



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
LEE COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
May 26, 2026**

The Board of Regents of the Lee College District met on May 26, 2026, at 6:19 p.m. at John B. Tucker Hall. Chairman Santana called the meeting to order stating that the meeting was duly posted and a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Gilbert Santana, Chairman; Pam Warford, Vice Chair; Mark Himsel, Secretary; Gina Guillory, Assistant Secretary; Weston Cotten; Daryl Fontenot; Mark Hall; Judy Jirrels; Heron Thomas

Jacob Atkin, Interim President

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Regent Heron Thomas said the Invocation and led the Pledge to United States Flag and Texas Flag.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT – Future Business Leaders of America

The largest business, career and technical student association in the world, Future Business Leaders of America inspires members to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through career preparation and leadership experiences, said student Laura Portillo. Ms. Portillo, along with fellow students Grecia Villarreal and Brandon Davis, and advisors Sherilyn Reynolds, who teaches accounting, and Kellie Sartor, who teaches computer technology, attended the FBLA Texas Leadership Conference in Richardson from March 26-28.

Ms. Portillo and Ms. Villarreal, who are students at IMPACT Early College High School, placed first in entrepreneur pitch competition, winning out over entrants from universities, Ms. Reynolds announced. She said Mr. Davis placed first in supply chain management, also winning out over entrants from universities. Only two community colleges were represented at the state conference.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – Lee College Debate Team

Division Chair and speech instructor Joe Ganakos credited Lee College alumnus Jerry McCauley, interim head debate coach, for his role in helping the debate team prepare for national competition. He also thanked college administrators and Regents for their support of the team. With a much smaller squad than fielded in previous years, the team won its eighth national title in 12 attempts since 2013, Mr. Ganakos said. Team members included Ruben Capetillo, Kaeddis Cole, Giovanni Garcia, Madison Hall, Jacob Rosas, Tara Rambarran and Advita Shinde.

29.26

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Regent Cotten made a motion, seconded by Regent Warford, that the Board approve the minutes for Policy Committee Meeting, April 6, 2026; Audit & Investment Committee Meeting, April 13, 2026;

Building Committee Meeting, April 14, 2026; Board Meeting, April 16, 2026; and Special Board Meeting, April 29, 2026.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Building Committee – Committee Chair Daryl Fontenot reported the Building Committee met Wednesday, May 20. Pfluger Architects presented an update on the college’s Facilities Master Plan that will be scheduled as a Board workshop. Other items discussed by the committee will be covered under New Business later in the meeting tonight, he said.
- Policy Committee – Committee Chair Mark Hall reported the committee has not met.
- Audit & Investment Committee – Committee Chair Judy Jirrels commented on audit reports the committee heard last Thursday, May 21, covering Performing Arts Center operations, Workday Project implementation, and Content Management and Records Retention. Works in Progress include Cybersecurity, and Data Center Colocation, she said. Contract Management, Policy Management, and Shipping/Receiving/Surplus are TBD, she said.

Building and Facilities – Serving on the Building Committee are Daryl Fontenot, Chair; Mark Himsel and Pam Warford

Policy Committee – Serving on the Policy Committee are Mark Hall, Chair; Weston Cotten and Heron Thomas

Audit and Investment Committee – Serving on the Audit and Investment Committee are Judy Jirrels, Chair; Gina Guillory, and Mark Himsel

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- **Graduation Milestone** – Final graduation count was 938 students, with seven ceremonies at the main campus, six ceremonies for Huntsville Center, and two for Impact Early College High School and Stuart Career Center, Mr. Atkin reported.
- **Social Media Highlight** – Photographs of graduation cap decorations by students, posted on Instagram, were viewed 640,000 times in a week and included 91,000 likes, Mr. Atkin said. The post was picked up by two larger accounts with more than 50 million users, and now has an additional 300,000 likes from more than 1 million estimated views, he added. This is the highest performing organic non-video content, and the third piece of viral content to be made on an official Lee College account, he said.
- **Facilities Master Plan** – The facilities master plan update tonight by Pfluger Architects will be deferred for an opportunity for a more complete update later to the Board, Mr. Atkin said. College officials are extremely happy with work by Pfluger Architects, he said.
- **Workday ERP Implementation** – Ninety-one key active workstream items are underway, Mr. Atkin reported. Three of these work streams are in yellow status, with all others in green, he said. He spoke favorably about progress being made, and expressed gratitude to the many college employees in IT, finance, procurement, and HR for their work.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Facilities Master Plan Update – Pfluger Architects

Deferred to a future workshop that will be posted for attendance by anyone who is interested.

Trellis Student Financial Wellness Survey – Kelli Forde Spiers, Vice President, Student Affairs

Survey results reflect student financial well-being and basic needs insecurity, indicate trends being observed among community college students, and highlight what these survey results reveal about the impact of student support efforts at Lee College, Ms. Forde Spiers said. The Fall 2025 survey included 153 institutions, with 103 of those being public two-year community colleges. She said Lee College participated in comparable student wellness surveys in Fall 2018 and in Spring 2023.

Categories Ms. Forde Spiers cited for 2025 include student worries about paying monthly expenses, student capacity to respond to a financial emergency, and amount of students (72%) who ran out of money at least once last year. She added that 25% of students reported running out of money at least eight times during the year. For insecurity with basic needs, food and housing, 2025 findings for Lee College students improved since 2023, with numbers below national percentages for 2025. Institutional investment in student support and coordination of resources is beneficial, she noted.

Forty percent of Lee College students reported experiencing generalized anxiety, and 57% reported feeling lonely sometimes or always. These findings reinforce importance of continuing to support students' mental health, well-being, and sense of belonging at Lee College, Ms. Forde Spiers said.

Exceeding the 66% national benchmark, 81% of Lee College students believe the college has the support services they need, up from 69% in 2018. Despite barriers and financial pressures, 79% of Lee College responders believe college is a worthwhile financial investment, and 82% believe a college degree will improve the quality of their life. This demonstrates the resilience of students in facing their challenges, and the transformational value of Lee College, Ms. Forde Spiers said.

Resignations and Retirements – Jacob Atkin, Interim President

Ingrid Wallace, Faculty, Mathematics – Retirement
Jeremy Richardson, Academic Advisor – Resignation

Financial Report – Renea Woodruff, Controller

Presenting the financial report through April 30, eight months through the fiscal year, Ms. Woodruff said the college maintains a strong, stable, cash and investment position. Year-to-date revenues at 91.68% and year-to-date expenses at 62.15% are tracking within expected ranges, she said.

For fiscal year end, current estimate is a surplus of more than \$2.4 million, Ms. Woodruff said, on revenue projecting at \$1.5 million over budget and expenses projecting at more than \$900,000 under budget. Tuition and fees revenue is exceeding budget largely in non-resident, out-of-district, and dual credit categories, she said. Tax revenue is exceeding budget on collection of more than half a million of delinquent taxes, she said. She concluded by noting budget status for facility projects, capital projects and restricted funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

June Stansky shared thoughts on the agenda item to Consider the Naming of Lone Finalist for College President.

David Isaac shared thoughts on the agenda item to Consider the Naming of Lone Finalist for College President.

ITEMS OF ACTION

A. PERSONNEL

30.26 CONSENT Agenda – Consideration of New Hire

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the new hire as presented:

Mr. Darrius Montgomery, Cybersecurity Compliance Analyst

Regent Guillory made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Chairman Santana and Regent Thomas noted Mr. Montgomery is a Lee College graduate who was a student-athlete.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

B. NEW BUSINESS

(Because of a conflict of interest involving the next item, Regent Fontenot excused himself from the room.)

31.26 Consideration of Approval of Authorized Brokers/Dealers as Reflected in CAK (Exhibit)

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the list of authorized Brokers/Dealers for investment purposes as reflected in CAK (Exhibit).

Regent Himself made a motion, seconded by Regent Warford, that the Board approve the recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes. Regent Fontenot was absent, and not voting.

(Following the vote, Regent Fontenot returned to the room and to his place at the board table.)

32.26 Consideration of Resolution Declaring the Board of Regents has Reviewed the Lee College Investment Policies and Investment Strategies and Reaffirmed Each as Provided in Board Policies CAK (Legal) and CAK (Local)

The Administration recommends that the Board affirm the Resolution declaring that the Board of Regents has reviewed the Lee College investment policies and investment strategies.

Regent Warford made a motion, seconded by Regent Cotten, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

33.26 Consideration of Outside Auditor Engagement with Whitley Penn, LLP

The Board should review and approve the Audit Engagement Letter with Whitley Penn, LLP.

Regent Cotten made a motion, seconded by Regent Warford, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Chairman Santana read detail citing Board Policy BAAA (Legal), and noting the fee for the annual audit will be \$66,180, which is \$1,930 or 3% higher than the prior year fee of \$64,250.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

34.26 Consideration of Removing the Six Semester Credit Hour Minimum Charge of Tuition and Fees for Huntsville Students

The Administration recommends that the Board remove the minimum six semester credit hour charge of tuition and fees for Huntsville students beginning in Fall 2026. Huntsville students will be billed on a per-credit-hour basis the same as students at the main campus.

Regent Guillory made a motion, seconded by Regent Hall, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

35.26 Consideration of RFS Sports to Replace Flooring at the Wellness Center and Weight Room

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the President or his designee to negotiate final terms and approve RFS Sports to replace flooring at the Wellness Center and Gymnasium Weight Room in the amount of \$162,246.43.

Regent Fontenot made a motion, seconded by Regent Guillory, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Chairman Santana noted this is an item that Regent Fontenot referred to in his Building Committee report, and that questions were asked during that meeting.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

36.26 Consideration of the HVAC Preventative Maintenance Agreement Renewable Option Year 5 with Johnson Controls, Inc.

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the President or his designee to negotiate final terms and approve the HVAC Preventative Maintenance Agreement renewable option Year 5 with Johnson Controls, Inc. for \$371,845.45.

Regent Warford made a motion, seconded by Regent Fontenot, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Chairman Santana noted this represents the fifth-year option of a five-year contract, that Johnson Controls Inc. is a manufacturer, and that JCI has provided continuous maintenance services for Lee College for more than 20 years.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

37.26 Consideration of Duro-Shield Roof Coating Purchase and Installation by Monument Roofing Systems for Various Facilities on Campus

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the President or his designee to negotiate final terms and approve the purchase and installation of Duro-Shield Roof Coating for various facilities on campus to be installed by Monument Roofing Systems in the amount of \$254,925.00.

Regent Cotten made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Chairman Santana named the buildings that are involved, noting the total to be installed is about 75,000 square feet of roof coating, with a 10-year warranty.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

38.26 Consideration of Building Automation System Web Controls Contract with Automated Logic

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the President or his designee to negotiate final terms and approve the 3-year agreement for FY 2026-2029 totaling \$265,874.00 with Automated Logic to maintain the Building Automation Web Control Systems.

Regent Guillory made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, that the Board approve the Administration's recommendation. Chairman Santana noted this is to begin a three-year agreement, with year 1 at \$86,875 and slight increases each of the next two years. This is at least the second three-year agreement with Automated Logic to maintain these systems, he said.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Regents closed the Open Session at 7:05 p.m. and convened into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act regarding:

1. Consult with Board Attorney regarding legal advice on any item on the agenda. [TX Gov't Code § 551.071]
2. Discuss Naming of Lone Finalist for College President [TX Gov't Code § 551.074]

No action is taken while the Board is recessed into Executive Session.

The Board ended Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session at 8:01 p.m.

ITEM OF ACTION

A. NEW BUSINESS

39.26 Consider the Naming of Lone Finalist for College President

Regent Fontenot made a motion that the Board name Jacob Atkin as the Lone Finalist for College President, hereby providing the public with 21 days' notice of this decision, and further that the Board authorize the Board Chair to negotiate with Mr. Atkin a proposed employment contract for final approval at a subsequent meeting by the Board, and to take necessary and related actions ahead of the Board's final vote on the naming of the College President. Regent Hall seconded.

Comments ensued. Regents Thomas and Guillory indicated their preference for a search process that would lead to identification of a finalist. Beyond that, they and other Regents spoke well and with no exceptions about their favorable impressions of Mr. Atkin, not only in his work but also in his personal qualities. Regent Hall commended the Board for thoroughness of their discussions and deliberations, saying all concerns have been heard and that this decision is not being made lightly.

Chairman Santana said a search committee is used most often for selecting a President, but that direct appointment also is an acceptable process. This would not be the first time Lee College has used this process, he noted, adding that other community colleges in Texas have directly appointed internal candidates as well. Current circumstances have provided an excellent internal candidate who completely understands every aspect of this institution, and what it takes to deliver the services to the community and to the students, Chairman Santana said.

The motion passed 7-2, with Regents Guillory and Thomas dissenting.

MATTERS OF CONCERN FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Regent Himsel asked that renewal of board attorney services be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Santana declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Chairman, Board of Regents

Secretary, Board of Regents