Minutes

I. Call to Order

a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm

b. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

c. Roll Call – Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Members present: Chair Alicia Marie Lopez, Luis Guzman, Jaime Valencia Lopez, Leticia Alvidrez, Rocio Parra, Raquel Torres-Retana, Margarita Gonzalez Macedonio, Irma Peniche, Marcos Garcia, and student representative Brandon De La Torre.

Committee Members absent: Randall Dabbs.

d. Welcome and Introductions – All members introduced themselves, along with the names of the trustees that appointed them to the COC. President Teresa Dreyfuss welcomed all attendees and thanked everyone for their introductions.

e. Open Communication for Public Comment – None

f. Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2020 – The COC Members voted to approve the December 15, 2020 COC meeting minutes. Member Raquel Torres-Retana made the motion to approve; Member Luis Guzman seconded the motion. Member Jaime Valencia Lopez abstained. There were no objections. The motion was approved.

II. Reports/Presentations

A. President’s Update – Teresa Dreyfuss

President Teresa Dreyfuss welcomed all new members to the COC. Student enrollment is down by 11%, Fiscal Year 2020/21 in comparison to 2019/20. Fortunately, Rio Hondo College has federal funding support that will assist with reimbursement. However, Rio Hondo College is working to improve enrollment overall.

Congratulations to Trustee Anais Medina Diaz, who was recently elected at a Board of Trustee for Area 1, City of El Monte.
Recently, Rio Hondo College was able to allocate COVID-19 vaccinations for those employees age 65 and older. Additionally, LA County is allocating 50 vaccination shots for our employees, and these will be prioritized for the staff within the Facilities Department. The child care employees, as well as the employees who come to campus, will also be prioritized as more slots are open for vaccinations.

In regards to the Wray Theater/Music Room, the phase of preliminary design is finished. Since the board of trustees approved the first phase, this phase is currently working on drawings with the architect to do the remodeling of the theater, music room and Campus Inn.

B. Bond Council Orientation – Ann La Morena Rohlin

Attorney Ann La Morena Rohlin introduced herself as a partner at Norton Rose Fulbright law firm. Attorney Rohlin has served as Bond and Disclosure Counsel to the District for the past 20 years. Attorney Rohlin presented and reviewed the following: Proposition 39 Ballot Measure, Brown Act Summary, review of the board resolution, a project list of all financed projects under the March 2004 bond, the COC by-laws, RHC Annual Report, Performance Audited Financial Statements (Fiscal Year June 30, 2020), and the Bond Measure A Expenditure Reports as of December 2020.

C. Bond Expenditure Reports – Mohamed Rassmy

Stephen Kibui, Vice President of Finance & Business, reviewed the expenditure reports which included: “Bond Measure A Project Details,” “Bond Breakdown,” and the “Bond Measure A Project Expenditure Summary.” Both reports included financials as of December 2020.

Member Luis Guzman asked for clarification on the total funding from the state. VP Stephen Kibui confirmed that the state funded approximately $14 million, and also reviewed the details expenditure report and discussed the monitoring process of bond funds.

Member Leticia Alvidrez inquired about the decision process on the type of projects, and how these projects and funds are allocated or distributed. VP President Dreyfuss confirmed that the budget is estimated each time there is a bond expenditure, and the bond expenditure will go to the board for review and approval. Thus, the budget is realigned with the board approved expenditures. Once the project is finished, there is a need to align the surplus of the budget versus actual expenditure.

Student representative Brandon De La Torres asked if there would be a spreadsheet of the financial expenditure reports open to the public. VP
Stephen Kibui confirmed that the bond financials and reports are posted on our website.

D. Bond Audit Reports – Stephen Kibui
Vice President of Finance & Business, Stephen Kibui explained that the purpose of an audit is to express an opinion to an audience. VP Stephen Kibui presented the details of the bond audit reports. The bond audit reports were prepared by the public account firm Cossolias Wilson Dominguez Leavitt (CWDL). These audited reports include: Rio Hondo Financial Statements (Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020) and Rio Hondo Bond Performance (Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020).

E. Bond Update/Del Terra Presentation
Jerry Quemada, of Del Terra Construction, presented the updated project and reviewed the status of the bond projects, as well as the percentages completed. There was an overview of the seismic upgrade and a review of the percentages of different items throughout the project, many of which are almost at 100%. Overall, the project progress is currently at 71% for the month of March 2021. It’s estimated that next month, April 2021, the glass fiber and concrete panels will be fairly close to complete. The exterior weather proofing around the windows and walls is at 40% complete. Full infrastructure is at 80% complete.

Student Representative Brandon De La Torre asked about the August 2021 timeframe for completion. Jerry Quemada stated that the contractor is moving towards August 2021 date as the substantial completion date.

Student Representative Brandon De La Torres asked if the restrooms would be wheelchair compliant/accessible. Jerry Quemada confirmed that these restrooms have ADA accessibility.

F. Other Business
Member Leticia Alvidrez mentioned that this past year has been a difficult year to get students to apply to college and there has been a drop in college applications. The focus for their high school has been to push community college. There was a recent open house and currently there are 10 students out of a class of 118 that are registered for community college. There will also be an open house on March 27, 2021. Their high school would also like to maintain a strong partnership with Rio Hondo College.

G. Future Meeting Dates and Places
The next COC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 5:30pm via a virtual Zoom meeting.
III. Comments from Committee Members

Member Luis Guzman mentioned that in his role working at LA County Department of Mental health, he is also working with certain individuals at Rio Hondo College to expand services to the students.

Student Representative Brandon De La Torre mentioned that at the previous meeting the need to fully expand and expose various psychological resources to more students was discussed. There is an issue with students not checking their emails for these types of notices.

Member Raquel Torres-Retana information related to an organization partnered with University of Southern California, which is providing basic needs support and a scholarship opportunity for community college students.

IV. Adjournment

Member Luis Guzman motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Member Raquel Torres-Retana seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.