

San Jacinto College District Board Workshop March 6, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Community College District met for a Board Workshop at 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2023, in Room 201 of the Thomas S. Sewell District Administration Building, 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

MINUTES

	Board Workshop Attendees:	Board Members: Marie Flickinger, Erica Davis Rouse, Dan Mims (left during closed session), John Moon, Jr., Keith Sinor, Dr. Ruede Wheeler, Larry Wilson Chancellor: Brenda Hellyer Other: Lisa Brown (attorney), Sandra Ramirez, Mandi Reiland, Teri Zamora
	Agenda Item:	Discussion/Information
I.	Call the Meeting to Order	Chair Flickinger called the workshop to order at 5:01 p.m.
II.	Roll Call of Board Members	Board Chair Flickinger conducted a roll call of the Board members: Erica Davis Rouse Marie Flickinger Dan Mims (left during closed session) John Moon, Jr. Keith Sinor Dr. Ruede Wheeler Larry Wilson
III.	Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, 551.074, and 551.076 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: Legal Matters,	Chair Flickinger adjourned to closed session at 5:02 p.m. The Board members listed above as attending and Chancellor Brenda Hellyer were present for the closed session. Other attendees are noted below. 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. Attendees: Lisa Brown (attorney), Sandra Ramirez, Mandi Reiland, Teri Zamora b. Personnel Matters - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation,

	Personnel Matters, and Security Matters	<p>reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee. It was determined after time of posting that no personnel matters needed to be discussed.</p> <p>c. Security Matters - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices. Attendees: Lisa Brown (attorney), Sandra Ramirez, Mandi Reiland, Rob Stanicic, Teri Zamora</p> <p>Dan Mims left the workshop during the closed session.</p>
IV.	Reconvene in Open Meeting	Chair Flickinger reconvened to open meeting at 6:17 p.m.
V.	Review Credit Tuition Schedule, Exemptions, and Waivers	<p>Teri Zamora reviewed the College’s proposed tuition rates, exemptions, and waivers. The proposed tuition rates per semester credit hour (SCH) for Fall 2023 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-district \$83 (increase from \$78) • Out-of-district \$144 (increase from \$135) • Out-of-state/International \$223 (increase from \$210) <p>The increases average a 6.4 percent increase over the rates currently in place.</p> <p>Teri provided an overview of San Jacinto College’s proposed tuition rate compared to local competitor colleges’ current tuition rate, not including their additional fees. Compared to their current rates, San Jacinto College’s tuition rate is on the lower end.</p> <p>Compared to other Community Colleges in Texas, San Jacinto College will still have low tuition rates with the statewide average being \$102 in-district, \$159 out-of-district, and \$221 out-of-state. Most Colleges also have other fees that are not calculated into these totals.</p> <p>Dr. Brenda Hellyer informed the Board members that they have an action item to vote for this tuition rate increase, which was the rate that was reviewed at the January 30 Board workshop.</p> <p>The action item clarifies that there will be no change in the additional tuition charge of \$75 per SCH which is assessed on all courses attempted three or more times (Texas Education</p>

Code 54.014). The College receives no state funding for these course enrollments. Additionally, the action item clarifies there were no changes to the non-enrollment fees for installment payment plans and for return check, testing, collection agency, and audit course charges.

Teri reviewed the tuition waivers and exemptions which will be approved in a separate action item. No new tuition exemptions and waivers are being recommended.

Keith Sinor questioned why the dual credit amount is down. Brenda responded that dual credit was down the last fiscal years. In 2021, the College had a significant increase in dual credit then a decrease the second year of COVID. The fluctuation is due to the impacts of COVID and students progressing. This past fall, the College had 6,574 dual credit students and Fall 2021 the College was at 6,291 versus 6,800 the year before.

VI. Review Change to Tuition Discount for Employee Dependents and Spouse

Brenda informed the Board that previously on December 12, 2022, the Board approved a \$30 tuition discount per SCH for employee dependents and spouses. The fiscal affairs department was working on implementing this employee benefit and discovered it would be a very manual process to apply this discount per SCH. The Banner student and fiscal system requires establishing the discount as a percentage, and not a dollar amount. The Board is being asked to approve an action item modifying the discount as a percentage rather than as dollar amounts which are displayed in the table below.

EFFECTIVE SUMMER 2023			
Residency	Tuition per SCH	% Discount per SCH	\$ Discount per SCH
In-District	\$78	39%	\$30.42
Out-of-District	\$135	23%	\$31.05
Out-of-State	\$210	15%	\$31.50
EFFECTIVE FALL 2023 (following proposed tuition increase)			
Residency	Tuition per SCH	% Discount per SCH	\$ Discount per SCH
In-District	\$83	37%	\$30.71
Out-of-District	\$144	21%	\$30.24
Out-of-State	\$223	14%	\$31.22

The Board had no questions regarding this item.

VII. Update on May 2023 Board Election

Teri provided an update on the May 2023 Board Election, including a timeline showing what steps of the election process have been completed and which are still pending. The first day of early voting will be April 24 with the last

		<p>day of early voting being May 2, and the regular election day will be held on May 6. She explained that an action item during tonight’s Board meeting is requesting Board approval of the contract with Harris County to run this year’s election. The final contract with the County will be received on March 9, and the executed contract must be returned to the County by March 20.</p> <p>Brenda asked the Board members if they are available May 15 at 11:00 a.m. for a short special board meeting to canvass board election results. A quorum will be needed for this meeting.</p> <p>The Board members present agreed they can attend this meeting and will make a quorum.</p> <p>Teri provided a timeline of election communications including news releases and social media campaigns. Historically, election notifications to voters were required to be posted in newspapers, but now there are three options for areas of posting including in the local newspaper, in a public place in each election precinct no later than 21 days before the election, or by mailing a notice to each voter no later than ten days before the election. The College plans to publish the notification of elections via newspaper.</p> <p>Erica Davis Rouse asked if the College will be holding an event on election day.</p> <p>Brenda responded that we had not planned on it. The reason it was done previously is because the College ran its own election, and that was the only way to get election results since the count was managed by the College. With the County running the election this year, a gathering is not needed to view results.</p> <p>The Board members agreed with the recommendation to not have an election watch party.</p>
VIII.	Update on State and Federal Legislative Sessions and the Texas Commission on Community College Finance	<p>Brenda provided an overview of the State and Federal legislative sessions.</p> <p>On the Federal side, rules have been released around the Community Grant Projects (formerly earmarks). The grants are much more restrictive and cannot be submitted through several agencies such as Department of Education, Department of Labor, and Health and Human Services. Teri</p>

		<p>Crawford is working with Tom Downs to understand what this means for the College. The Maritime Centers of Excellence language had some changes so MARAD is leaving the program as it stands while they go through the Federal Registry process to seek input and comments. San Jacinto College will remain a Center of Excellence until the process completes.</p> <p>On the State side, Representative Dennis Paul was selected to serve as the Vice Chair of Higher Education, so San Jacinto College has a local member serving as Vice Chair in both the House and the Senate. The Texas Community College Commission on Finance recommendations were filed as House Bill 8. The low bill number shows that this bill is a priority for the Speaker of the House. We are reviewing the bill and have been asked to provide comments through the Texas Association of Community College (TACC). San Jacinto College has also been asked to provide some input to clarify and improve the bill. We are working through these details.</p> <p>Brenda explained that Teri Crawford has been providing information about legislation filed on property taxes, as lowering property taxes is a priority for the Speaker, Lt. Governor, and Governor. Community Colleges are requesting to be excluded from the many property tax bills being filed. In addition, Senator Middleton indicated that he intends to sign onto two bills which will reduce the ability of universities to charge tuition to students who transfer from a community college with core courses that the university transfers as an elective course instead of towards a degree.</p> <p>Keith asked what the legislature plans to do with property taxes.</p> <p>Brenda responded there are several bills, but there appears to be an interest in raising the homestead exemption. There are also concerns that this avenue does not provide any relief for businesses. There are several bills being filed around property taxes, but community colleges do not seem to be included in them. We are continuing to monitor these bills.</p>
IX.	Review of Calendar	<p>Brenda announced that the Board strategic planning retreat will be Friday, March 10, with the Finance Committee meeting following. The March 21 Building Committee meeting has been cancelled. She announced that the Aspen Prize ceremony will be April 20 in Washington, DC. A</p>

		<p>limited number of College representatives can attend. Currently Dan Mims, Erica Davis Rouse, and Keith Sinor will be attending along with Brenda, Teri Crawford, and Laurel Williamson. Each campus will be hosting a watch party that the Board members who are not traveling to DC are being asked to attend. The Aspen ceremony conflicts with the Foundation Executive Committee Meeting, which will be rescheduled. She reviewed the remaining items on the Board calendar and asked the Board members to let Mandi Reiland know if they would like to attend any of the listed events.</p>
X.	General Discussion of Meeting Items	<p>Brenda provided the Board with a summary of delegations of authority. At the January 30 Board Meeting, a delegation for electricity and natural gas was given to allow negotiations for the best rates. A new contract for electricity was executed on February 15, 2023, for a term beginning December 1, 2026, through November 30, 2029. A new contract for natural gas was executed on February 15, 2023, for a term beginning May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2026. The rates are lower than the College’s current contracted rates.</p>
XI.	Adjournment	<p>Chair Flickinger adjourned the workshop at 6:42 p.m.</p>