

Minutes of the Amarillo College Board of Regents Special Meeting of August 15, 2023

**AMARILLO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
August 15, 2023**

REGENTS PRESENT: Ms. Anette Carlisle, Chair; Mr. Jay Barrett, Vice-Chair; Mr. John Betancourt, Secretary; Irene Hughes; Mr. Johnny Mize; Ms. Peggy Thomas; Dr. David Woodburn

REGENTS ABSENT: Ms. Michele Fortunato; Dr. Paul Proffer

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Ms. Sara Pesina, Representative for the Hereford Hinkson Memorial Campus

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Ms. Kathie Fuston, Representative for the Moore County Campus

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President; Mr. Bob Austin, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Tamara Clunis, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Ms. Cara Crowley, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; Mr. Chris Sharp, Vice President of Business Affairs; Ms. Denese Skinner, Vice President of Student Affairs

Mr. Jesse T. Pfrimmer – Community Member
Ms. Renee Stovall – Instructor – Management - Faculty Senate
Ms. Kylea Frazier – News Channel 10
Andrew Freeman – City of Amarillo
Judy Jackman – Retired Amarillo College employee
Brianna Maestas – Amarillo Globe News
Laura Storrs – City of Amarillo
Becky Burton – Associate Vice President of Academic Service
Lisa Gray – Executive Assistant & Paralegal/Interim Asst. Secretary to the Board

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Anette Carlisle, Chair of the Board of Regents.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT RESIGNATION

Ms. Carlisle accepted Dr. Lowery-Hart's letter of resignation as President of Amarillo College to be effective on September 30, 2023. Individually, Board members expressed their appreciation to Russell for his years of service at Amarillo College.

Ms. Carlisle explained the presidential search process. A meeting with Aspen will be scheduled to assist in identifying the key traits desired by Amarillo College in its next President. A Request for Proposal will then be sent out to executive search consulting firms and all proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Regents Finance Committee. Once the executive search consulting firm has been chosen, a presidential search committee will be formed.

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Mr. Barrett moved that having received Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart's resignation letter dated August 14, 2023, that the Board of Regents accept his resignation, waive the six-months' notice requirement of Section 5.03e of his Employment Agreement, and agree to the termination date he suggested of September 30, 2023.

He further moved that Denese Skinner become Interim President of Amarillo College effective October 1, 2023 and that the previously approved stipend amount be effective with the pay period that began on August 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carlisle. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY OF AMARILLO OFFER TO NEGOTIATE THE LEASE OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A FIRE STATION APPROVED

The City of Amarillo asked to purchase 1.4 acres of land located at the Northeast corner of SW 9th Avenue and Quail Creek Drive on the West Campus for purposes of constructing and operating a fire station.

Mr. Sharp explained that the Finance Committee discussed the plan to sell land to the City of Amarillo and wanted to look into leasing the land instead.

Mr. Andrew Freeman spoke about the proposed maintenance of the egress.

Mr. Mize moved that the Board of Regents authorize Vice President of Business Affairs, Chris Sharp, to negotiate an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Amarillo for the long-term lease of 1.4 acres of college-owned land at the Northeast corner of SW 9th Avenue and Quail Creek Drive, to be used only for the construction and operation of a fire station. The final agreement will be presented at a later meeting for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Woodburn. The motion carried unanimously.

AC/AISD MASTER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND DUAL CREDIT AGREEMENT APPROVED

The Board considered the Master Interlocal Instructional Services Agreement and a Dual Credit Agreement, both with Amarillo Independent School District, to cover all future agreements under \$50,000.

Ms. Becky Burton spoke about the need to expedite the process of approving all short-term agreements under \$50,000 by alleviating the need for Board approval.

Ms. Hughes moved that the Board of Regents approve the Master Interlocal Agreement for Instructional Services between Amarillo College and the Amarillo Independent School District.

She also moved to approve the Dual Credit Agreement between Amarillo College and the Amarillo Independent School District which is intended to be attached to the Master Agreement as Exhibit A. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thomas. Mr. Barrett abstained from the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE TAX RATE FOR 2023

In accordance with provisions of Section 26.06 of the Texas Property Tax Code, Amarillo College will publish a legal notice on August 21, 2023, stating that the no-new-revenue tax rate for the

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Amarillo Junior College District for 2023 is \$ 0.20665 per \$100 of assessed value. The voter-approval tax rate for the Amarillo Junior College District for 2023 published in the legal notice is \$ 0.23348 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mr. Sharp explained the reasoning for voting on the higher tax rate of \$0.22031 which will increase the tax rate by 6.61% due to the large size of the tax base.

Mr. Betancourt moved that the proposed tax rate not exceed \$0.22031, which will effectively be a 6.61% increase in the tax rate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Woodburn. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE DATE TO ADOPT THE TAX RATE FOR 2023 AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE TAX RATE FOR 2023

The Board set the date to adopt the tax rate for 2023, and will hold a public hearing on August 29, 2023, during the next regularly scheduled Board of Regents meeting, regarding the tax rate for 2023.

John Betancourt moved that the Board set the date for the public hearing and adopt the proposed tax rate for August 29, 3034 at 6:46 p.m., on the Washington Street Campus, College Union Building, Second Floor, Palo Duro Room. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12.28 p.m.

John Betancourt, Secretary