RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens Oversight Committee

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Rio Hondo Community College Board Room
Dinner, Meeting and Tour

Minutes

I. Call To Order

   a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

   b. Pledge of Allegiance – Member Josefina Canchola led the Pledge of Allegiance.

   c. Roll Call – Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Chair Fernando Centeno, Jr., Vice Chair Andrew Moraga, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, Christian Diaz, Jose Herrera, Josefina Canchola, Dr. Monica Sanchez, Margie Rodriguez, Robert Ruiz and Adrian Garcia.

   d. Welcome and Introductions – All COC Members present introduced themselves.

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

   f. Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2017 – The COC voted to approve the minutes. Member Canchola made motion to approve, Member Rodriguez seconded.

II. Reports/Presentations

   a. President’s Update: Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:

      1) Commencement 2017 – President Dreyfuss reported that approximately 1800 degrees were awarded to 1500 students at this year’s commencement on May 25, 2017. Some students earned two or more degrees. Approximately 1200 graduates attended this year's ceremony. The keynote speaker was an advisory member of the Pathway to Law School program. This was an appropriate choice for a speaker since this was the first graduating class from the program. He shared his experiences about being an undocumented student and his journey to becoming an attorney.
2) Rio Hondo College Promise – President Dreyfuss reported that in May Rio Hondo launched the Rio Hondo College Promise that offers free tuition to high school graduates from the College’s district, as well as priority registration. She also mentioned that Supervisor Hilda Solis attended the event.

3) A Taste of Rio (ATOR) – in May, the Foundation hosted it’s annual A Taste of Rio fundraiser. President Dreyfuss said that this was the largest ATOR with over 400 participants in attendance. Because of the higher attendance, extended areas of the campus had to be utilized – Mid Quad, Rio Café and the Café outdoor patio areas. She invited the committee to attend next year. She hopes to increase attendance to possibly 1,000 participants in a few years.

4) Summer Session 2017 – President Dreyfuss reported that the Summer Session has begun. There are six sections of summer classes being offered again this year to enroll more students.

Member Hidalgo asked for clarification on the March 2017 agenda item that noted enrollment was down 2 percent. He asked if that was for the calendar year or fiscal year.

President Dreyfuss stated that the final enrollment report is pending and it will be released in October. She said that the fall semester registration will show number of students and units to calculate Full-time Equivalent Students (FTES). She noted that there are 4 times a year when the College reports attendance. She also explained how FTES are calculated.

Member Sanchez asked about how concurrent enrollment is determined at the high schools.

President Dreyfuss said that we have classes at many high schools.

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) L-Tower Seismic Upgrade – Mr. Quemada informed the committee that on February 27, 2017 construction began on Phase 1 of the L-Tower Seismic Upgrade that will create a fire access road behind the building to bring it up to code for the fire department. The road will be built to withstand the weight of a fire truck.

2) Rio Plaza – Mr. Quemada reported that the Rio Plaza project is currently in the conceptual design stage. The architect is currently working on documents before submitting for the County Land Development
Departments for final review. The plaza will include a transit station and a student drop-off zone, as well as an upper campus tram access and ADA accessibility for students.

Member Hidalgo asked if there is a plan for security given the plaza location. He also pointed out that there is a growing number of homelessness around and that we should be conscious about all the changes happening in the area.

Mr. Quemada answered that the plaza would be utilized during school hours and that the restrooms will not be open after school hours. He also mentioned that cameras will be installed near that area, as well as the blue light security system access to blue light phones that reach campus security and/or law enforcement.

President Dreyfuss also pointed out that the security booth is located near the area of the future plaza.

Vice Chair Moraga asked if the transit systems were also brought in to the discussions of the future plaza and its access.

Mr. Quemada said that Norwalk Transit, Foothill Transit and the MTA have been included in some meetings about the plaza.

Member Herrera asked if there was a bond measure planned for the future. He asked how the leftover bond funds will be used.

President Dreyfuss said the Series A Bond funds have been used with the exception of the $62 million outstanding bonds. The cost of the L-Tower seismic retrofit will cost $10+ million from bond funds and will be completed in the next couple of years. President Dreyfuss said that the College may possibly seek a bond passage in 2020.

c. **Bond Quarterly Expenditure Reports:** President Dreyfuss explained there are two reports in the packet. The first report is the Projects Expenditure Summary that summarizes activities from January to March 2017. 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 2017, the College spent $1,049,691 quarter to date (QTD) and $174,484,872 year to date (YTD).

This report has all numbers combined of the $245 million bond authorized. President Dreyfuss mentioned that the College is interested in pursing another bond in 2020 to remodel the science, business and art buildings.

Member Hererra asked if the percentage use for assessed value growth was a little bit over 33 percent.
President Dreyfuss said yes it was about 33 percent.

d. Future Meeting Date and Place: The next meeting will take place on September 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

III. Comments from Committee Members

Vice Chair Moraga said he and his wife attended the community education forum in Santa Fe Springs and found it to be very informative. He mentioned that at his daughter’s girl scout meeting, a parent had mentioned how impacted the nursing program was at Cerritos College and that he recommended that they look into Rio Hondo’s nursing program. He also congratulated Member Herrera on the birth of his child.

President Dreyfuss commented that the community forums were held to show the community what the College has to offer. She asked for feedback from the attendees as they were leaving the forum and received good comments.

Member Sanchez said she attended the A Taste of Rio and won the Dodger basket. She mentioned that she drove by the Educational Center at Pico Rivera and commented that the signage was nice. She also had a question about the expenditure report for Measure A Bond on page 3, project line 31 Educational Center at Pico Rivera. The amount need to be changed to $2 million from 1.8 million.

President Dreyfuss said that even though the project is finished there are still some invoices that need to be paid.

Member Sanchez asked about low enrollment concerns. President Dreyfuss said that in an effort to increase enrollment she recently met with the principals of the local high schools and asked them what they thought would be best to offer the students to increase attendance.

Member Sanchez said that she works at the Los Angeles County Office of Education and offered to assist in any way needed.

Member Canchola reported that she met a student from Pioneer High School and informed him about the Rio Promise and now he will be attending Rio Hondo in the fall. She also shared an article in the LA times concerning homelessness in the California State University system reporting that 1 in 10 students are homeless and 1 in 5 do not have enough food. She also said that a report is coming out by the president of the University of California and their student homelessness issues. She expects that community college students are affected as well and that is of concern to her. A suggestion she had was to invite speaker Ruben
Sanchez who is a state expert that makes presentation at the student and administration levels. She would assist in contacting him to come on campus if the administration is interested.

President Dreyfuss informed the committee that the College is working on ways to help students. For the second year, the College has provided food during finals week – morning breakfast burritos, pizza for dinner. There are also granola bars and other snacks at each division office throughout the semester for students to take. She mentioned that the student government organization purchased a large refrigerator and freezer to be located in a designated room to store food to give students on a weekly basis. She also shared that at the City of Whittier Mayor’s Breakfast homelessness was discussed which shows that it’s a problem in the city and county.

Member Canchola expressed her concern for the Dreamers and to offer support as legally possible.

Member Rodriguez asked how the College Board of Trustees felt about the homelessness issue among students.

President Dreyfuss said that the Trustees are aware of the issue and will discuss how to provide assistance.

Members Rodriguez and Canchola offered to assist in any way needed.

Member Sanchez mentioned that because of Prop 64 the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is conducting a survey throughout the county as it relates to marijuana and prescription drug use. If it shows that there is an impact among youth hopefully there will be some resources for colleges to offer students.

Member Canchola said that the UCLA extension program is interested in working in this area to offer activities that best work for the community. She volunteered to organize a meeting with UCLA extension and Rio Hondo.

President Dreyfuss said she had some communication with UCLA extension about offering classes at the off campus sites. She will assign an administrator to contact Member Canchola to further discuss the possibilities of working together with UCLA extension.

Member Hidalgo commented that his granddaughter attended a community college based on her AP classes. He suggested that might be something to consider offering high schools students to guarantee admission.
President Dreyfuss informed him that the College has already been offering that opportunity to high school students for many years.

Member Hererra reported that East Whittier passed a bond and needs members to serve on their Citizen's Oversight Committee and if anyone lives east of Painter Ave. or knows someone to please let them know about this opportunity.

Chair Centeno mentioned that after the community education forum at Pico Rivera he had an impromptu meeting with two students and a parent at a local restaurant resulting in all wanting to attend classes this fall. On June 1 he attended the Career and Technical Education Open House and learned more about the opportunity for students to get a BA on a fast track. He said that he was not able to attend ATOR this year, but did send family and friends. He also apologized for not attending the last meeting, but had to miss due to a car accident.

IV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. Chair Centeno, moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Canchola seconded.

V. Tour of Campus – The committee toured the campus with President Dreyfuss and Mr. Quemada. The tour included the new locations of the Bookstore and Print Shop. The group boarded a tram to visit the Administration of Justice and Physical Education complexes. The tour ended with a walk through the Student Services building first floor, then through the Mid Quad and concluded in the Learning Resource Center second floor.