

RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens Oversight Committee

Thursday, September 15, 2015 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 6:19 p.m.*
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance** – *Chair Verna de los Reyes led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- c. **Roll Call** – *Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Chair Verna de los Reyes, Vice Chair Fernando Centeno, Jr., Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, Amber Salazar, Josefina Canchola, Dr. Joseph Rivera, Christian Diaz and Dr. Andrew Moraga (Committee Members absent: Deborah Pacheco and Jose Herrera).*
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *Each present member of the committee introduced his or herself along with staff, guest, and consultants Del Terra. ASRHC Senator and nursing student Virginia Gummig is new to the committee. She also works with Sergio Guzman in the Student Success office.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** – *There were no public comments.*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2015** – *The COC voted to approve the minutes. Member Canchola approved, Member Hidalgo seconded.*

II. Reports/Presentations

- a. **President's Update:** *Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:*
 - 1) *Enrollment – It has been a very busy summer. The College anticipated more students since more sections were opened, however enrollment remained flat, the same as last summer. Additional revenue is available from the state but we cannot earn it as we would like as enrollment is key. We have hired a consultant to work to improve registration, retention, and student success. Rio Hondo College is offering classes at the following*

Unified School Districts: Montebello, Hacienda-La Puente, Downey, Whittier Union, El Monte, Santa Fe springs and El Rancho High Schools.

2) Police Academy Graduation – The Academy Class #201 graduated 45 students, 13 students with jobs, 9 students are in reference check mode to be hired by agencies. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss attended and received compliments from the Police Chief who indicated he likes our program. We are trying to recruit more instructors.

3) El Rancho Unified School District – We have signed an agreement with El Rancho USD for a Pico Rivera Education Center at El Rancho High School. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss is working with committee members to jointly have both districts participate and determine what curriculum to offer and also construction/remodeling project.

4) Rio Hondo College offered a Summer Bridge Program to high school graduating seniors. This program helps to close the gap between High School and College for students in math & science. In the past, we have normally had 200 students but this year we doubled the count.

5) Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported good news about the College. Since we finished construction of the Central Plant, several years ago, leaks in the pipes were identified. We were losing 600 gallons per day of water and chemicals. \$1 Million was paid to several vendors to troubleshoot the problem. It took the college one year to get the documentation to present to the insurance company to file a claim. Initially the insurance company wanted to settle for only \$5,000.00. However, Superintendent/President Dreyfuss pursued further with the ASCIP CEO. ASCIP hired an attorney to review the contract and determined we were able to file the claim. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss was able to get reimbursed for the college, \$815,000.00 from this claim.

6) Year End Closing – Our budget was adopted at the last Board Meeting on 9-9-15. The budget adopted was a balanced budget and we anticipate a financially stable year.

b. Building Program Progress Report: *Jerome Quemada of Del Terra provided a report on the Building Program, which includes the following current and upcoming projects:*

Current Projects

1) Soccer Field Renovation: the Soccer Field project started on March 30, 2015. A lot of progress has been made with an anticipated date of completion in December 2015. The contractor has completed the final grading, and stadium lighting has been installed. Pictures were shown to the committee members of the current status of the project.

2) *Printshop and Bookstore Project:* Project documents are currently at the DSA and will be reviewed on September 23, 2015. Jerry said he hopes to have comments from the DSA soon. The fire alarm system for the entire building is being incorporated with the construction drawings. The existing bookstore is 4,109 sq. ft. and the new area will be 6,682 sq. ft.

3) *Rio Plaza Project:* This project is currently in conceptual design at this time. The College has been working with outside agencies for support funding. LA County Public Works has agreed to provide 8 ft. of sidewalk from Rosehills Cemetery to the front of the college. President Dreyfuss received a call from Supervisor Don Knabe's office and reported that he will contribute \$350,000.00 to build the sidewalk and complete the project.

4) *Pico Rivera Education Center Project:* This project is currently also in conceptual design at this time. The project is at the existing Ruben Salazar facility.

Member Hidalgo had a question regarding the artificial turf and the requirements for a cooling system, is this accounted for in the design. Quemada responded by describing the expertise of the contractor, they use rubber pellets that act as a carpet and keeps the surface cool. We are working with a reputable company; Pioneer High School has used them. Cannons shoot the water to cool down the surface. Quemada stated that the College has a storm water pollution plan in place and that the water the College uses is reclaimed water. Member Hidalgo asked about injuries and Quemada responded that they are accounted for in this type of turf. Member Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. asked for a completion date and Quemada responded mid December 2015.

Member Rivera mentioned that in working at another college in Student Services, there were many challenges regarding getting around the campus for special needs students and asked if our College considers the requirements. He thanked Superintendent/President Dreyfuss for the Pico Rivera Education Center. He stated that he conceptualized it eight years ago as an advocate for the community forum from K-12, believing if the kids couldn't make it to the mountain, then bring the mountain to the kids. He also recognized our Board of Trustee Vicky Santana for her participation. Jerry Quemada explained that ADA accessibility was built in to the DSA design for approval. The Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, Superintendent/President Dreyfuss, Trustee Vicky Santana and Facilities Director James Poper toured the schools with Dr. Rivera who advocated for the project. They visited three (3) sites and made the selection of the site mentioned by the President. Member Rivera stated that he wanted to create a pathway for higher education for these kids. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss gave kudos to Member Rivera for selecting the site.

Member Hidalgo made a comment that we need to take steps for noncredit classes for the idea of a soccer camp. All this is happening for students in the Cal-State system activities or forums to offer a certificate of leadership that would apply to ADA. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss said we would have to go through certificated approval and register everybody. We would need to take steps to increase like our fitness center, register FTES as a class, long credit class, credit or noncredit or a combination of credits.

c. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report:

Vice President of Finance & Business Myeshia Armstrong explained that there are four specific reports in the packet. The first report on top of the packet is the Projects Expenditure Summary that summarizes activities as of 6/30/15. This report lists the description of all the project activities. The last page shows that between April and June of this year, the College has spent \$1,445,933 quarter to date (QTD). The total to date (TTD) shows that the College has spent \$160,945,306 from Fiscal Year 2004-2005 through June 3, 2015 which represents 65% of the budget with 35% remaining to be spent.

The second report titled Project Details lists the various categories for architect fees and various consultants. As one flips through the pages, one will see all these different charges. Some projects could be multi-year ones like the ones Quemada mentioned, e.g. Soccer Field.

The third report is the Summary of Project Expenditures. Each project is assigned a project number on the left. This report captures all the expenditures for each fiscal year from 2004-05 to 2014-15. The Cumulative Total of the amount spent to date of \$160,945,306.

The final report in the packet is an overview of Fund 42 (the bond fund), Fund 41 and Fund 35. This report includes all the details for each project by listing the vendors for each project and how much has been paid to each vendor.

Member Hidalgo asked if the total from the details matches the summary and Vice President Armstrong said it did.

Vice President Armstrong indicated that some funding was used for the Veterans Memorial, DSA fees for the Book store and Soccer Field, are reflected in this quarter.

d. Other Business

No other business.

- e. Future Meeting Date and Place:** *The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 6pm in the Board Room. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss asked everyone to please dress nicely as the annual photo will be taken to appear in the Report to the Community. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss also mentioned that after the photo, there will be a tour of the Soccer Field. Friendly reminder invites will be sent out as the date draws closer.*

III. Comments from Committee Members

Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. said he appreciated having good information every time they come to the Citizens Oversight Meeting and indicated it was awesome to have a project coming to Pico Rivera as the Pico Rivera Education Center and thanked everyone again for their hard work.

Member Salazar asked if the soccer field would only be used for soccer.

Member Rivera said he was very happy to see that everything was good and on target.

Member Hidalgo shared that his 33-year-old son was getting married.

Member Canchola said it was important to let everyone know that they can be advocates to assist in enrollment, and had an idea to create a funnel for high school students in the Puente Program and will be interested in Superintendent/President Dreyfuss scheduling a meeting with the VP of Student Services.

Member Diaz agreed to recruit students and assist the College. Member Moraga had no comment.

Member Gummig said she hopes the soccer field will be complete for graduation and that the ASRHC will help with retention/enrollment.

Chair De Los Reyes asked if the decrease in enrollment is a trend. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss indicated that when the economy gets better, enrollment dips. The state has more money to give us but cannot unless our enrollment is up, saying that every community college tries to grab students and get more money.

Member Diaz asked if we have reached out to elementary schools. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss replied that we are doing a lot in that area, we have reached out to Valle Lindo, Scott Avenue & Mills Schools. She is looking for IT faculty to teach easy coding classes at local schools. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss also indicated that in October, we will send out invites to the Asian Pacific Islander, Promise USC & UCLA to attend a family night for elementary students to go to.

Chair De Los Reyes suggested giving out free Rio Hondo College T-Shirts at schools, indicating that So. El Monte City has college days every Thursday and it would be a great tool as when students go to Wal-Mart or Target they can only find the major names of USC, UCLA etc. and many parents can't afford the T-shirts.

Member Canchola pointed out that with so much talent among our faculty, perhaps we would be able to create a "speaker series" to speak on and highlight their expertise at different school sites in the community such as a District Round and invite the faculty as a special speaker in our community to promote the talent Rio Hondo College has.

Member Hidalgo made a suggestion to have teacher academies for aspiring teachers in the area and that he would be happy to help. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss mentioned that there are grants in Applied Technology and Nursing Divisions to train teachers and expand to more general areas.

Member Rivera asked about teacher commissioning that would lead to a credential to work to identify for core classes and re-entry for the student into that area enabling teachers to become teachers because they desire to be one.

Member Hidalgo noted that some decide late in their careers to go back to take courses in liberal studies. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss said we call these entry students. Member Rivera mentioned LA Unified offered this at one time.

Superintendent/President Dreyfuss thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

IV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. Member Rivera moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Vice Chair, Centeno, Jr.