RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens Oversight Committee

Tuesday, December 19, 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 6:11 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance – Member Albert Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Roll Call – Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Chair Fernando Centeno, Jr., Vice Chair Andrew Moraga, Josefina Canchola, Christian Diaz, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, Alicia Marie Lopez, Owen Newcomer, Dr. Monica Sanchez, Margie Rodriguez, and Albert Lopez. Committee Member absent: Jose Herrera.

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 – September 26, 2017 – The COC voted to approve the minutes. Member Newcomer made motion to approve; Member Canchola seconded.

g. Annual Photo – Chair Centeno, Jr. proposed to move this agenda item of the “Annual Photo” after agenda item II F. “Future Meeting Dates and Place” to allow latecomers to be included in the annual photo. Member Diaz made motion to approve; Member Dr. Sanchez seconded.

II. Reports/Presentations

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

1) CA Guiding Pathways and Chancellor’s Guided Pathways – Rio Hondo College was selected as one of 20 community colleges in the state to improve student learning through the Guided Pathways initiative. This initiative will help students complete their community college journey in a
shorter amount of time, to earn a degree, to earn a certificate, or to transfer to a four-year university in three years. Right now the average length for a community college to transfer is six years. Rio Hondo College started the campus-wide Guided Pathways initiative in Sept. 2017. The Chancellor's Office will be providing financial support during the next five years. We held a Guided Pathways and Student Equity Summit on Dec. 12, 2017 with an attendance of approximately 160. Our FLEX Day to kick-off spring semester on Jan. 26, 2018 will focus on our Guided Pathways initiative.

2) New Food Service at Rio Café – today is the last time we will have food from Sodexo at our COC meetings as the food vendor committee unanimously voted to select a new vendor, effective Dec. 20, 2017.

3) Enrollment – enrollment is down along with quite a few colleges. This is not surprising because the trend is that when the economy is good, enrollment goes down as students do not have to take additional classes, and instead enter the workforce.

b. Annual Report: Director of Marketing and Communications Ruthie Retana informed the COC members that today's picture will be published in the upcoming Annual Report. The page in the Annual Report where the picture will appear will inform the community that the COC ensures that the District's Measure A Bond Funds are expensed properly and effectively. The Annual Report will be mailed to more than 100,000 residents.

c. 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 construction began on Feb. 27, 2017. The Contractor is currently working on the fire access road. He updated the committee that we are now back on track in terms of construction after unforeseen delays of Phase 1 of the fire access road project with the retaining wall. Several pictures of the retaining wall were shown. Mr. Quemada shared that construction has resumed for the fire access road being built behind the Administration building to bring it up to code for the fire department. The road will be built to withstand the weight of a fire truck. The fire access road will only be used for emergencies.

2) Rio Plaza – Mr. Quemada reported that the Rio Plaza project is currently in the conceptual design stage. The architect is working on design documents for the County Land Development Department for final review. The geological report is currently being done to provide soil conditions prior to start of construction documents. The plaza will include a transit station, a student drop-off zone, an upper campus tram access, and
ADA accessibility for students. Construction documents will be ready to submit to DSA by early January 2018.

Chair Centeno, Jr. asked how much of a delay was there.

Mr. Quemada said he could not give a definite answer.

d. Bond Audit Financial & Performance Reports: President Dreyfuss turned everyone's attention to the audit report titled: “Measure A General Obligation Bonds Election 2004 Financial and Performance Audits” dated June 30, 2017. She reported that the College received a clean audit and highlighted sections in the report showing that the College is in compliance.

e. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Reports: Vice President Yulian Ligioso explained there are two reports in the packet. The first report is the Projects Expenditure Summary that summarizes activities from July to September 2017. The second report is the Project Details. The final pages of each report show that between July and September of 2017, the College spent $85,852 quarter to date (QTD) and $175,984,883 year to date (YTD). He explained that this quarter we only spent $85,852 of Bond Measure A Funds compared to last quarter of $1,412,179 because there were only three substantive expenditures, which were the following: Inspection & Testing Services at El Monte Educational Center of $32,345; Campus Wide Improvements of $14,000; and Del Terra - PM services of $13,112. He explained that part of the L Tower funding comes from state funds and that we want to first spend down the state funds before spending local funds. We need to exhaust state funds first.

Vice Chair Moraga asked about the justifications for the L Tower renovations.

President Dreyfuss answered that the reasons are safety and security.

Member Dr. Hidalgo asked whether there were additional staff hired by the College.

President Dreyfuss answered no, but that staff time was reallocated.

Dr. Sanchez asked the reason behind changing the audit firm.

President Dreyfuss said that it is considered good practice to switch, especially since the College had used the previous firm for many years. She added that the College is considering switching the firm again.
d. Future Meeting Date and Place: The next meeting will take place on March 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

III. Comments from Committee Members

Member Newcomer wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Member Canchola announced Member Rodriguez's Cesar Chavez celebration. She mentioned that the College would be invited. She wished everyone a healthy, abundant holiday.

Member Albert Lopez wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Member Dr. Hidalgo announced that he will have spinal surgery soon. But, before then, he plans to vacation on a cruise to South America. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Member Rodriguez is planning the 18th year celebration of Cesar Chavez in Santa Fe Springs. She will also start her own celebration of Cesar Chavez in South Whittier, and will be inviting schools in that area as well as schools in Pico Rivera. April 12 is the date of the event. On March 21, she'll be taking students to where Cesar Chavez is buried in La Paz. She blessed everyone, and asked for our troops to be brought home safe.

Vice Chair Moraga encouraged everyone to stay vigilant during the holidays.

Member Diaz congratulated the College on the clean audit. He wished everyone a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Member Dr. Sanchez announced that the City of Pico Rivera will be kicking of their 60th Anniversary on Jan. 28.

Administrators Retana and Ligioso, and Project Manager Quemada, wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

President Dreyfuss thanked everyone for their services and also wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Chair Centeno, Jr. welcomed Member Lopez as a new member of the COC.

Member Canchola asked for Member Lopez to share a bit about herself.
Member Lopez shared that she is a graduate of El Monte High School and attended UCLA to become a paralegal.

IV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Member Dr. Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Canchola seconded.