

TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 25, 2021

6:00 p.m.

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 Ms. Teresa Ayala, Mr. Kenneth Barr, Mr. William Greenhill and Mr. Leonard Hornsby. Dr. Diane Patrick and Dr. Gwendolyn Morrison 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.**

Carol Bracken invited the Heedes to the podium for a presentation to the TCC. Board of Trustees President Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Betty Heede gifted TCC with artwork by Mr. Richard Wilson.

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

- a. Approval of Work Session Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2021.

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

- b. Approval of Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2021.

On a motion by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Greenhill, the minutes were unanimously approved.

- c. Consideration and Approval of Order Adopting Polling Locations and Amended Order

of Election.

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

d. Trustee Activities

Mr. Greenhill reported that the Trustee Vacancy Appointment Committee has received information and comments that are being compiled for a report next month.

Mr. Hornsby thanked students from Southeast Campus for their preparation and questions for the virtual discussion with Texas State Representative Tony Tinderholt.

Dr. Patrick is working with the Legislative Committee on their agenda for the Legislative Sessions.

Dr. Morrison gave a shoutout to the TCC Student Activities and Outreach department for their various ways of connecting with students virtually during this time.

Mr. Heede also thanked the students at TCC that participated during the Community College Legislative week. Usually, TCC students have the opportunity to visit the capital in Austin to meet with representatives in person, however due to the current pandemic these meetings were virtual and the students all did a great job and had good questions and discussions with state representatives.

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

- a. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Granting Authority to the Chancellor until July 1, 2021, to Establish Rules and Procedures He Deems Necessary and Appropriate to Combat the Spread of the COVID-19 Virus.
- b. Consideration and Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chancellor to Negotiate, Execute and Close a Contract for the Sale of a 0.0649 Acre Tract on Northeast Campus in the Amount of \$173,218.50.
- c. Consideration and Approval of a Revised Resolution Expressing the Board of Trustees Commitment to Innovative Technology, Accessibility and Sustainability on New and Renovated Facilities (Continued from February 25, 2021 Board Meeting).
- d. Consideration and Approval of Vendor Pool for Executive Search and Recruitment Services with Initial Term of 3 Years and the Option to Renew for 2 Additional Years in the Annual Amount of \$250,000.00 (Not to Exceed).

On a motion by Mr. Barr, seconded by Ms. Ayala, the consent agenda items were unanimously approved

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

- a. Consideration and Approval of Use of a Cooperative Agreement with ABM of Texas, Inc. for District Grounds Maintenance at Select Locations in the Amount of \$205,000.00 for a Period of Five Months.

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

- b. Consideration and Approval of Contract with Texas Refrigeration, Inc. for the Main Thermal System Piping Installation Project on South Campus in the Amount of \$471,406.81.

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

- c. Consideration and Approval of Contract with GFC Contracting for the Gymnasium Renovation and Pool Equipment at the Northeast Campus Physical Education Building in the Amount of \$797,878.15.

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

- d. Consideration and Approval of Job Order Contract – General Contractor Pool with Master Agreements for Initial Terms of Two Years and the Establishment of Administrative Spending Limits.

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

6. Monthly Financial Report Information.

Chief Operating Officer Susan Alanis reported the financials as follows for February 2021. Total income is at 85.7 percent, total expenses is at 47.1 percent. Pools increased by \$69.9 million. \$30 million in Treasury Bills matured. Total Portfolio increased by \$29.4 million during February to an ending balance of \$841.1 million. Yield was 0.50 percent at February 28, 2021 and the Weighted Average Maturity was at 138 days.

Ms. Alanis noted that TCC has been notified of our utility contract for natural gas through the General Land Office of Texas, where we have pool buying benefits for pricing that there may be some impacts from the February storms. We will have more information very soon, however there may be higher electricity bills due to the storms. As we anticipate a larger than usual electricity bill, we may want to work with the state to mitigate the cost, rather than passing it on to the public. Next month we will memorialize the outcome and actions to the Board.

7. Chancellor's Report Information.

Chancellor Giovannini thanked Mr. and Mrs. Heede for their generous gift to the college. The artwork is an encouraging piece for our students and will be put to good use at the campuses.

a. Update on Exercise of Authority

Chancellor Giovannini reported that there was no authority exercised as of March 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. In the March issue of the Hispanic Outlook on Education magazine, it named Tarrant County College one of the nation's top 25 community colleges for Hispanics. TCC is ranked number 5 for community colleges with the greatest total enrollment of Hispanic students for 2018/19. TCC ranked number 10 in Associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students in 2019. These rankings are based on data derived from the Department of Education. This recognition marks Tarrant County College's first appearance on the top 25 for Hispanic Outlook on Education magazine.

Dr. Giovannini also mentioned that this past year has been a journey from days to months and into semesters. We handled this in a methodical manner and held safety in continuity objectives foremost in mind. TCC students and employees suffered many hardships and some tragic losses. We want to recognize this and grieve with them. The trends and predictions and vaccinations will allow us to roll out normal operations for the fall semester. In the months ahead, Ms. Susan Alanis and Dr. Elva LeBlanc will lead in the process to return to classes and work. There will be a staged rollout for returning to work.

In additional commencement 2021 is planned for May 15, 2021 at Dickie's Arena. More details will be presented to the Board and everyone as plans are finalized.

8. Dr. Phillip Jenkins – DGBA Appeal

Dr. Phillip Jenkins appeared in front of the Board virtually for his DGBA Appeal, he was given 10-minutes to address the Board.

Dr. Shannon S. Ydoyaga, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs provided a 10-minute rebuttal on behalf of TCC.

Dr. Jenkins finished with a 5-minute rebuttal.

9. **Closed Session:**

The Board entered a closed meeting at 7:07pm 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.

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

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 7:59pm without any actions.

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

The next Work Session Meeting will be on Thursday, April 8, 2021 and Regular Board Meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2021. This meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.



Conrad C. Heede, President
Board of Trustees



Diane Patrick, Secretary
Board of Trustees