

RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens Oversight Committee

Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Rio Hondo Community College Board Room
Informational Meeting

Minutes

I. Call To Order

- a. **Call to Order** - *The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.*
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance** – *VMA representative Chelsea Dickerson led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- c. **Roll Call** - *COC members present: Toby Chavez, Louis Czuba, Verna De Lois Reyes, Richard Garner, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, Alejandro Izarraraz, Mary Ellen Witt. Absent: Irina A. Barajas, Dr. Joseph Rivera, Yesenia Fernandez, Amber Salazar.*
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *Chair Garner welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced new Committee members.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** - *There were no public comments.*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2012** – *The COC committee voted to approve the minutes.*

II. Reports

- a. **President's Update:** *On May 2, the College hosted the grand opening of the El Monte Educational Center. It was a great event with many community members attending. All attendees raved about the facilities. On April 19, the 50-Year Anniversary celebration took place at the Expo Center in Industry with approximately 420 attendees. It was also a great event and raised money for school scholarships. Summer school started this week. The College is enjoying very high enrollment, with all but one class full. We are waiting for the Governor to sign off the budget to see what the Rio Hondo College exact budget for next year looks like.*
- b. **Building Program Progress Report:** *Jerome Quemada provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the progress in the Building Program. He went over the construction progress made on the PE Complex, El Monte Educational Center, and the new softball field. He mentioned the District and Program Management team is reviewing the final design of the soccer field and plans for the book store and print shop renovations.*

After the presentation Lois Czuba asked if there is room to expand the El Monte Educational Center. Jerome Quemada said that the parcel is built out but there could be growth if the College leases or purchases additional properties. Richard Gardner mentioned that going north might be an option due to existing blighted properties on that site.

Dr. Francisco Hidalgo asked if there were any Rio Hondo College classes being conducted at El Monte High School. Teresa Dreyfuss said yes and they have plans to continue that partnership.

Toby Chavez asked what parking is available near soccer field. Jerome Quemada replied that the PE Complex includes 100 new parking spots on the back side and this is designed to serve all athletic facilities. There is also existing parking off College Drive.

Toby Chavez asked if there are plans to build restrooms near the soccer or softball fields and if the cost is in the budget. Jerome Quemada replied that they are looking at finding a site near the facilities. Due to sewer issues, they are looking at module units. Teresa Dreyfuss mentioned that they will first see if they can find a suitable location and then will explore costs.

Dr. Francisco Hidalgo asked if the College maintains a relationship with the waste site to minimize noise and impacts. Teresa Dreyfuss replied that they work with the site operators closely. They recently wanted to expand operation; the College completed a thorough impact study and saw no additional impacts.

Toby Chavez asked if there is Measure A Bond money left for the projects. Teresa Dreyfuss replied she had a study session with the Board to update Bond projects.

Toby Chavez asked if there is a time cap to spend the bond monies after they are sold. Teresa Dreyfuss replied it is between 3-5 years; there are a lot of rules and regulations that the College must follow.

- c. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report:** *Teresa Dreyfuss provided an overview of the reports, including showing how each report was formatted. The total expenditure for the quarter was \$1.8 million and year to date totals \$151 million.*

Francisco Hidalgo said that libraries are evolving since many research opportunities are going online. Many universities are partnering with communities. We should use our library as a community asset and provide opportunities for the community to use it since there are not many nice library facilities in the area.

Teresa Dreyfuss also mentioned she meant to talk about the recent Commencement ceremony as part of her report. More than 600 students

participated and Sheriff Baca provided an inspirational speech as the guest speaker. Also, former Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis came to the college for a small reception with Board, Administration and Faculty members and to take a tour. She gave great guidance on where we can seek additional federal funds.

III. Round Table Comments

Mary Ellen Witt said that she missed the tour but is looking forward to next year.

Alejandro Izarraraz said that it was a great tour, with nice facilities and a great location.

Lois Czuba said she thought it was brilliant that the College was creating satellites to make Rio Hondo more accessible. Attending Rio Hondo College might be daunting to some, but attending an educational center is doable.

Dr. Francisco Hidalgo said that it is his experience that many students really like having classes nearby. The relationship with local high schools and agencies is very important. We've been talking about engaging kids to expect to go to college, but it's up to us to make it a reality. The El Monte Educational Center lends itself to that.

Toby Chavez said that extending to the local community builds a bond with the residents. He said that he knows SWEC has made many people think more about college. It might be nice to have board meetings in the community and more people might attend. He thought that many other communities will probably ask for similar facilities. The communities are pushing to have more shuttle access to the educational centers. It would be great to have partnerships to get students there.

Verna De Los Reyes said that it was her first time on campus and that she is very impressed with the facilities. As Chair of the El Monte Promise, she is going to encourage parents to come to the Educational Center and see the beautiful campus. She has lots of marketing ideas that she wants to bring back to her organization. She thought it would be a good idea if a shuttle could run between the El Monte Educational Center and Rio Hondo College.

Teresa Dreyfuss mentioned that Go Rio is a program that offers free bus service to all full-time students.

Dr. Francisco Hidalgo said that since each Trustee District represents many school districts, it wouldn't take much to seek input on their needs. As a committee member, he will talk to his Board Member about additions to the transportation program.

Lois Czuba said that there is an impression that students are not able to transfer out of the College. More needs to be done to get students to transfer.

Teresa Dreyfuss said that the transfer rate is getting better. This year, 1,000 students graduated which shows progress. They are also working to encourage high school students to be college ready. The College is hosting an open house for career tech programs and is emphasizing good orientations, counseling, financial aid service and priority registration to students.

Richard Garner said the idea of a satellite campus is great as it brings college to kids and kids to college. Having the Center across from EMHS is a wonderful opportunity since it encourages high school students to take classes before they graduate from high school. He remarked that the El Monte Promise shows great potential to make kids in grade school aware of college.

IV. *The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m.*

V. Adjournment – *The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.*