

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
August 10, 2021**

REGENTS PRESENT: Mr. Johnny Mize, Chair; Mrs. Anette Carlisle, Vice-Chair; Mr. John Betancourt; Ms. Michele Fortunato; Ms. Sally Jennings; Ms. Peggy Thomas; Dr. David Woodburn

REGENTS ABSENT: Mr. Jay Barrett, Secretary; Dr. Paul Proffer

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: None

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Ms. Ronda Crow, Representative for the Moore County Campus; Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Bob Austin, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Mr. Kevin Ball, Vice President of Communications and Marketing; Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President; Mr. Chris Sharp, Vice President of Business Affairs; Mr. Joe Bill Sherrod, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; and Mr. Mark White, Executive Vice President and Athletic Director

Ms. Joy Brenneman – Exec. Asst., President’s Office/Asst. Sec. to the Board of Regents
Mr. David Gay – Amarillo Globe News
Mr. Jesse Pfrimmer – Community Member
Mr. James Johnson – Community Member
Mr. Joe Wyatt – Communications Content Producer

SPECIAL MEETING

The Special Meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. p.m. by Mr. Johnny Mize, Chairman of the Board of Regents. He welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jesse Pfrimmer commented on the disadvantage of where they were seated at the Botanical Gardens for the Board Budget Retreat because it made it difficult to hear.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting and July 21, 2021 Board Budget Retreat and Special Meeting had been provided to the Regents.

Mrs. Carlisle requested that the last sentence of the CCATT report on page 236 of the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes be corrected to read “Mrs. Carlisle noted that the Special Commission was approved.”

Ms. Fortunato moved, seconded by Mrs. Carlisle, to approve minutes of June 22, 2021 and the July 21, 2021 with the correction noted above to the June 22, 2021 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 10

Administration recommended entering into an interlocal agreement with Education Service Center Region 10. The purpose of this agreement is to allow Amarillo College to purchase products or services from Greenlight, a vendor that has been properly awarded, through statutorily authorized purchasing methods, by the Region 10 Board on April 1, 2019, in conjunction with the issuance of RFP #2019-04 Digital Student Records Management. Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code authorizes local governments to contract with each other to provide governmental functions and services.

Greenlight is blockchain software that offers a digital record platform that allows entities to share records back and forth. This will streamline processes for students in the Panhandle by allowing them to share their credentials (transcripts) electronically with Amarillo College and other entities. Amarillo College will use CARES money to leverage this opportunity which will be offered to all schools in the Region 16 service area. Parents will be required to sign off to allow their students to share their credentials. This is a one-time payment for two years to jump start the process. After that time each school will be responsible for their own participation costs. Amarillo College is a unique demonstration site for this vendor and there is a possibility that DOE will fund this at a significant level later. Greenlight is the first vendor in the country to use this technology and AC will be the 2nd college to use it. The college will piggyback with Region 10. Approving the Interlocal Agreement also approves AC's contract with Greenlight. Use of this technology will free up advisors to work with students more quickly as they will already have their credentials with them.

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Dr. Woodburn, to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Education Service Center Region 10. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF THE TAX RATE FOR 2021

In accordance with provisions of Section 26.06 of the Texas Property Tax Code, Amarillo College published a legal notice on August 16, 2021, stating that the no-new-revenue tax rate for the Amarillo Junior College District for 2021 is \$ 0.22440 per \$100 of assessed value. The voter-approval tax rate for the Amarillo Junior College District for 2021 published in the legal notice is \$ 0.23744 per \$100 of assessed value.

Section 26.05 of the Property Tax Code requires a taxing unit to hold one public hearing on a tax rate. The recommended tax rate is \$ 0.21129.

Mr. Sharp noted that this is the first time the Board has looked at the tax rate this year and will take formal action at the August board meeting to adopt the appropriate tax rate. Maintenance and Operations taxes will remain the same but Interest in Sinking Funds will be lower because the college has been able to lower debt payments by refunding some bonds. Taxpayers may pay more in taxes because of an increase in property valuations.

Mr. Sharp also explained that the college would not know the amount of any savings due to the pandemic and shut down of the college until the audit. There could be some reserves. Mr. Betancourt asked that the needs of the staff be considered during budgeting.

Ms. Fortunato moved, seconded by Ms. Jennings that the proposed tax rate not exceed \$0.21129, which will effectively be a 5.84% decrease in the tax rate. The motion carried unanimously.

SET THE DATE TO ADOPT THE TAX RATE FOR 2021 AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE TAX RATE FOR 2021

The Board set the date to adopt the tax rate for 2021, and scheduled one public hearing regarding the tax rate for 2021.

Mrs. Carlisle moved, seconded by Mr. Betancourt, that the Board set the date for the public hearing and adoption of the proposed tax rate for August 24, at 6:45 p.m., in the PBS/KACV Studio on the Washington Street Campus. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Jay Barrett, Secretary