appleman, President  
Board of Trustees



O.K. Carter, Secretary  
Board of Trustees