

MINUTES of the Public Hearing and Special Board Meeting
of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of VICTORIA COLLEGE
August 17, 2026

V. Bland Proctor, <i>Chair</i>	Luis A. Guerra, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	John Zacek, <i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Daniel Cano	Catherine McHaney	Dr. Estella De Los Santos	Ron Walker
√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Also in attendance: VC Staff: Dr. Jennifer Kent, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Keith Blundell, Terri Kurtz, Cindy Buchholz, Dr. Marisa Pierce, Amy Mundy, Darin Kazmir, Brittany Mace, Amber Baker, Bradley Johnson, Matt Weiler, Matt Wiley, Babette Lowe, and James Martinez.

The Victoria College Board of Trustees met for a public hearing and special board meeting on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 4:00 PM in Corporate Training Room 101 in the Academic Building of Victoria College located at 2200 E. Red River, Victoria, TX. Mr. Bland Proctor, Chair, presided over the meeting.

A. Call to Order:

1. **Quorum Call:**

Mr. Bland Proctor called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and announced that a quorum of board members was present.

2. **Certification of the Posting of the Notice of the Agenda**

Dr. Jennifer Kent certified that the agenda had been properly posted per Texas statute also in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 and 551.127 of the Texas Government Code.

B. Citizen Communication:

1. **At this time, the public is invited to address the Board of Trustees.**

No members of the public spoke to the Board.

2. **Public Hearing on the Victoria College 2026 Tax Rate**

Bland Proctor called the PUBLIC HEARING open at 4:02PM. He shared that the Victoria College proposed new tax rate is \$0.1808 cents per \$100 valuation.

Mr. Proctor asked if anyone in the gallery has signed up to or wishes to comment on this. "Please limit your comments to 3 minutes". No one was present to speak, Mr. Proctor closed the public hearing at 403PM.

C. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **CONSIDER Proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget**

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He reminded the board that the operating budget has been discussed in detail at the July Workshop and the August Workshop. He shared the summary below:

Attached is the proposed budget summary that was presented and discussed in the Board Workshop on August 10th. The total budget decreased \$1,202,000 or 3.2%. State Appropriations decreased \$352,000. In accordance with the Governor's rider in SB1 freezing tuition and fees for Texas community colleges, there were no changes to the required tuition and fee rates, which were approved in May. As a result, there is a decrease in tuition and fee revenues of \$190,000. This budget includes a

cost-of-living increase of 2% and a step of 1.5%. After netting added employees, retirements and terminations, the cost of salaries increased \$237,000. One of the college's property tax bonds matured in FY 2026 resulting in savings of \$699,000 in tax revenue and bond payments. The Board is recommending the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.1808/\$100 which would be a \$0.0024 decrease in the tax rate (1.3%). There was an increase in property tax revenues of \$372,000. The budget includes an increase of \$200,000 for technology and deferred maintenance to assist in maintaining technology replacement costs and the increasing costs of roofs and HVAC equipment. **Fiscal Impact:** \$36,156,949 Mr Ron Walker made the following motion:

“I move to accept the proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget as presented. This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$307,740 which is a 1.81 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$678,860.”

Mrs. Catherine McHaney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. CONSIDER Proposed College Tax Rate for 2026

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He reminded the board that the following had been shared at the August 10th Special Board Meeting: *In July, the board approved Ashley Hernandez to calculate the no-new-revenue rate (NNR) and voter-approval rate (VAR) for the college. The appraisals were completed by the VCAD and Ms. Hernandez has performed those calculations.*

The taxable values increased by 3.52%. New improvements are exempted from the NNR calculation and were at \$375,475,941. The NNR assessment of \$0.1808 per \$100 valuation would generate the same as what has been budgeted. The proposed rate of \$0.1808 per \$100 valuation would generate exactly the proposed budget. The voter-approval rate of \$0.1901 per \$100 valuation would generate \$865,320 more than the proposed budget.

The proposed rate of \$0.1808 per \$100 valuation is a 1.3% decrease from the prior year. The new Debt Service rate would decrease to \$0.0207 per \$100 valuation. The Debt Service rate decreased due to the maturity of the 2012 refunding bonds used to construct the Health Services Center.

The Board voted to propose a tax rate of \$0.1808 at its meeting on August 10, 2026. Since this rate is equal to the NNR and less than the VAR, the Board is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rate. The Citizen Communication section at the beginning of this meeting sufficed for this requirement. The Board can now adopt the rate at today's meeting.

Mr. Luis Guerra made the following motion:

“I move that the property tax rate be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.1808, which is effectively a 1.31 percent decrease in the tax rate.”

This must be a record vote so all board members were asked to vote their “Aye” or “Nay” by raising their hand. Mr. John Zacek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CONSIDER Resolution relating to the Construction Best Method Process & Prevailing Wage Rate

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared that The Texas Government Code 2269.056(a) allows the College to determine the best method when considering a construction contract. This resolution sets the best value to Victoria College is construction manager-at-risk, except for minor repairs and renovations to existing structures and facilities. Minor repairs and renovations best method is either Competitive Sealed Proposal or Job Order Contracting whichever is considered to be the best value to Victoria College.

In conjunction with the best method when considering a construction contract, it is recommended the Board adopt the most current prevailing wage rate(s) used for Victoria County, County of Gonzales, County of Calhoun, County of DeWitt and Lavaca County. Mr. John Zacek moved to accept the resolution as presented. Dr. Daniel Cano seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSIDER Resolution relating to the Delegation of Authority Texas Education Code 44.031

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared that Texas Education Code 44.031, as amended, allows the College Board of Trustees to delegate its purchasing authority under Subchapter B, Chapter 44 of the Texas Education Code to Dr. Jennifer Kent, President. Mr. Blundell clarified that this one is for all general purchases, not construction. All of the ISD's follow this one as well. Mrs. Catherine McHaney moved to accept the resolution as presented. Dr. Estella De Los Santos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSIDER Resolution relating to the Delegation of Authority Texas Government Code 2269

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared that Texas Government Code 2269.053, as amended, allows the College Board of Trustees to delegate its purchasing authority under Subsection (a), Chapter 2269.053 of the Texas Government Code to Dr. Jennifer Kent, President. Mr. Blundell clarified that this is for all construction related purchases. Mr. Luis Guerra moved to accept the resolution as presented. Dr. Daniel Cano seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDER Board Member Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared that The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts met on August 4, 2026, and voted to recommend Tim Hornback to serve a 3-year term.

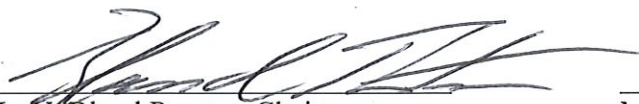
TIM HORNBACK currently serves as Executive Director of The Nave Museum. He previously served on the Welder Center advisory board from 2014-2020, on the Friends of the Welder Center Board of Directors from 2020-2024, and was a committed and engaged board member. Tim is active in the community and recognized for his work as previous Executive Director of CASA. This does require Victoria College board approval as well. Mr. Ron Walker moved to accept the nomination as presented. Mrs. Catherine McHaney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

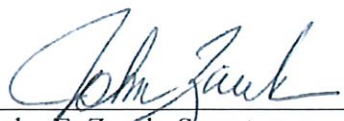
7. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Session is called under authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act, and in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, to discuss personnel matters; to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

Mr. Bland Proctor shared that the board would now go into Closed Executive Session – visitors are welcome leave as no action will be taken following closed session. The meeting will be adjourned.

The Board went into closed session at 4:17 PM. The Board came out of closed session at 5:05PM.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.


Mr. V. Bland Proctor, Chair


Mr. John E. Zacek, Secretary

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section of sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting.

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on the Victoria College website, the VC Student Services Building, and the Victoria County Courthouse on July 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. by Mary Ann Rodriguez for the Board of Trustees.