

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

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Monday, March 13, 2017 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 6:25 p.m.*
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance** – *Vice Chair Andrew Moraga led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- c. **Roll Call** – *Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Vice Chair Andrew Moraga, Josefina Canchola, Robert Ruiz, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, Christian Diaz, Margie Rodriguez, and Adrian Garcia (Committee Members absent: Chair Fernando Centeno, Jr., Jose Herrera, Dr. Monica Sanchez, and Esi Mathis).*
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *All COC Members present introduced themselves. Robert Ruiz, the newest member, introduced himself as representing the students at Rio Hondo College. He was appointed by Student Trustee Brandon Pablo Leon. Trustee Gary Mendez was also present during the welcome and introductions portion of the meeting and introduced himself.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** – *There were no public comments.*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2016** – *The COC voted to approve the minutes. Member Josefina Canchola made motion to approve; Member Christian Diaz seconded.*

**II. Reports/Presentations**

- a. **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE:** *Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:*
  - 1) *Enrollment: Rio Hondo College is two percent down in enrollment when comparing enrollment from the most recent fall semester to the previous fall semester. President Dreyfuss shared that the College needs everyone's help to increase enrollment. The College is also offering a*

*second set of late classes during the spring semester, for eight weeks, which begin on April 1, 2017.*

*Director of Marketing & Communications Ruthie Flores Retana shared that Rio Hondo College will be advertised in this year's Dodger Commemorative Yearbook. President Dreyfuss informed the committee members that the College is working very hard to encourage concurrent enrollment with high school students, which was a topic that was discussed during the 2017 CEO Symposium for California Community Colleges.*

*President Dreyfuss informed the committee members that enrollment has been decreasing across all school levels, including K-12. She assured the committee members that the decrease in FTES will not affect the reduction of College staff. Rio Hondo's Counseling Department are calling the students who decided not to come back in the spring semester to find out their reasons for not returning. This will help the College understand the recurring issue around retention. The College is also doing outreach in the northern unincorporated county area near our District, such as Avocado Heights, to help recruit and increase enrollment.*

*2) Community Education Forums: On Thursday, March 16 the College will be hosting its third Community Education Forum of the year at Whittier High School. The forum in Santa Fe Springs will take place on April 20, and the forum in Pico Rivera will take place on May 11. The first two forums took place in El Monte/South El Monte at EMEC on Jan. 19 and in East Whittier at La Serna High School on Feb. 23.*

*3) Taste of Rio: President Dreyfuss invited the COC members to attend the Foundation's annual fundraiser for scholarships on April 28 at 6pm. It is a very fun and festive event with great food and door prizes. All the committee members will receive an invitation.*

*4) Commencement: President Dreyfuss also invited the COC members to attend Commencement on Thursday, May 25, a very grand event for both our students and their families, which will take place in Parking Lot A at 6:00 p.m.*

*5) Metrolink: Supervisor Hilda Solis asked Rio Hondo College to host a Metrolink meeting to engage a feasibility study to explore building a Metrolink Station directly across from the campus. The projected completion date for this project is about five years, which we hope will increase our enrollment.*

*6) L-Tower Seismic Upgrade: The District awarded the bid of \$28 million plus for the seismic construction for a general contractor and its subcontractors. In addition to construction cost, there are soft costs such as program management fees and others.*

**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) Bookstore & Print Shop Renovation: Construction started on June 8, 2016. This project is 99% complete. The existing bookstore is 4,109 sq. ft., compared to the new bookstore that will be 6,682 sq. ft. The existing print shop is 937 sq. ft., compared to the new print shop that will be 1,760 sq. ft. Updated photos of the inside areas of both the bookstore and the print shop were shown.*

*2) Rio Hondo College Educational Center at Pico Rivera: This project is also about 99% complete. Pictures of the open quad where the outdoor tables will be installed were illustrated, as well as the landscape and signage.*

*3) L-Tower Seismic Upgrade: Construction is anticipated from 2017 through 2018. The image of the rendering was shown.*

*4) Rio Plaza: This project is currently in the conceptual design stage. There will be a transit stop for students to wait for the bus and/or be dropped off. There will also be a tram station. Restrooms will be installed, in addition to bicycle lockers.*

*President Dreyfuss shared the idea of conducting a tour of the new buildings and areas during the June meeting to illustrate the use of bond money.*

*Vice Chair Moraga asked about the projected opening of the Rio Plaza.*

*Quemada answered that this project is still in the design stage to then be submitted to DSA, which takes about 6-8 months for DSA review.*

*President Dreyfuss shared that the budget for this project is \$3.2 million, which is all from our bond. The only expense that was covered by the County was the sidewalk from Rose Hills to Rio Hondo College.*

**c. BOND QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE REPORTS:** *President Dreyfuss explained there are four reports in the packet. The first report is the **Projects Expenditure Summary** that summarizes activities as of December 31, 2016. 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 2016, the College spent \$1,892,886 quarter to date (QTD) and \$173,443,906 total to date (TTD). She highlighted that the most expensive project this quarter was the Educational Center at Pico Rivera as noted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of this summary.*

The second report is the **Project Details**. This report has additional details of the amount spent in the quarter with the name of the various vendors used by the District.

The third report is the **Summary of Project Expenditures**. This report lists every project and is identified by a number, which shows the expenditures in total for each project from the inception of the bond up until now. She noted that the Cumulative Total on page 2 of this report of \$173,443,906 is the same amount noted in the first report.

The fourth and final report is **Fund #42, Fund #41, & Fund #35**. This report highlights all the capital project expenditures within each fund in detail.

President Dreyfuss mentioned the Wray Theater renovation hasn't started yet.

Vice Chair Moraga asked about the difference between SFS Center and SWEC. President Dreyfuss shared that same bond money was used for the SFS Center's offices and facilities. She shared that these two centers are very different by explaining that SWEC is one of the three educational centers.

**d. OTHER BUSINESS**

*There was no other business.*

- e. FUTURE MEETING DATE AND PLACE:** *The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, followed by a tour of the campus, followed by the meeting, so please be here early so we could start on time.*

**III. Comments from Committee Members**

*President Dreyfuss invited the COC members to attend the remaining Community Education Forums on March 16, April 20 and May 11. She reminded the COC members that the purpose of these forums is to inform the residents about the outstanding programs and student services Rio Hondo College offers. There will be door prizes and refreshments.*

*Member Rodriguez asked about the Adopt-A-Schools in Trustee Mendez's District. President Dreyfuss will provide the list.*

*Christian Diaz thanked the Marketing and Communications Team for the marketing materials that were provided to all the Committee members at the beginning of the meeting.*

*Member Canchola shared that Cal State San Bernardino is hosting a Latino Education Advocacy Day on March 30, which is a national conference. This year's theme focuses on the immigration changes by the Administration and California's response. This event is free by registering online. Policymakers and educational leaders will share resources on how to support undocumented students. The original cast of Zoot Suit will be there too! She invited all the COC members to attend and to spread the word.*

*Member Rodriguez announced that on March 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be buses and vans transporting students to do community service in honor of Cesar Chavez. One of his sons or grandsons will speak at the celebration, which is by invitation only. Anywhere from 600-1,000 students will be attending.*

**IV. Adjournment** – *The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Member Christian Ruiz moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Josefina Canchola seconded.*