Members Present:  Mr. André Quintero (Presiding), Ms. Maria Elena Martinez, Mr. Gary Mendez, Ms. Michelle Yanez, Mr. Leo Camalich

Members Absent:  Ms. Beatrice Montenegro (Student Trustee)

Secretary to the Board:  Dr. Rose Marie Joyce

Staff Members:  Ms. Teresa Dreyfuss, Dr. Andy Howard, Mr. Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Ms. Sandy Sandello (Recorder)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

Mr. Quintero called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Russell Castaneda-Calleros led the pledge of allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Ms. Beatrice Montenegro was absent.

D. Open Communication for Public Comment

The were no comments made.

II. STUDY SESSION

• Building Program Update

III. ACTION ITEM

A. FINANCE & BUSINESS

1. Out of State Travel & Conferences

64. It was moved by Mr. Camalich, seconded by Mr. Mendez and carried unanimously, that the Board of Trustees approve the following Board and Staff members to attend the following educational conference and/or meetings. Motion carried.
Lyla Eddington (April 4-7), Rose Marie Joyce and Russell Castaneda Calleros to travel to Washington D.C., April 6 & 7, 2005 to meet with Congressional representatives along with the Federal Lobbyist.

Susanna Levitt to attend the TESOL Convention in San Antonio, Texas, March 30-April 3, 2005.

2. **Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification and Commissioning for the Learning Resource Center (LRC)**

   It was moved by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Camalich and carried unanimously, that the Board of Trustees award contract to GLUMAC Consultant for Leadership in Energy Environmental Design (LEED) Certification and Commissioning for the Learning Resource Center (LRC), in an amount not to exceed $69,500 from Bond Funds and authorize the Administration to negotiate and execute contracts on behalf of the District. Motion carried.

3. **IT Technical Advisor**

   It was moved by Ms. Yanez, seconded by Mr. Camalich and carried unanimously, that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to negotiate a contract with Vantage Technology Consulting Group as IT Technical Advisor Services. Cost not to exceed $185,000 from bond proceeds. Motion carried.

**B. PRESIDENT’S OFFICE**

1. **Resolution Opposing Two-Tiered Retirement System for California’s State and Local Government Employees**

   It was moved by Mr. Mendez, seconded by Ms. Yanez and carried unanimously, that the Board of Trustees consider the adoption of the attached resolution Opposing Two-Tiered Retirement System for California’s State and Local Government Employees. Motion carried.

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Accreditation Mid-Term Report**

   This Item was tabled for return at the April 13, 2005 Regular Board Meeting.

**V. CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was recessed to Closed Session at 9:50 p.m. No action was taken in closed session.

(Pursuant to Section 54957)

- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE
- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
  - Title: Superintendent/President
(Pursuant to Section 54957.6)

- CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
  - Agency Negotiator: Rose Marie Joyce, Ph.D.
  - Employee Organizations: CSEA, RHCFA, Management/Confidential

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was reconvened at 10:45 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 13, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Graves Middle School, 13243 E. Los Nietos Road, Whittier, California.
Resolution opposing two-tiered retirement system
for California’s state and local government employees

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Community College District have a clear interest in attracting and retaining the highest caliber of public employees in order to insure that taxpayers get the quality of service they deserve and have come to expect; and

WHEREAS, A defined-benefit pension system – as provided by CalPERS – that offers nurses, teachers, firefighters, police officers and other public employees the security and dignity of a guaranteed pension upon retirement has been central to our efforts to recruit and retain the best and the brightest to serve our taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, A privatized defined contribution retirement system, such as that proposed by Assemblyman Keith Richman in his Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 and Assembly Special Session Constitutional Amendment 1, will dramatically increase an employee’s risk of losing their hard-earned retirement and result in additional retirement costs for already fiscally strapped state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Imposing a defined contribution retirement system on new employees will diminish the funding base for the current defined benefit retirement plan and will likely, over time, impose unacceptable additional costs on taxpayers to maintain the existing retirement system; and

WHEREAS, Studies performed by the Nebraska Retirement Systems and the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association, as well as numerous studies from the financial community, conclude that defined contribution retirement plans are likely to provide inadequate retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, the effort to convert defined-benefit pensions to define-contribution plans is part of a concerted national attack on workers’ retirement security, including efforts to privatize Social Security;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees strongly opposes the imposition of any mandatory defined-contribution retirement system – whether for new or existing employees – as well as any mandate to create an optional plan for converting employees from a defined-benefit plan to a defined-contribution plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees specifically opposes Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5, Special Session Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1, as well as any and all measures proposed for the upcoming special election statewide ballot that would mandate the replacement of the current defined-benefit retirement system with a private defined-contribution system – whether for new or existing employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees will take all appropriate action to actively oppose the imposition of a mandated defined-contribution retirement system upon our taxpayers and our employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees urges California lawmakers and other stakeholders to develop meaningful reform within the current defined benefit retirement structure that assists in stabilizing employer contribution rates, while also protecting our ability to recruit and retain skilled public servants to serve California taxpayers.