

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

BOARD OF REGENTS

South Plains College

October 8, 2020

The Board of Regents of South Plains College met on Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 12:30 p.m. in the Board of Regents meeting room with the following present: Mr. Mike Box, Chairman; Mr. Bobby Neal, Vice Chairman; Mr. Ronny Alexander, Secretary; and other members of the Board; Mr. Richard Ellis; and Mr. Pete Pettiet; Others present were Dr. Ryan Gibbs; Dr. Stan DeMerritt; Ms. Teresa Green; Mr. Stephen John; Ms. Katie Walker of the News-Press; Mr. Jody Rose, of KLVY; Ms. Myrna Whitehead, News and Information Coordinator; and Dr. Robin Satterwhite.

Guests present: Mr. Ronnie Watkins, Dean of Administrative Services.

Mr. Box gave the opening prayer.

Mr. Box led the pledge to the United States Flag.

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes; there being none, Mr. Ellis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Alexander, vote to approve was unanimous.

The Chairman called on the Vice President for Student Affairs for his report. Dr. DeMerritt presented the 2019 Clery Report on Crime and Safety; exhibit #4538, followed by the 2018 Junior College Audit Report Update of Action Items; exhibit #4539. He stated that South Plains College is required to conduct a safety and security audit of all facilities every three years. Finally, Dr. DeMerritt presented the fiscal year 2020 Q3 report of violations of South Plains College Policy FH. See exhibit #4540. Just one violation was reported and no disciplinary action was taken.

The Chairman called on the Vice President for Academic Affairs for his report. Dr. Gibbs presented an update on the statewide transfer legislation, as well as a report on the upcoming eight-week flex term pilot program that will begin in mid-October.

The Chairman called on the Vice President for Business Affairs for her report. Ms. Green presented the Tax Office Report and Financial Reports. The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the reports, there being none, Mr. Neal made a motion that the Board accept the reports as shown in exhibits #4541 and #4542. Second by Mr. Ellis and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Green also presented the quarterly investment report. See exhibit #4543. Mr. Alexander made a motion to accept the report as presented and Mr. Pettiet seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous. Finally, Ms. Green presented four property resales: 1) Elias Saenz, #R22793, \$601, exhibit #4544; 2) Elias Saenz, #R17727, \$2,199, exhibit #4545; 3) Elias Saenz, #R17726, \$2,199, exhibit #4546; 4) Salvador Gonzalez, #R17721, \$750, exhibit #4547. Mr. Ellis made a motion to approve all four properties as presented. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

The Chairman then called on the Vice President for Institutional Advancement to report. Mr. John provided Regents with an update on the 2021-26 Institutional Plan. Mr. John outlined for Regents the process the college leadership is taking to revise the Institutional Plan for the next five years. An Institutional Plan Steering Team has

been appointed to guide and direct the process in collaboration with the Administrative Council. Regents were also presented with the Process Action Plan (Exhibit #4548) that outlines the steps that will be taken to develop the plan. Mr. John reviewed the major tasks that will be undertaken. Over the past two weeks, 74 employees have participated in SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis Workshops to provide input and feedback for the plan. All responses in the workshops have been compiled into a master group memory that will be analyzed by the Institutional Plan Steering Team. From this input, the team will identify strategic opportunities and challenges facing the college that will become the strategic priorities of the plan. Mr. John noted that as part of the process, the Board of Regents will be engaged in a Strategic Planning Workshop sometime in February 2021 for input in the development of the plan. The goal is to have the final Institutional Plan document completed by June 2021.

The Chairman called on the President for his report. Dr. Satterwhite invited Ronnie Watkins to presented to the Board. Mr. Watkins reviewed the progress of the Science Building Renovation. He stated that renovations are ahead of schedule and within the set budget. Following his presentation, Dr. Satterwhite asked the Board to consider approving going out for bids on Phase II of the Science Building Renovation. Mr. Neal made a motion to go out for bids, followed by a second from Mr. Alexander. The vote to go out for bids was unanimous.

Dr. Satterwhite also provided a Legislative update. He reported that the Texas Association of Community Colleges is requesting \$1.8 billion in appropriations for the 2022-2023 biennium equal to the current biennium's appropriations. See exhibits #4549 and #4550. However, the association has adopted a different method for distributing the appropriations to community colleges. Because community colleges across the state have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with some suffering a decline in enrollment up to 20 and 25 percent, the association is requesting \$100 million for core operations and \$282.8 million in success point funding, approximately \$86.5 million more in these categories. The request reduces contact hour formula funding \$86.5 million to \$1.447 billion. Collin County College and Houston Community College, who have experienced increases in enrollment this past spring and summer, objected to this proposal because it would likely reduce their state appropriations. However, the proposal was adopted by the association members. As a result of the action taken by TACC, Collin County College in Plano and Lone Star College in North Harris County, Houston, have announced they are leaving TACC and will make individual requests for appropriations to the legislature. Dr. Satterwhite said he did not know how these actions will affect TACC or if it will result in other colleges leaving the association. He also provided Regents with information on community college service areas and taxing districts (exhibits #4551 and #4552), making the case that the legislature needs to consider changes to the way community colleges are funded. Collin County has 38,000 students and receives \$3,000 per student in tax revenues within its district. Lone Star Community College has 68,000 students and also receives \$3,000 in tax revenues per student. South Plains College receives about \$1,256 per student in tax revenues.

Dr. Satterwhite concluded his report by announcing dates for upcoming events. He stated that the annual Career Expo will be held virtually October 20-21, 2020. The public is invited to drive through the Levelland campus October 19-30 and see outdoor decorations around campus. Finally, he announced that the annual Scholarship Banquet will be held virtually on November 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Chairman called the Board into closed session at 2:04 p.m. to discuss Real Property (Govt. Code 551.072). The Chairman reconvened the regular meeting at 2:39 p.m. No action was taken.

To close to meeting, Dr. Satterwhite thanked Bobby Neal for his twenty-eight years of service to the South Plains College Board of Regents, noting that he served twenty-six of those years as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mr. Neal's term was extended through November 2020 due to the COVID-19 postponement of the May 2020

election.

Meeting Adjourn.

Chairman

Secretary