

**RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
**Citizens Oversight Committee**

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Tuesday, March 15, 2016 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 6:21 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., Josefina Canchola, Christian Diaz, Virginia Gummig, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, and Andrew Moraga (Committee Members absent: Jose Herrera, Deborah Pacheco, Dr. Joseph Rivera, and Amber Salazar).*
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *All members, staff and consultants already know each other so no need for introductions.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** – *There were no public comments.*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2015** – *The COC voted to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. made motion to approve, Member Christian Diaz seconded.*

**II. Reports/Presentations**

- a. **President's Update:** *Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:*

*1) Soccer Field Ribbon Cutting – The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. COC members were invited to join the College for this grand celebration. The total cost, including both hard and soft construction costs, was \$3.8 million.*

*2) Pico Rivera Educational Center – It was announced that the groundbreaking of the center will take place on May 5, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. across the street from El Rancho High School. All COC members were*

*invited. NOTE: the date and time of the groundbreaking were later changed to May 4, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.*

*3) Enrollment – Enrollment is still staying flat. At least we are not going down like other colleges in the area. We are the same as last year.*

*4) Top 25 Community Colleges for Hispanics – Rio Hondo College was named as a Top 25 Community Colleges that serves Hispanic students by The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine. Note: the complete article was sent to the COC shortly after the meeting that showed Rio Hondo College ranked 13<sup>th</sup> for its Latino student population at 80.7 percent and 24<sup>th</sup> for associate degrees complete by Latino students using data from 2014.*

*5) Number of Degrees – Rio Hondo College offers 51 associate degrees, 60 certificates, and 21 ADTs that guarantee transfer to Cal State Universities. Note: the number of associate degrees has increased to 23 and will soon reach 24.*

*6) Career and Technical Education (CTE) – The Chancellor's Office recently released an announcement that students who take CTE courses to maintain or add to their job skills experience a median wage increase of 13.6 percent, or about \$4,300. Statewide, the total wage gains for 2013-14 were close to \$500 million, which benefits not only the students and their families but the overall California economy. The Chancellor's Office encourages all of California's 113 community colleges to increase their CTE courses, as well as their Police & Fire, Nursing, Environmental Sciences, and Welding Programs to name a few.*

*Member Moraga asked if there are any working relationships with specific companies for internship opportunities. President Dreyfuss answered that Rio Hondo College does provide internship opportunities within our local districts and that we have a specific department who oversees these internship partnerships.*

*Member Diaz asked about the Pathway to Law School Program. President Dreyfuss shared that last week Rio Hondo College hosted an advisory meeting with high profile judges.*

**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:*

*1) Soccer Field Renovation – The project has been completed with the Ribbon Cutting taking place on March 23, 2016, as President Dreyfuss mentioned in her President's Update.*

2) *Bookstore and Print Shop Renovation* – The start of construction will begin this summer.

3) *Rio Plaza* – This project is currently in the conceptual design stage. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has agreed to fund the sidewalk from Rose Hills to College Dr. The surveying of the area to assist with the design documents has been completed and provided to the architect.

4) *Pico Rivera Educational Center* – Westberg & White Architects have started the construction drawings.

5) *L-Tower Seismic Upgrade* – Construction drawings are currently being reviewed by DSA.

- c. **Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report:** Vice President 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 from October to December 2015. This report lists the different expenditures and the descriptions next to each one. The final page of this summary shows that between October and December of 2015, the College spent \$1.7 million quarter to date (QTD). Some projects are fading out like the Soccer Field Renovation with new ones coming on board.

The second report that lists **Fund 42, Fund 41 and Fund 35** in the heading, includes all the details for each project by listing each vendor per project, and how much has been paid to each vendor by funds.

The third report titled **Project Details** lists the various categories for architect fees and various consultants by projects.

The fourth and final report is the **Summary of Project Expenditures** which shows all the projects per fiscal year. This report captures all the expenditures from July 1, 2004 to December 31, 2015 by Project #s.

Member Diaz asked if the bond has an end date.

Superintendent/President Dreyfuss explained the College has sold three series: A, B, C. The 2015-16 tax rate is \$27.12 per \$100,000. But, as the economy goes up, the AV will also go up.

Member Hidalgo referred to page 7 of the Project Details report and asked about the Soccer Field Renovation. It shows that as of December 31, 2015, \$13,460 was spent. What is \$176,835 in the next column?

Superintendent/President Dreyfuss explained that's the PMSM Architect fees. Member Hidalgo mentioned that the column doesn't have a

heading. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss explained that's cumulative amount up to now. Vice President Armstrong mentioned that the column heading should be TTD Detail, and the next column should be TTD Summary.

Member Moraga asked if the College receives property taxes. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss shared that the College receives about \$10 million from EPA Prop 30 and an additional \$6 million from local taxes. The College's total revenue is about \$80 million.

**d. Other Business:** There were no other business items discussed.

**e. Future Meeting Date and Place:** The next meeting will take place on June 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

### **III. Comments from Committee Members**

Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. shared that the College seems to be moving closer and closer to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century. Although he will not be able to attend the Soccer Field Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, since he will be in Oakland that day, he will be attending the Pico Rivera Educational Center Groundbreaking.

Member Chanchola who works for the Puente Project at UC Berkeley shared that the Rio Hondo College team went to visit, and that the transfer rates are improving. She also brought up the point that there's a lot of Student Success funding available, which many students can benefit from.

Member Moraga asked if he could ask a follow up question at this time. Is the office that works with internships for the entire College or does each division have their own office? Superintendent/President Dreyfuss replied that the office is for the entire College through active recruitment by the faculty and advisory committee members. She gave an example of Rio Hondo College's internship partnership with the City of Pico Rivera, the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce, El Rancho Unified School District, and LACOE.

Member Hidalgo thanked Rio Hondo College for all they do for the community. He shared that he has neighbors that attend other community colleges such as Mt. Sac and ELAC. He asked if this was due to their open enrollments to encourage other students outside their districts to attend their respective community colleges. He shared that he was glad to see Rio Hondo College ranked in the top 20 community colleges, nationwide. He also shared that most of the colleges that are ranked high in enrolling Hispanic students tend to rank low in Hispanics attaining associate degrees. He'd like to see this gap improve. He stated that the enrollment data from 2014 is total enrollment of headcount and not percentage.

*Member Canchola shared that students may need to take classes at multiple colleges to reach their academic goals.*

*Member Gummig shared that on Earth Day on April 20, 2016, the College will be unveiling the first-ever hydration station on campus. She hopes the administration enjoys all the Earth Day activities being planned. Superintendent/President Dreyfuss commended the ASRHC student leaders for all the hard work they put into making the hydration station a reality.*

*Member Diaz congratulated the College for the completion of the Soccer Field, which places the College on the map. He is also excited to be working with the College through the El Monte Promise Foundation partnership.*

*Chair De Los Reyes shared that she is looking forward to attending the Soccer Field Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.*

**IV. Adjournment** – *The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Member Canchola.*