

RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens Oversight Committee

Tuesday, June 21, 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 6:26 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, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, Deborah Pacheco, and Virginia Gummig (Committee Members absent: Christian Diaz, Jose Herrera, Andrew Moraga, Dr. Joseph Rivera, and Amber Salazar).*
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *Rudy Viramontes of Del Terra introduced himself and the COC welcomed him.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** – *There were no public comments.*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2016** – *The COC voted to approve the minutes. Member Josefina Canchola made motion to approve, Vice Chair Fernando Centeno, Jr. seconded.*

II. Reports/Presentations

- a. **President's Update:** *Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:*
 - 1) *Commencement – Commencement was held on May 26, 2016 in Parking Lot A, for the second year in a row. The College received many compliments last year that the new venue was more grand and spacious than previous years. Thus, the College decided to use the same location again this year. President Dreyfuss reported on the status of this year's Commencement: 650 students participated in Commencement; 1,400 students graduated; 1,800 degrees were awarded; and, there was a 40% increase in degrees awarded compared to the previous year. This is a big jump in degrees awarded, which aligns with the College's goal to increase*

student success, retention and persistent. Transfers are much higher too, which increased by almost 50%.

2) *State of the College Address* – This year, President Dreyfuss and the Board of Trustees have presented the State of the College Address to South El Monte, Pico Rivera, Whittier and Santa Fe Springs City Council. The next one will be in El Monte and in the two unincorporated supervisors' areas that are part of our District. The purpose of the State of the College is to give both councilmembers and community members an update on the recent achievements of Rio Hondo College in both our academic programs and student services. Next year we will switch back to our community forums, which will take place every other year.

3) *Summer Semester* – The College is in the second week of the first session of summer classes. Enrollment is the same as last year, unlike other colleges that are experiencing lower enrollment.

4) *State Approval of the L Tower* – The College received approval from the Chancellor's Office and the Department of Finance to start the bidding process, followed by construction of the L Tower. Construction is scheduled to commence in January 2017.

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* – Construction has been completed. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place on March 23, 2016. Pre and post pictures were shown of the artificial turf, lighting and bleachers as well as a picture of the ceremony. As part of the meeting packet, the COC Members received a copy of the Whittier Daily News article on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony published on the same day of the event.

2) *Bookstore and Print Shop Renovation* – The start of construction began on June 8, 2016. The anticipated completion date is August 19, 2016. The existing bookstore is 4,109 sq. ft., compared to the new area that will be 6,682 sq. ft. The existing print shop is 937 sq. ft., compared to the new area that will be 1,760 sq. ft.

3) *Pico Rivera Educational Center* – drawings were submitted to DSA on March 29, 2016. DSA has provided comments and the architect is currently preparing responses to DSA's comments. The completion of major construction for this project will be in August 2016. Conceptual renderings were shown.

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. Construction started this

summer. The surveying of the area to assist with the design documents has been complete and has been provided to the architect. The architect is working on the design documents for the County Land Developing Department.

5) L-Tower Seismic Upgrade – The construction drawings were DSA approved on June 7, 2016. Pre-qualification applications are currently being analyzed. Construction is anticipated to start in October 2016 and go through June 2018. A conceptual rendering was shown of the building.

Member Hidalgo asked if the College has considered the trend of books being purchased on the internet such as on Amazon. He asked what is the rationale behind the expansion of the square footage of both the bookstore and print shop.

President Dreyfuss explained that the current bookstore is very small and cramped. The students are forced to line up outside at the beginning of the semester. There isn't enough room for cashiers to be placed inside, so the cashiers are placed outside. As for the print shop, both faculty and administration need to print large quantities of materials, e.g. syllabi, exams, board agendas, etc.

- c. **Bond Quarterly Expenditure Reports:** Vice President Armstrong explained there are two reports in the packet. The first report is the **Projects Expenditure Summary** that summarizes activities from January to March 2016. This report lists the different expenditures and the descriptions next to each one. The final page of this summary shows that between January and March of 2016, the College spent \$6,382,968 quarter to date (QTD). Out of this amount, the purchase of the Santa Fe Springs Fire Tech Land makes up the majority of the expenditures of \$5,489,332 as shown on the second page of this report. Vice President Armstrong highlighted the last column of this report with the heading TTD Expense vs Budget. She explained that when there is a 100% in this column, the project has been completed.

The second report titled **Project Details** lists the expenses per vendor.

Member Pacheco asked whether the College will be expanding the facilities of the Child Development Center (CDC) to allow for more children to attend.

President Dreyfuss informed the COC Members that the College does not have enough children enrolled in the CDC. The facility, which was constructed about 20 years ago, is sufficient to meet the College's current needs. She reminded the Committee Members that the childcare at the CDC is open to all community members, not just Rio Hondo College students and staff.

Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. turned to the second report that Vice President Armstrong made reference to earlier. He asked about the negative number in parenthesis in the amount of \$119,060 on page 5.

President Dreyfuss said that she will need to look into this as she doesn't know what this adjustment is about. She will need to get back to the COC Members about this amount.

- d. Election of Officers:** *Chair de los Reyes nominated Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. as Chair. Member Hidalgo seconded. All Committee Members voted in favor. As for the election of the Vice Chair position, it was decided that the election of this position will be postponed until September 2016 as today's meeting attendance was small and new members will be joining the COC Members at the September meeting.*
- e. Future Meeting Date and Place:** *The next meeting will take place on September 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.*

III. Comments from Committee Members

Chair de los Reyes thanked all the Committee Members for their time serving on this committee. She shared that it was great to see so many projects from start to finish like the Soccer Field.

Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. thanked Chair de los Reyes for serving as Chair from 2014-16, and thanked everyone for their vote of confidence to serve as incoming Chair. He had a great time at Commencement as he attended to support friends who graduated from Rio Hondo College in May. He also shared that it was great to see the beautification of the Soccer Field Complex, of which he has taken the time to walk on the track field a couple of times.

Member Canchola congratulated Chair de los Reyes for her leadership and congratulated Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. for his new role as incoming Chair. She complimented President Dreyfuss for her leadership and the College for going out to the community to where the residents are instead of expecting the community to come to the campus. The beautification of the campus helps the College's students feel they are important and welcomed.

Member Hidalgo thanked Chair de los Reyes for her leadership and keeping the committee in order. He acknowledged the transformation of the nearby landfill to a recreational area.

Member Pacheco thanked Chair de los Reyes for her leadership. She shared that one of the elementary schools she visits, the students call themselves "scholars" not students. This same school prominently displays the Rio Hondo College marketing banners. It's wonderful to see that the mindset of

the students is that they will be attending college. It's also great to hear the comments of the parents that their children are determined to go to college.

President Dreyfuss informed the Committee Members about the Adopt-A-School program the College has implemented by adopted 10 middle schools in the District: two schools in the district areas of each Board of Trustees. There are also a couple of elementary schools that have been adopted as part of this program. Last year, we had a College day for 500 students to visit our campus as part of the Adopt-A-School program's inaugural Discover Rio Day. We will do it again this year and will invite the COC Members.

Member Pacheco said there's hope within the students for a brighter future that was not seen about 20 years ago.

Member Hidalgo echoed Member Pacheco's sentiments.

Chair de los Reyes shared that she still sees the students at her daughter's school wear their Rio Hondo College t-shirts on College Day.

Member Gummig thanked President Dreyfuss and Vice President Armstrong by saying that she learns a lot from both of them.

IV. Adjournment – *The meeting was adjourned at 7:07p.m. Vice Chair Centeno, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Member Canchola.*