

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

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Tuesday, March 19, 2019 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 6:06 p.m.*
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance** – *Vice Chair Josefina Canchola led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- c. **Roll Call** – *Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Chair Dr. Monica Sanchez, Vice Chair Josefina Canchola, Christian Diaz, Caro Jauregui, Alicia Marie Lopez, Margie Rodriguez, Alejandro Robles, Margie Rodriguez, and Jaime Valencia López, MPA. Committee Members absent: Leonel Barrera, Jr. and Owen Newcomer.*
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *All COC Members introduced themselves and stated the name of the Board of Trustee who appointed them to the committee. President Dreyfuss shared that this will be her last meeting before her retirement at the end of June 2019.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** – *None*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2018** – *The COC Members voted to approve the minutes with three abstentions from Vice Chair Canchola and Members Graciela Ferrada and Valencia López, MPA. Member Valencia López, MPA made motion to approve; Member Diaz seconded.*

**II. Reports/Presentations**

- a. **Bond Council Presentations:** *Ann La Morena Rohlin of Norton Rose Fulbright gave a presentation on General Obligation Bonds, Proposition 39, the Brown Act, and the COC Role and Responsibilities. During her presentation she made specific references to the documents inside a large binder the COC Members were given. In addition, the language inside the voter ballot for Measure A was handed out during her presentation.*

*Vice Chair Canchola brought up what occurred in the December 2018 meeting regarding the run-off election of the Vice Chair position, which*

*was not the election of the Chair position. She explained that the COC Members were not aware that the previous Chair was terming out; therefore, they did not know that a new Chair needed to be elected.*

*Ms. Rohlin stated that the agenda does not need to be specific. Instead, it only needs to be general.*

*Chair Dr. Sanchez recommended this point be discussed after Ms. Rohlin's presentation.*

*Ms. Rohlin continued with her presentation.*

*Vice President Ligioso read out loud the exact language of the December 2018 agenda.*

*Ms. Rohlin once again continued with her presentation.*

*Member Valencia López, MPA requested for a tour to be given to the current and new COC Members.*

*President Dreyfuss shared that Vice President Ligioso will arrange this tour to take place.*

*Member Valencia López, MPA also asked about resignations.*

*Ms. Rohlin and President Dreyfuss answered his question.*

*Ms. Rohlin emphasized the point to not conduct any business over email or group texts.*

- b. Form 700 Update:** *Vice President of Finance and Business Yulian Ligioso reminded the COC Members to submit their conflict of interest form that are due in April 2019. He would be happy to assist if anyone needs support.*

*Chair Dr. Sanchez asked if everyone had submitted their forms. She also shared that these forms are public and that COC Members could opt to use the Rio Hondo College mailing address for privacy and security reasons instead of their personal mailing address.*

*If a member does not turn in the form on time, the COC Member will be responsible to pay the penalty fee of \$100.*

- c. President's Update:** *Superintendent/President Dreyfuss reported on the following items:*

- 1) *During the February Special Board Meeting, Ms. Rohlin provided the bond update to the board and recommended for the board to refinance a portion of its \$245 million bond that voters approved in 2004. The board approved to refinance during the March Board Meeting. Ms. Rohlin explained that this is similar to refinancing your home. There is an opportunity for taxpayers to save if the College refinances the bonds. The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate.*
- 2) *President Dreyfuss invited the COC Members to attend the Taste of Rio on April 26, 2019. The Foundation is expecting 700 guests, which will help to raise scholarship funds for students.*
- 3) *President Dreyfuss invited the COC Members to attend Commencement on May 23, 2019. Rio Hondo College will see an increase in the number of graduates who receive associate degrees, transfer to four-year universities, and enter into vocational and professional careers.*
- 4) *President Dreyfuss will be honored on March 28 with the 2019 Distinguished Woman of the Year Award by Assembly Majority Leader Ian C. Calderon, who represents the 57<sup>th</sup> District, at the Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs.*
- 5) *President Dreyfuss will also be honored by the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (HOT) with the Education Award at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Positive Image Awards at the Friendly Hills Country Club on April 28.*
- 6) *President Dreyfuss was recognized by the California Community Colleges for her 32 years of service to Rio Hondo College and received a nice plaque.*
- 7) *President Dreyfuss' Retirement Celebration will be held on May 9 at the Doubletree Hotel in Uptown Whittier at 5:30 p.m. Although there will be no cost for COC Members to attend, they are encouraged to donate to the President Dreyfuss Scholarship Fund for Rio Hondo College students.*

*Member Ferrada asked if there will be special ceremonies during Commencement.*

*President Dreyfuss answered that this year will mark the first time the College will have a bachelor's degree ceremony. Nursing has their own special ceremony the day before Commencement. She stated that there are no special identity ceremonies, and that the*

*graduations for the Fire and Police Academies do not align with our general commencement.*

**d. Building Program Progress Report:** *Luis Rojas of Del Terra provided a report on the Building Program, which includes the following current and upcoming projects. This presentation is the same one that was given to the Board of Trustees by Jerry Quemada of Del Terra on March 13.*

*1) L-Tower Seismic Upgrade – Mr. Rojas informed the committee that the installation of the Fibre Reinforce Polymer (FRP) wrapping continues around the interior columns and the concrete beams. This procedure provides seismic reinforcement to the columns and beams for additional structural strength during the removal of the concrete exterior panels. He also gave an update on the installation of the plumbing lines for the new restrooms throughout the building. Several photos were shown, including the rendering of the finished project. Gilbert Meraz of Del Terra talked about the wraps that will hold the concrete in from bursting out in case of an earthquake. He also shared that all the concrete walls will be removed altogether. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades are also being made. Before there was a lot more concrete along the exterior. This is changing to all glass. The new board room will be located in the L-Tower.*

*2) Rio Plaza – Mr. Rojas reported that the Rio Plaza project construction documents have been submitted to the Division of State Architect (DSA). The architect has received the DSA comments for Fire Life Safety and Accessibility, and Structural. Structural comments are still pending due to the California Geological Survey (CGS) Report review process. A few different images of the rendering were shown. The location will be at the front entrance of the campus off Workman Mill Rd. with plenty of lighting during the evening. This is all ADA accessible. Shuttles will take students up to the main buildings and classrooms. Two all gender bathrooms will be installed with codes for safety.*

*Member Dr. Sanchez asked about the homeless issue.*

*Member Ferrada observed that the small, circular benches are not conducive for homeless.*

*Mr. Rojas agreed.*

*Member Valencia López, MPA asked to see the benches on the rendering, specifically if there is another option outside of concrete benches.*

*Mr. Rojas explained that concrete is the best option as this material lends itself to less vandalism and theft.*

*Member Valencia López, MPA is asking for this to be rethought as this will be the first impression the College gives to the community for aesthetic purposes.*

*President Dreyfuss shared that this design was recommended by the architect. We would need to ask the architect to work on another design.*

*Member Lopez shared that perhaps murals could be looked into.*

*President Dreyfuss mentioned about the project Supervisor Hahn's Office is building for Rio Hondo College students who are homeless.*

### *3) Other Projects –*

*a) Prop 39 HVAC Modernization – Mr. Rojas reported that the existing valves in the Science, Wray Theatre, Music and Business buildings are being upgraded. He also reported out about the recommissioning of the Central Plant and the replacing of the existing controls to digital display. The project is 95% complete.*

*b) Completed Bond Projects by Del Terra are the Administration of Justice; PE Complex (KDA); El Monte Educational Center; Softball Field Renovation; Flag Poles and Veterans Memorial; Soccer Field Renovation; Rio Hondo College Educational Center at Pico Rivera; and the Bookstore & Print Shop. Pictures of the completed projects were shown.*

*c) Del Terra & URS joint projects completed are the Learning Resource Center (LRC); Applied Technology; Central Plant & Infrastructure; Bridge Access; Upper & Lower Quad Projects; Student Services; Student Union; South Whittier Educational Center; S.T.A.R.S. Center; Upper Tier Stairs; HVAC Replacement for IT Department; AJ Annex Pistol Range Beam Replacement; and the AJ Annex Remodel.*

*Member Jauregui asked if the current board is discussing a new bond for the upcoming 2020 election.*

*Ms. Rohlin shared that the deadline is August 2019 for the November 2020 ballot. A lot of schools are planning this due to a large voter turnout.*

*Chair Dr. Sanchez announced that if any COC Members have any issues to please notify her. They could also contact President Dreyfuss and Vice President Ligioso regarding any finance questions.*

- e. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Reports:** *Vice President of Finance and Business Yulian Ligioso explained there are two reports in the Bond Measure A packet. The first report is the Projects Expenditure Summary that summarizes each project expenditure from October to December 2019. The second report is the Project Details that breaks down the project by each vendor.*

*The College has spent a total of \$177,689,480 (TTD) with \$732,678 being spent from October to December 2018 (QTD) as shown on the bottom of page 10. Vice President Ligioso pointed out that the following four major expenditures make up roughly 88% of the QTD expenses: Bookstore/Printing, Campus Efficiency Project, Construction Services at El Rancho USD/Pico Rivera Educational Center, and Program Management Services.*

**Other Business:** *Vice Chair Canchola related what occurred two meetings ago when a Chair person was elected and that there was a tie in the Vice Chair position between herself and Dr. Sanchez. Technically, the COC could have had a run-off. But, it was decided for the run-off to be moved to the December meeting. Vice Chair Canchola emailed her statement before the December meeting stating the reasons she was interested in the Vice Chair position as Dr. Sanchez was going to say hers verbally. Instead, what transpired changed the scenario as the person that was chosen to serve as Chair at the previous meeting was actually termed out. Thus, the elections for both positions of Chair and Vice Chair were held in December. In terms of process, the COC Members needed to have the term expiration dates ahead of time as this would have avoided confusion. Vice Chair Canchola questioned the process and stated that the COC needs to pay attention to the processes that are used as the COC is a public body. If she would have known that the December elections was going to consist of both the Chair and Vice Chair, she would have probably decided to run for Chair instead of Vice Chair. She emphasized that transparency is needed, as well as clear and open communication.*

*Chair Dr. Sanchez provided her cell phone number and encouraged the COC Members that if they had any question, to please call her directly. She requested that if any COC Members have any agenda item requests, they need to submit them at least one week before the COC meeting.*

*Chair Dr. Sanchez shared that both she and Vice Chair Canchola will be reaching out to each new COC Member. She also recommended that the dates of the COC Meetings be posted on the website.*

- f. Future Meeting Date and Place:** *The next meeting will take place on July 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room with an optional tour that will be*

*coordinated by Vice President Yulian Ligioso and his Facilities Services after the meeting adjourns.*

### **III. Comments from Committee Members**

*Vice Chair Canchola welcomed all the new members to the COC. She encouraged everyone to ask questions. She shared that the Puente Team from Rio Hondo College will be participating in a statewide meeting for Puente in Riverside from March 20 through March 22 on best practices, and will hear from advisory board members. For those who know of high school students who are interested in a leadership development program, applications are being accepted. If students are selected, the program is completely free. The program is looking for sophomores and juniors who have potential and have a conscious about their communities.*

*Member Valencia López, MPA requested that an accent be placed on his last name, and to add MPA.*

*Member Rodriguez shared about the Cesar Chavez Day of Service involvement in collaboration with Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office of which Vice Chair Canchola is the Chair.*

*Member Diaz congratulated President Dreyfuss on her retirement.*

*Chair Dr. Sanchez invited all the COC Members to attend A Taste of Rio as it is a fundraiser for student scholarships. She shared that she sits on the committee and encourage the COC Members to take a look at the sponsorship form.*

*President Dreyfuss thanked Ms. Rohlin for her presentation.*

### **IV. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. Member Diaz moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice Chair Canchola seconded.**