RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
Citizens Oversight Committee  

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.  
Rio Hondo Community College Board Room 
Dinner and Meeting  

Minutes  

I. Call To Order  

a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.  

b. Pledge of Allegiance – Fernando Centeno, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.  

c. Roll Call – COC Members present: Vice Chair Dr. Joseph Rivera, Fernando Centeno, Jr., Lois Czuba, Alejandro Izarraraz, Valeria Guerrero, Toby Chavez, Almeda Rodriguez, Verna de los Reyes. (Committee Members absent: Dr. Francisco Hildago, Chair Richard Garner, and Amber Salazar).  

d. Welcome and Introductions – Each present member of the Board introduced his or herself along with staff and consultants from Del Terra.  

e. Open Communication for Public Comment – There were no public comments.  

f. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2013 – The COC voted to approve the minutes.  

II. Reports/Presentations  

a. President’s Update: Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss shared with the committee that the College is trying to pump up enrollment by adding sections this spring and summer. She was happy to report that the enrollment for this spring semester is equal to the enrollment from last spring semester. The College also added quite a few classes for the summer. The College wants to be eligible for the additional growth funding in the Governor’s proposed budget for California community colleges.  

Superintendent/President Dreyfuss invited everyone to A Taste of Rio fundraising event on campus on May 2, 2014. She described the Foundation event’s purpose of raising funds for student scholarships. She announced that as of March 18, we have 12 restaurants confirmed as well silent auction items.
On March 18, Superintendent/President Dreyfuss hosted the biannual Superintendent’s Luncheon in the Board Room for both superintendents and assistant superintendents from ten local school districts. The purpose of this meeting was to learn about the latest accomplishments and challenges of other districts. Key topics included the Rio Hondo Region Adult Education Consortium, the upcoming career technical and cultural arts programs available to K-12 students, current courses offered at both El Monte Educational Center and South Whittier Educational Center and an update on Student Success/Student Equity plans.

El Rancho Unified School District Superintendent Martin Galindo shared that out of all the community colleges he has worked with many in the past such as Mt. Sac, ELAC and Citrus, that Rio Hondo College is the best example of a college that reaches out to the surrounding communities.

Superintendent/President Dreyfuss shared that she met with White + Westberg Architects. Interim Vice-President of Finance & Business Phil Luebben and Director of Facilities Services Jim Poper both joined her in this meeting. She explained that an architect is preparing the Final Project Proposal (FPP) to remodel the business building for approval by the Board in June 2014 and submission to the Chancellor’s Office by June 30, 2014. The College will try to secure matching funds from the state by this FPP submission. The next remodel project proposal will be the science building.

b. **Annual Report:** Superintendent/President Dreyfuss and Director of Marketing and Communications Ruthie Retana shared that the picture of the COC Members taken during the last meeting will be used for the Annual Report that will be distributed to more than 100,000 community households in the District after the break.

c. **Building Program Progress Report:** Jerome Quemada of Del Terra provided a PowerPoint Presentation to give an update of the Building Program. Quemada showed the preliminary plans on four upcoming projects: 1) Soccer Field Renovation, 2) Book Store and Print Shop Renovation, 3) Flag Poles and Veterans Memorial, and 4) Rio Plaza.

Soccer Field Renovation: Quemada highlighted that the track will be made of synthetic material and that the soccer field will be made of artificial turf. The new bleachers will accommodate 132 spectators, and new drinking fountains and stadium lightings will be installed. PMSM Architects have submitted construction drawings to the Division of State Architect (DSA) for review on December 30, 2013. Once the drawings have been approved by DSA, the bidding process will begin. Del Terra is currently working on restroom options that will provide safety for students and staff.
Book Store and Print Shop Renovation: Del Terra is currently working on the conceptual design. DSA has informed Del Terra that open DSA projects need to be certified prior to design. Del Terra has met with DSA regarding closeout of open projects. We are in the process of hiring the architect firm to do the design. The existing book store is 4,109 square feet; the new area will be 6,882 square feet. The existing print shop is 937 square feet; the new area will be 1,760 square feet.

Flag Poles and Veterans Memorial: The location for the Veterans Memorial, the conceptual design for the memorial plaque, and the conceptual layout have all been approved by the Veterans Memorial Committee. Quemada displayed a conceptual design showing three flag poles for the United States, California and Rio Hondo College flags with a plaque in memory of U.S. Veterans, and with the five symbols representing each armed force. The grass area will also give the opportunity for memorial services to take place.

Once the final design is complete, Del Terra will work with the architect to start the construction bid documents.

Rio Plaza: This project, which will include bus stops and restrooms, is currently in the Design Development Stage.

Member Centeno asked whether there will be lighting on the Veterans Memorial. Quemada confirmed that yes there will be lighting.

Member Rodriguez asked: “What kinds of events only require 132 of occupancy? Are 132 seats enough for spectators to watch soccer games?” Quemada answered: “Yes” and Member Toby explained that spectators gather around by standing in the area. Not all spectators sit down.

Superintendent/President Dreyfuss confirmed that the space for spectators is sufficient.

Luebben explained that the track only has six lanes, which is sufficient for training, but not for track meets.

d. **Bond Quarterly Expenditure Reports:** Superintendent/President Dreyfuss turned the Board’s attention to the three financial handouts in the packet. As noted in the “Projects Expenditure Summary,” as of December 31, 2013, the College spent $1.8 million during the quarter. The “Project Details” explain who we paid for what, and the final document is the project list with budget and expenditure amounts. All the numbers are reconciled to the general ledger. If there are any detailed questions, Superintendent/President Dreyfuss encouraged COC Members to give her a call, and she’d be happy to go over the numbers with them.
Member Centeno asked what is the Central Plant? It was explained that the Central Plant is where the AC is located, hot and cold water and the HVAC system.

Member Dr. Rivera shared that he liked the visual of the percentages being included of how much has been spent in the handouts listing the projects.

Member Chavez commended the College for having a state of the art facility. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss agreed that many guests have complimented the campus.

e. Other Business:

Member Chavez shared that two weeks ago L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe and Congressmember Linda Sanchez implemented a free bus service for seniors and a discounted rate for students at only $0.25 from Sorenson Park to the STARS Center in South Whittier, which runs on a regular basis. It’s called the Sunshine Shuttle.

President Dreyfuss mentioned the recent approval and vote of the Rio Hondo College students to increase the Go Rio transit program from $7 to $9 per semester.

Member Chavez also reported that he attended a meeting at Pioneer High School. He would like to recruit Rio Hondo College students to attend the Pioneer High School’s science camp that takes place three weekends every summer. Rio Hondo College students who work in the camp could be seen as role models by the high school students. He shared that he would like to see women from Rio Hondo College attend the camp and promote the college to the high school students.

Member Centeno applauded the College for adding class sections. He asked if winter sessions would be offered anytime soon. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss said that we first need to find out how our FTES from the enrollment is doing for the summer and fall. She added that enrollment at both satellite locations are great. Thanks to Ruthie for the use of social media in promoting the classes in both educational centers.

Member Izarraraz asked if there would be any more satellite offices opening in the future and projected timeline? Superintendent/President Dreyfuss said that the College is in the planning stage with regards to a Pico Rivera Educational Center. Trustee President Santana mentioned there is a need in Pico Rivera.
Member De Los Reyes said that with the El Monte Promise there will be a lot more interest in the El Monte Educational Center.

f. Future Meeting Date and Place: The Members agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17 in the Board Room.

III. Comments from Committee Members

Member De Los Reyes shared that her daughter who is only 8 years old, said that she wants to attend Rio Hondo College here. She was very impressed with the new swimming pool.

Member Centeno was very happy to see the “leaps and bounds” the College has made. His sisters attended Rio Hondo College. He is very proud.

Member Czuba shared that she also rode the Sunshine Shuttle, but that you have to have a sunny disposition to ride it.

Member Izarraraz was very impressed of the funds being used wisely.

Member Guerrero gave an open invitation to COC members to attend the student leadership meetings every Monday at 3pm in the Student Union, which are all open meetings. “You are welcome to come and see how we function as an organization,” she said. “You’ll learn about our programming and how we are trying to comply with the Student Success Initiative.”

Member Chavez said she loves Rio Hondo College and that he’ll do everything to promote the College.

Member Rodriguez said that she’s new here at COC. As a middle school teacher, she shared that there are so many K-8 schools districts, and that it would be great for Rio Hondo College to also do outreach locally to K-8 schools.

Retana thanked everyone for being here tonight and asked if Board President Santana would like to share a few words.

Board President Santana thanked all the COC members for their commitment as citizens to our bond program. She was glad to hear positive comments, especially since improving students’ experiences is what matters the most. “Yes, hopefully very soon we will have a campus in Pico Rivera so that the residents have the benefit of a satellite office,” she said.
Luebben gave praise to the student leaders, such Valeria Guerrero. “I received glowing report backs that they more than held their own during the March in March day in Sacramento,” he said. “The questions they asked were extremely impressive. Our students compare very favorably with students from four-year universities.” He reminded everyone about our Go Rio Program.

Poper thanked everyone for being here.

Dreyfuss shared that she was so happy to see everyone here tonight. “This is the first time I see the participation on such a high volume,” she said. “I appreciate your time and efforts.”

Chair Dr. Rivera: agreed with all the positive comments shared.

IV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.