

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
August 9, 2007**

**REGENTS PRESENT:** Ms. Lilia B. Escajeda, Chair; Mr. Carroll M. Forrester, Vice Chair; Ms. Michele Fortunato; Mr. John D. Hicks; Mr. Frank O. Nelson; Mrs. Sharon Oeschger; and Mr. Prenis O. Williams

**REGENTS ABSENT:** Mr. H. Bryan Poff, Secretary; and Dr. David C. Woodburn

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Steven W. Jones, President; Mr. Terry Berg, Dean of Finance & Administrative Services; Mr. Victor Fite, Dean of Informational Systems & Technology; Dr. Brad Johnson, Vice President and Dean of Development; Dr. Paul Matney, Vice President and Dean of Instruction; and Mrs. Damaris Schlong, Dean of Workforce & Economic Development

Mr. Roger Cox, Legal Counsel

Mrs. Rhonda Higgs, Admin. Servs. Specialist, Dean of Finance & Adm. Svcs.

Mrs. Lori Merriman, Executive Secretary, President's Office

Mr. Clay Oats, representing KVII-TV, Channel 7

Ms. Ellen Robertson, Director of Communications

Mrs. Brenda Sadler, Exec. Asst., Pres's Off. and Asst. Secy. to the Board of Regents

Mr. Robert Sanders, Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Escajeda, Chairman.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE TAX RATE FOR 2007 ADOPTED:**

In accordance with provisions of Section 26.04 of the Texas Property Tax Code, the Randall County Tax Assessor/Collector published a legal notice on August 9, 2007, stating that the effective tax rate for the Amarillo Junior College District for 2007 is \$0.15083 per \$100 of assessed value. The rollback rate for the Amarillo Junior College District for 2007 published in the legal notice is \$0.16066 per \$100 of assessed value.

Section 26.05 of the Property Tax Code requires a taxing unit to hold two public hearings on a tax rate if the recommended tax rate for the year exceeds the lower of the rollback tax rate or the effective tax rate. The recommended tax rate is \$0.16043.

Mr. Williams made the following motion: "I move that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.16043. THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE. THE TAX RATE WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$1.83." Mr. Nelson seconded the motion to adopt the 2007 tax rate. The motion carried unanimously.

**THE DATE SET TO ADOPT THE TAX RATE FOR 2007 AND THE PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED REGARDING THE TAX RATE FOR 2007:**

Mr. Nelson made the following motions: "I move that we set the dates for two public hearings on the proposed tax rate for August 17 and August 20, 2007 at 12:00 noon in the Palo Duro

Minutes of the Amarillo College Board of Regents Special Meeting of August 9, 2007**THE DATE SET TO ADOPT THE TAX RATE FOR 2007 AND THE PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED REGARDING THE TAX RATE FOR 2007 Continued:**

Room on the Washington Street Campus.” And, “I move that we set the date to adopt the 2007 tax rate for August 28, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., in the Palo Duro Room on the Washington Street Campus.” Mr. Williams seconded the motions to set the two hearings on the proposed tax rate and the date to adopt the 2007 tax rate. The motions carried unanimously.

**FALL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN:**

Ellen Robertson told the Board that she will start the radio and television ad on August 12 and they will run through October 19; billboards are already up around town. She distributed class schedules, examples of billboards, viewbooks to be dispersed to high school students, examples of posters for high school counselors’ offices, and a student handbook and calendar. Robertson showed a DVD for 30 minute television ads. They featured students saying “I’m proud it’s my AC,” and “It’s my AC.” Some ads will focus on six AC faculty. These ads will also be featured in program publications, *Amarillo Globe News*, and Amarillo magazines. The Regents were quite impressed and complimented the new ad campaign.

**LEADERSHIP AMARILLO AND CANYON FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Berg provided some background information about the Amarillo College and Leadership Amarillo and Canyon relationship. In November 1995, an agreement was signed by both entities. AC was to provide payroll services and benefits of which LAC was to compensate AC; we furnished office space for them free at the Polk Street Campus. In fall 2006, it was determined that LAC was \$18,475 in arrears. In November 2006, Berg contacted members of their advisory board. By April 2007, they were \$19,867 in arrears. LAC decided this summer to dissolve the relationship at which time LAC owed AC \$38,475.70. An offer was made by Berg to the LAC advisory board to have LAC pay \$15,000 by September 2008 and \$15,000 by September 2009. It was decided to discount \$8,475.70 that they currently owe, but if we do not receive the agreed upon amount due by either September 2008 or September 2009, the entire note will be due. Bob Sanders, AC legal counsel, drew up the agreement.

Ms. Fortunato moved, seconded by Mr. Hicks to approve the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Jones will travel to Austin on Monday, August 13 to testify at a Senate Hearing regarding the governor’s veto of FY 2009 employee’s health insurance. He will communicate any changes or updates to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Lilia B. Escajeda, Chair