

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

Monday, April 20, 2020 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 6:11 p.m.*
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance** – *The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.*
- c. **Roll Call** – *Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Chair Dr. Monica Sanchez, Vice Chair Josefina Canchola, Caro Jauregui, Alicia Marie Lopez, Leonel Barrera, Leticia Alvidrez, and Jaime Valencia López, MPA.*

Committee Members absent: Margie Rodriguez and Student Chairwoman Diana Macias.
- d. **Welcome and Introductions** – *Dr. Reyes introduced Mohamed Rassmy as the Interim Director of Accounting at Rio Hondo College.*
- e. **Open Communication for Public Comment** – *None*
- f. **Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2020** – *The COC Members voted to approve the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes, with an amendment to correct the members of the Annual Report Sub-Committee. Member Leo Barrera made the motion to approve; Member Caro Jauregui, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

II. Reports/Presentations

A. Annual Report Subcommittee Update:

The COC Annual Report subcommittee was formed to provide the annual report on a yearly basis. The members include: Yasmin Ferrada, Dr. Monica Sanchez, Josefina Canchola and Jaime Valencia Lopez, MPA. The subcommittee group met with staff from Del Terra Construction on March 6, 2020 at the Pico Rivera satellite campus. The Del Terra staff member attendees include: Jerry Quemada, Rudy Viramontes, and Luis Rojas. A draft of the annual report was reviewed and discussed. COC

members gave their suggestions for the annual report. It was suggested that Rio Hondo staff attend the next subcommittee meeting. Chair Dr. Monica Sanchez stated that there were questions regarding the financials at the subcommittee meeting. Member Josefina Canchola noted that the absence of Rio Hondo staff at the subcommittee meeting was hindering to their progress on the annual report. Chair Dr. Monica Sanchez confirmed that the photos and formatting were almost finalized and her introductory paragraph was pending. Interim Vice President of Finance & Business, Chris Hawken, asked for specific questions that came out of the most recent subcommittee meetings. Chair Dr. Monica Sanchez could not recall the specific questions from the subcommittee meeting, but Jerry Quemada stated he would look through the subcommittee meeting notes. Mr. Quemada stated that the questions involved the funds remaining. Superintendent/President Dr. Arturo Reyes indicated there is approximately \$17.4 million left in that bond account.

Member Josefina Canchola stated the importance of establishing this annual report on a yearly basis, as it's important to have a process in place to have a regular cycle. Dr. Monica Sanchez confirmed she would email Rio Hondo staff Regina Mendoza with potential dates for the subcommittee to meet in an effort to meet and finalize the annual report.

B. Building Program Progress Report – Jerry Quemada

Jerry Quemada of Del Terra provided a report on the Building Program. Mr. Quemada reviewed the work shown in the photos and gave updates accordingly. The percentage complete for the structural steel column is 70%. With the interior, the hydraulic piping installation is at 90% and the fire sprinkler system is about 85%. Mr. Quemada gave an overview of the curtain wall system preparation with the glass and the attachments, and also discussed the seismic upgrade. Mr. Quemada discussed the Rio Plaza Project and the review has taken longer than anticipated with the LA County Public Works Department. The need for additional shade was also discussed. Mr. Quemada also addressed the Wray Theater & Music building projects and the required upgrades. The actual theater location will remain and stay the same. However, there will be a second floor mezzanine that will allow additional seating. Dr. Monica Sanchez asked about the delays with the coronavirus restrictions. Mr. Quemada stated that the contractors are coming to work wearing masks because they are considered essential.

VP Hawken stated that the current bond balances are a little over \$18 million. These funds are not necessarily available because some of these funds may already be designated or encumbered for existing issues and also have to plan for future issues. The Wray Theater was originally put forward as a single building. There are serious concerns about that project

from California State office and they are very concerned that the scope of the project could not be beyond what the project was approved for. There is also concern that the funds are not currently present. There is also a water tower issue because those two obviously intertwined pretty seriously. Additionally, another issue at Rio Hondo College is that the science building was never certified after all the improvements have been made on that building. Another item on the list is the hydraulic line that is causing major issues on campus. There has not been heat on campus for about three weeks with the water line, which is causing leaking and major problems. The state chancellor's office is very concerned that there is no money in the bank.

Member Caro Jauregui questioned how this happened and how we will correct the issue and make sure going forward that these issues don't happen again. Dr. Arturo Reyes commented that our Rio Hondo staff is dealing with these issues with integrity and are asking the questions as well. Continuing to pay these dollars for all these projects, knowing that we don't have the money to finish these projects, is throwing away taxpayers money. This has costed a lot more money than anybody anticipated. There is also the issue with the L-tower with the impression that it is going to be finished and there have been delays. There are also some expectations from the construction company that there are additional costs that haven't been addressed, so the number that we have for the construction of the L-Tower is actually a lot lower than the expectations from the construction company. Rio Hondo staff has spent the last three days in conversation with the State Department about the issues.

Member Jaime Lopez asked about the final confirmation from the state department, as to whether the project can move ahead. Dr. Arturo Reyes stated that where the project is today and with all the different expenditures, there doesn't seem to be enough money. The state chancellor's office understands our predicament. VP Chris Hawken agreed that Rio Hondo is in a fortunate position as staff reached out to the department with transparency.

C. Coronavirus COVID-19 – Chris Hawken

Rio Hondo College is doing its best to keep our staff working from home as best as possible. Working from home is challenging because our office environment carries a lot of hard copy paperwork, and our departments have rotating schedules for staff to come in to the campus. Face masks and sanitizers were ordered, and staff members have their assigned laptops to work from home. The goal is to try to follow the mandate of

keeping the student's education going, while keeping everybody safe and healthy on campus.

D. President's Update – Dr. Arturo Reyes

Dr. Arturo Reyes commented on the incredible work that the college, staff, faculty, managers and trustees have done to put Rio Hondo College in a position where students can be supported in this transition due to the coronavirus emergency. The faculty and classified staff are primarily working from home, with some rotating in and out of their offices. Rio Hondo students have struggled with this pandemic taking effect, and our students will receive support. It is a challenge to get the support out as soon as possible, but we have put a plan in place. Rio Hondo College has given over 400 laptops to our students and our campus has about 100 Wi-Fi hotspots so that our students can have Wi-Fi. Our library remains partially open for students. Our students are a priority and our staff recognize that students may have issues with housing. Given the circumstances, our team is doing the best for our students.

E. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report – Chris Hawken & Mohamed Rassmy

Mohamed Rassmy and Chris Hawken reviewed and discussed the quarterly expenditure reports.

F. Future Meeting Dates and Places – *The next meeting will take place on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Additional meeting dates for will be discussed and agreed upon at the next COC meeting.*

Adjournment – *The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.*