

San Jacinto College District Board Workshop September 16, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 16, 2021, in Room 201 of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas. This workshop was originally scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021 but was postponed due to weather.

MINUTES

	Board Workshop Attendees:	Board Members: Marie Flickinger, Dan Mims, John Moon, Jr., Larry Wilson Absent: Erica Davis Rouse, Keith Sinor, Dr. Ruede Wheeler Chancellor: Brenda Hellyer Other: Sandra Ramirez, Mandi Reiland, Laurel Williamson, Teri Zamora
	Agenda Item:	Discussion/Information
I.	Call the Meeting to Order	Board Chair, Marie Flickinger, called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m.
II.	Roll Call of Board Members	Chair Marie Flickinger conducted a roll call of the Board members: Erica Davis Rouse (absent) Dan Mims, John Moon, Jr., Keith Sinor (absent) Dr. Ruede Wheeler (absent) Larry Wilson
III.	Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: Legal Matters, Real	Chair Flickinger adjourned to closed session at 5:02 p.m. Board members, Chancellor Hellyer, Sandra Ramirez, Mandi Reiland, and Teri Zamora were present for the closed session. a. Legal Matters - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law. b. Real Estate Matters - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. c. Personnel Matters - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment,

	Estate Matters, and Personnel Matters	duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.
IV.	Reconvene in Open Meeting	Chair Flickinger reconvened to open meeting at 6:32 p.m. Dr. Laurel Williamson joined the meeting.
V.	Update on COVID and Fall Enrollment	<p>Teri Zamora provided an update on COVID and fall enrollment. The College is operating the same way as the last time an update was provided to the Board of Trustees. The Harris County Public site locations at the College have dropped from administering 150 vaccinations to approximately 100 a day but is still providing testing to a substantial number daily.</p> <p>Teri provided an overview of the COVID Dashboard and explained how the graph is read. The vast majority of COVID cases have originated off-campus. She covered a chart with the recent area COVID metrics that showed the number of cases in Harris County peaked in August and appear to be decreasing this month.</p> <p>She provided a recap of where we are with the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF). We have expended \$8.7 million of the institutional funds and have committed \$24.6 million, leaving \$10.9 million left to allocate. We received \$2.2 million of Hispanic Serving Institutional funds in August and have not allocated it yet. We have already delivered \$22.3 million in emergency student funds and have \$6.9 million remaining to disburse in the fall and spring. Enrollment is currently up two percent compared to fall 2020 and down three percent compared to fall 2019.</p> <p>Teri provided an update on the initiatives the College has implemented to increase enrollment. We had a total of 5,060 students retake courses, and 2,409 students have applied for the 21Forward Scholarship. Regarding the Promise Program, we had 203 students complete the 2020 cohort and 382 students enrolled in the 2021 cohort. The 2022 Promise Cohort is underway and will have funding designated from the Student Success Funds.</p> <p>Dan Mims asked if the student participation we are seeing in the 21Forward Scholarship aligns with what we had anticipated.</p>

		<p>Dr. Brenda Hellyer responded that the numbers we are seeing in 21Forward Scholarship and the Promise Program are strong especially given how late the 21Forward Scholarship option was announced and both programs may apply to the same students.</p> <p>Dan questioned why a student would choose the Promise Program over the 21Forward Scholarship.</p> <p>Brenda responded that the Promise Program requires students to take 12 hours and funds tuition and course books, and the student also receives some additional support. The 21Forward Scholarship covers tuition but not the books.</p>
<p>VI.</p>	<p>Review of JCAR Submission to Texas School Safety Center</p>	<p>Brenda stated the Junior College Assessment Report (JCAR) is an informational report to the Board of Trustees which was due yesterday. The intent was to review it with the Trustees on Monday, September 13, but the meeting was postponed due to Hurricane Nicholas. A note was made indicating the report was submitted, and the Board of Trustees was updated after the submission.</p> <p>Teri provided an overview of the JCAR and explained the College is required to submit this report every three years. The report is a self-assessment type document that covers the following areas: Environmental Design, Police and Security, Emergency Management, IT Security, Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities, Business Continuity, Policies, and Communications totaling 764 questions. Of the 764 questions, eight questions required a response of “no” indicating the item is not currently in place but will be considered. One of the questions required a response of “true,” indicating the item is not currently completely in place, but all actions are in progress to fully implement. A full report for the campus leadership has been prepared citing all questions for which “no” was entered, along with corresponding recommendations. She outlined the questions that were asked and comments and recommendations that were received.</p> <p>She added that a Higher Education Climate Survey was also circulated to 30,723 employees and students to provide their feedback on safety issues. We received 1,699 responses determining that people are happy with the safety of the College but indicated some areas of improvement which the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) will review.</p>

<p>VII.</p>	<p>Update on 2021 Property Tax Rate Adoption Process</p>	<p>Teri provided an update on the 2021 Property Tax Rate Adoption Process. She explained the no-new-revenue tax rate means the College will receive the same amount of property taxes on existing property as the previous year and any new properties will be additional. There is a voter-approval tax rate which is approximately eight percent more than last year in which we would have to have an election. The College is proposing a tax rate at \$0.167967; this is higher than the no-new-revenue rate of \$0.162566 but lower than the voter-approval rate. Traditionally, we have tried to go with the no-new-revenue rate, but due to changes in the statute that governs the calculation of the no-new-revenue-rate, we are having to assume we will lose any outstanding cases that have not been settled yet when we calculate our no-new-revenue rate. This is a new requirement but is exacerbated by the fact that we have a lot of outstanding cases due to COVID.</p> <p>Teri provided an overview of the College’s historical tax rates which shows a decrease in tax rates beginning in 2017. She provided a graph to show the number of protests that were filed in 2004 through 2020 and highlighted the increase in outstanding property tax cases due to COVID. As suits and arbitrations settle, the College could owe up to \$4.3 million to taxpayers. The College’s response to this is to assume a 98.16% collection rate on M&O taxes. Teri explained the timeline for this process after tonight’s approval. The Board of Trustees are being asked to approve the 2021 proposed tax rate, review of final no-new-revenue and voter-approved tax rate calculations and approve the date to adopt the tax rate as an action item at tonight’s Board Meeting.</p>
<p>VIII.</p>	<p>Review Plan for Naming Opportunities at the Maritime Campus</p>	<p>Brenda explained the College would like to move forward with starting a fundraising effort to expand the naming at the Maritime Center. Tonight’s action item asks the Board of Trustees to approve that the Bridge Simulation Suite be named after the Houston Pilots Association, East Campus Dock be named after G&H Towing Company, and West Campus Dock be named after LBC Tank Terminals. A draft of the campaign brochure was distributed to the Trustees. Teri Crawford, through the Foundation, and John Stauffer, with Maritime, will start meeting with potential donors. This fundraising idea was brought up during the Maritime Advisory Council meeting, and there was a lot of interest of companies wanting to name classrooms and have their branding displayed like what has been done at the</p>

		LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology.
IX.	Notification of Program Closure for Associate of Applied Science, Cosmetology Instructor	Dr. Laurel Williamson notified the Board of the program closure for the Associate of Applied Science, Cosmetology Instructor and explained this closure was in response to a decision by the Texas Legislature due to eliminating the state licensing requirement for cosmetology instructors. The College had a pathway within our cosmetology program for cosmetology instructor, but due to decisions by the State Legislature, this is no longer a viable path in the industry. We have eighteen students who were enrolled in this program. We will teach them out and they are all on the path to complete in December. We will then be closing the program and will not accept any new students into the track. A notification was sent to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) was already aware that all Texas colleges will be closing this program. The faculty who are teaching in this pathway will be moved to teach regular cosmetology courses, and we will likely need fewer part-time faculty in the cosmetology program.
X.	Update on State and Federal Legislative Sessions	<p>Brenda provided a brief update on the State and Federal legislative sessions and asked the Board to review the distributed document. On the Federal side, the House Representatives and the Senate are currently in recess and will reconvene later this month. We anticipate the various appropriations requests will start moving forward upon reconvening.</p> <p>On the State side, the third special legislative session is kicking off next week, and it is estimated that there will be \$16 billion of federal CARES Act funding that will be allocated. Some of these dollars have already been set aside for other projects. The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) is putting together a request of approximately \$325 million of that \$16 billion to allocate \$75 million to the TRUE workforce initiative and the other \$250 million would go toward strengthening college capacity to allow colleges to upgrade equipment, facilities, and technology capabilities. TACC has put together an allocation method that is based 50% on enrollment, 25 percent based on the loss of first time in college (FTIC), and 25 percent based on unemployment in the regions. TACC has begun having</p>

		these conversations with the legislative staff and have not received much resistance.
XI.	Review of Calendar	Brenda reviewed the calendar with the Board and highlighted important upcoming events. She informed them the Generation Park grand opening that was postponed due to Hurricane Nicholas is in the process of being rescheduled. The September Building and Finance Committee meetings have been cancelled.
XII.	General Discussion of Meeting Items	Brenda commented that we are having legal look at the federal mandate around vaccinations that President Biden signed. The College is a federal contractor because of our NASA contracts, so we are looking at how that might apply. She and a few others will be participating in an information session around what this vaccination requirement means and will continue monitoring the state and local aspects around this mandate.
XIII.	Adjournment	Chair Marie Flickinger adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.