

**TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 25, 2021

6:00 p.m.

*Meeting was rescheduled from February 18<sup>th</sup> to February 25<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather.*

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1. **Call to Order.** The Board of Trustees conducted its Board Meeting on February 25, 2021 at the Trinity River Campus, with Mr. Conrad Heede presiding. Other Trustees present were Mr. Kenneth Barr, Mr. William Greenhill and Mr. Leonard Hornsby. Dr. Diane Patrick, Dr. Gwendolyn Morrison and Ms. Teresa Ayala were also present via video conferencing. Also present were Chancellor Giovannini and members of the TCCD staff.

Mr. Heede read the following statement.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Subsequently, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to the authority granted in the Declaration, Governor Abbott temporarily suspended the application of certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551, in order to permit telephonic open meetings. This was an effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus by avoiding large group meetings while still ensuring continued governmental operations and preserving transparency in the decision-making process. Tarrant County College District gave notice of its intent to conduct a video conference / open meeting thereafter and of its intent to permit the public to make comment at the meeting by telephone.

2. **Public Comment/Special Presentation.** None

3. **Board Action Items and Board Business Related Items.**

- a. Approval of Work Session Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021.

On a motion by Mr. Barr, seconded by Ms. Ayala, the minutes were unanimously approved.

- b. Approval of Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2021.

On a motion by Mr. Barr, seconded by Dr. Patrick, the minutes were unanimously approved.

- c. Trustee Activities

Mr. Greenhill asked Vice Chancellor of Communications and External Affairs Mr. Reginald Gates to provide information on next week's Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) Community College Week. Mr. Gates explained that the event will take place from March 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. In the prior years, TCC took students from each campus to Austin to visit with Tarrant County House and Senate members, however due to the pandemic, this year's event will be virtual. Mr. Gates will send the Trustees the schedule and invite them to join in on the virtual meeting, if their schedule permits.

Dr. Patrick attended the TACC Legislative Updates meetings in February, where discussions about items that were to be prioritized in session in particular the funding. TACC hopes to at least retain the same amount as in prior years. Mr. Greenhill asked Dr. Patrick if it may be necessary to call a meeting to discuss the items of priorities of TACC, since he is on the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) board. Dr. Patrick echoed that this would be a good idea. Mr. Greenhill suggested the opportunity to get together with delegates and staff to meet to discuss these priorities.

Dr. Morrison expressed her appreciation to the Chancellor, faculty and staff of TCC for enduring the storms, the results of the storms are yet to be defined and moving forward the hope is that there are no lingering unforeseen impacts on our students, faculty and staff and their families.

Ms. Ayala recognized the passing of Father Stephen Jasso, a mentor, leader, teacher, veteran, advocate and dear friend for numerous citizens in the community. She shared that Father Jasso was born in Waco, Texas and served in the Korean war from 1953-1955, after the war he entered the reserve. Father Jasso entered the Franciscan Order in 1957 and arrived in Fort Worth in July of 1994. Father Jasso was a voice for the underserved, the immigrants, the marginalized. Ms. Ayala said that for her, his ability to connect with people in a very special way was one of his most endearing attributes. Father Jasso was an advocate for education and said that education was a vehicle to help people and the community. Father Jasso welcomed Dr. Giovannini with open arms when he became Chancellor at TCC and offered prayers and support to him and students, faculty and staff of TCC. Ms. Ayala attended a memorial presided by Bishop Olsen for Father Jasso to celebrate his life.

d. Appointment of Committee to Establish Interim Trustee Appointment Process.

Mr. Heede explained that the Board of Trustees wishes to have a policy and form a committee to help in the selection of any interim Trustee members when a seat is vacated in the middle of a term. Mr. Heede asked for volunteers, Mr. Greenhill volunteered to be Chair and Dr. Morrison and Ms. Ayala volunteered to serve on this committee.

**4. Consideration and Approval of the Consent Agenda.**

- a. Consideration and Approval of FY2021 Mid-Year Pay Adjustments for All Employees.

- b. Consideration and Approval of Amendment to TASB Local Policy DEA – Earnings and Salary Increases Section.
- c. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution Expressing the Board of Trust Commitment to Innovative Technology, Accessibility and Sustainability on New and Renovated Facilities.
  - Mr. Barr motioned to have this item pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to Individual Action Items, seconded by Mr. Greenhill. This was unanimously approved.
- d. Consideration and Approval of Student Fees for the Academic Year 2021 – 2022.
- e. Consideration and Approval of the Recommendation for Faculty Tenure Awards.
- f. Consideration and Approval of the Recommendation to Apply the In-County Tuition Rate to All Students Participating in the College’s Dual Credit Program Effective for the Academic Year 2021-2022.
- g. Consideration and Approval of the Payment to Blackboard, Inc. for Hosting and Storage Overage Costs in the Amount of \$405,000.00.

On a motion by Mr. Greenhill, seconded by Mr. Hornsby, consent agenda items 4a, 4b, 4d, 4e, 4f and 4g were unanimously approved.

## **5. Consideration and Approval of Individual Action Items.**

- 4c. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution Expressing the Board of Trustees Commitment to Innovative Technology, Accessibility and Sustainability on New and Renovated Facilities.

Since this item was amended shortly before the start of today’s meeting, Dr. Patrick motioned to delay this vote until the Trustees have more time to review the amended proposed item. This was seconded by Mr. Greenhill and unanimously approved.

- a. Consideration and Approval of a Request to Increase the Previously Approved Spending Authority for Dell Computer by \$450,000 to a Limit of \$1,200,000.00 (Not to Exceed).

On a motion by Mr. Greenhill, seconded by Ms. Ayala, the item was unanimously approved.

- b. Consideration and Approval of an Initial 18-Month Contract with Three One-Year Options to Renew with Guardian Services for the Window Washing Services on Trinity River Campus and Trinity River East Campus in the Amount of \$312,250.00.

On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Greenhill, the item was unanimously approved.

- c. Consideration and Approval of an 18-Month Contract with Three 1 Year Options to Renewal with Fish Window Cleaning for Services on South, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast Campuses, and Other Offsite Locations in the Amount of \$216,084.84.

On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Dr. Patrick, the item was unanimously approved.

- d. Consideration and Approval of Contract with Freedom Construction for Construction on the Library Data Room Expansion Project on South Campus in the Amount of \$631,354.00.

On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Barr, the item was unanimously approved.

- e. Consideration and Approval of Contract with Lockwood, Andrews & Newman for Additional Phase III Services to Renovate the 3rd floor of Northwest Campus CEATL to Create a Corporate Services Environment in the Amount of \$50,650.00.

On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Barr, the item was unanimously approved.

## **6. Monthly Financial Report Information.**

Chief Operating Officer Susan Alanis reported the financials as follows for January 2021. Total income is at 70.2 percent, total expenses is at 41.3 percent. Pools increased by \$104.4 million. No activity in Treasury Bills. Total Portfolio increased by \$104.2 million during January to an ending balance of \$811.6 million. Yield was 0.56 percent at January 31, 2020 and the Weighted Average Maturity was at 154 days.

Ms. Alanis noted that TCC is down in tuition by \$4 million, however a 10 percent potential reduction in tuition was planned into the budget, therefore there are no concerns in terms of operational impact due to the tuition decrease. TCC is also slightly down in tax collection this year at \$5.4 million from last January.

## **7. Chancellor's Report Information.**

- a. Chancellor Giovannini invited Dr. LeBlanc to introduce a new staff member.

Dr. Sha-shonda Porter – Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning

Chancellor Giovannini introduced a new staff member.

Dr. Eric Castillo – Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

- b. Update on Exercise of Authority

Chancellor Giovannini reported that there was no authority exercised as of February 22, 2021. The Trustees will be presented with an update on a monthly basis.

- a. College Accolades.
- b. Recent Activities.

Dr. Giovannini spoke about the many accolades that are distinctive to TCC. He mentioned that TCC is number one among the US ranking of community college trade schools that offer degrees in the trades according to the 2020-21 Trade College Search Ranking Analysis produced by TradeCollege.org. Equally so, Tarrant County College has been named one of America's 2021 Best Mid-Sized Employers by Forbes, ranking TCC 164<sup>th</sup> out of 500 nationwide employers. This is the first time TCC has received this accolade, the ranking by Forbes as top employer validates TCC's efforts to cultivate, engage, empower and value individuality. Forbes honored companies that have risen to the occasion during this pandemic and TCC is quoted by Forbes as one of these companies. There were only two other community colleges in the nation recognized by Forbes in the small, mid-sized and large business categories. Tarrant County College is one of the nations most outstanding online business schools according to Business Degree Central taking the number one spot for the most popular online Business Degree school in the state of Texas and number two in the Accounting program for the entire Southwest region. Business Degree Central's serves students in finding online business degree program that work for the student. The most popular online programs were determined by the number of graduates and their success. Dr. Giovannini congratulated the faculty and staff for these recognitions, as it takes a lot of individuals at the college to impact students. Lastly, Chancellor Giovannini thanked the Trustees for approving the mid-year pay adjustment effective March 1, 2021.

#### **8. Closed Session:**

The Board entered a closed meeting at 7:02pm to discuss matters permitted by the following sections of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

- a. Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney  
To see the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the District under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
  - i. Legal issues regarding any item listed on today's District Board Meeting agenda.
- b. Section 551.072, Deliberations Regarding Real Property  
Deliberate the purchase, sale, exchange, lease or value of real property where deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the District in negotiations with a third party.
- c. Section 551.074, Deliberations on Personnel Matters  
Deliberate appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.
- d. Section 551.076, Deliberations on Security Devices or Security Audits  
Deliberate regarding the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices.

The Board may reconvene in open session and act on any item listed on the Executive Session Agenda in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

9. **Consideration and Action on Closed Session Items.**

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 7:29pm without any actions.

10. **Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting.**

The next Work Session Meeting will be on Thursday, March 11, 2021 and Regular Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 25, 2021. This meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.



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Conrad C. Heede, President  
Board of Trustees



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Diane Patrick, Secretary  
Board of Trustees