

# RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING

October 8, 2019

1. **Call Open Session to Order** – Board President Fernandez called the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:30 p.m. on October 8, 2019 at Bates Elementary School, Courtland, California.
2. **Roll Call of Members:**
  - Alicia Fernandez, President
  - Don Olson, Vice President
  - Marilyn Riley, Clerk (Absent)
  - Jennifer Stone, Member
  - Chris Elliott, Member (Absent)
  - Rafaela Casillas, Member
  - Dan Mahoney, Member

Also present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent
3. **Review, Approve the Closed Session Agenda and Adjourn to Closed Session**
  - 3.1 Board President Fernandez announced items on the Closed Session Agenda
  - 3.2 Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items. – *None to report*
4. **Board President Fernandez asked for a motion to approve the Closed Session agenda and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session @ 5:33 pm**

*Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*
5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:45 pm**
  - 5.1 Roll was retaken. Members Riley and Elliott were absent. All other members were present. Also present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent; Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer and Jennifer Gaston, Recorder.
  - 5.2 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maria Elena Becerra, Principal of Bates Elementary School
6. **Report of Action taken, if any, during the Closed Session** (Government Code Section 54957.1)

Board President Fernandez reported that the Board received information; no action taken during Closed Session.
7. **Review and Approve the Open Session Agenda**

Member Fernandez asked for a motion to approve the Open Session Agenda

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*
8. **Public Comment:** Amanda Maiava, a mother of a tenth-grade student at Delta High School voiced her concerns on the policy regarding the return of cell phones once they have been taken away from students during the school day. Although she is in support of not allowing phone usage during the school day, she is not in favor of the policy that allows a principal to require a parent to pick up the phone from the school office once it has been taken way, even if it was the student's first offense.

Bill Hodges, President of the RDUTA, announced that he attended a Political Activist Academy in Southern California over the past weekend. The decision was on the upcoming schools and Community First Initiative, that he hopes will make it on the November 2020 ballot. He would like the support of the RDUSD's Board of Trustees on the Schools and Community First Initiative.
9. **Reports, Presentations, Information**
  - 9.1 Board Member(s) and Superintendent Report(s) and/or Presentation(s) –

- 9.1.1 Board Members' Report(s): Member Olson reported that he attended and participated in the Homecoming activities at Rio Vista High School. During the game Member Olson observed staff members requesting individuals to move their motorhome from the premises. The motorhome was illegally parked on the grass field above the stadium. Member Olson was happy to report that the Rio Vista Football Team won their Homecoming game.

Member Stone reported that she attended the Homecoming game at Rio Vista High School. The students were very creative and worked very hard on the floats. Member Stone also attended the Science Night held at Walnut Grove Elementary School. The event had an amazing turnout with approximately 50 families in attendance. She was pleased with the parent involvement for this event.

Member Fernandez reported that she attended the Public Hearing regarding the District's Proposed Redistricting Plan on Saturday, September 28th at 10:00am. The Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization held the hearing at the River Delta Unified School District's Office. The County Committee Office Board members asked many questions before voting on the redistricting action item. While at the hearing, Member Fernandez asked the County Committee Members what the process would be to change the way our Board members are elected; changing from an "At Large" election system to a "Trustee Area" election system. Member Fernandez announced that she would like additional information on this process. Member Mahoney was in agreement with the prospect of changing the electoral system used by the District.

Member Fernandez reported that she and Member Riley made site visits to Isleton Elementary School and Walnut Grove Elementary School. Isleton had a project that they were working on, which was fun to watch. The children and teachers at both school sites were engaged. It was a positive experience for both Members Riley and Fernandez.

- 9.1.2 Committee Report(s): None to report

- 9.1.3 Superintendent Wright's Report(s): Ms. Wright reported that she also attended the Public Hearing meeting regarding the Proposed Redistricting Plan. The motion passed in favor of redistricting River Delta Unified School District to the "Even 7" map by a 5:0:2 vote.

Mrs. Wright was invited to the Isleton Elementary School's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom to work with the student encouraging them to have lofty and unlimited dreams in life. Mrs. Wright gave each student a journal to write down their dreams and things they want to accomplish in life. This was the seventh year Mrs. Wright worked with the students and they were very excited to decorate and write in their journals.

Mrs. Wright was extremely proud of the participation and success of the NAMI Walk and Mental Health Awareness Fair at Rio Vista High School. A guest speaker came to motivate the students on supporting each other and to help them feel connected. Many community organizations supported the event and the Rio Vista High School staff members were very involved working in the different fair booths. Mrs. Wright stated it was nice to be in a space where it felt like each person was connected to something.

Delta High School and Clarksburg Middle School hosted a week-long program called the "Starts with Hello" Sandy Hook Promise. Each day they provided positive and encouraging videos. Mrs. Wright noted that the Sandy Hook Promise videos are very powerful. The CMS leadership class made a video to encourage students to stay connected and to reach out to others who may be feeling alone. First responders were involved with this event.



Mrs. Wright reported that she had the privilege to walk the Delta Elementary Charter School campus with Superintendent Lewis and Principal Blair. They observed instruction in the classrooms. It was a pleasure being around such positivity.

Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Keema-Aston had the opportunity to attend a Charter School Authorizers Conference. The focus of the conference was on the renewal and oversight process. She would like to establish a process for continuous improvement between both organizations which focuses on the children.

Mrs. Wright met with Amanda Beck, a Clarksburg community member regarding the Community Service Project with the Yolo Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Clarksburg. The community group was pleased to inform Mrs. Wright that they would be attending the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting, and that they were recommended to receive a grant for \$106,000 to draft the master plans for the community park on the campuses Delta High School and Clarksburg Middle School. The plans would also include the renovation of the athletic fields and the possibility of an aquatic center. The community group plans on attending the November Board meeting with an update and inform the Board if they were approved to receive the grant funds.

Mrs. Wright and Mr. Hodges, the River Delta Unified Teachers Association's President had their monthly meeting to discuss celebrations throughout the district as well as areas that need improvement. Mrs. Wright thanked him for his time and collaboration.

9.2 Business Services' Reports and/or Presentations on: Routine Restricted Maintenance; Deferred Maintenance; Maintenance and Operations; Transportation Department; Food Services Department; District Technology; and District Budget – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer; Ken Gaston, Directors of MOT

9.2.1 ADA/Enrollment Report – Elizabeth Keema-Aston reported that the enrollment for September had a decrease of six students. However, the total ADA had a decrease of 12. The enrollment districtwide was 1966 and the ADA was 1880, yielding 95.6% of ADA.

9.2.2 Monthly Financial Report – Elizabeth Keema-Aston reported as submitted

9.2.3 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT reported that over the past month his staff has been working on regular routine maintenance projects. Mr. Gaston also reported that he toured an electric bus company and spoke to them regarding the VW Mitigation Grant Funds and other school bus grant opportunities. Several districts have electric buses in their fleet of vehicles. Twin Rivers USD has 13 electric buses in use. Elk Grove USD has one going into service as well as Pittsburg USD. The buses would work well for our District in the day-to-day, to-and-from bus routes. However, they will not be able to accommodate most field trips. The transportation department has a vacancy for a bus driver.

9.3 Education Services' Reports and/or Presentation(s) - Nicole Latimer, Director of Educational Services and Special Education

9.3.1 Educational Services Update – Nicole Latimer provided the Board with an update of Educational Services – The Educational Services department sorted through the final shipment of Twig Science materials, sent out Aeries parent letters, reviewed all courses in Aeries and CALPADS, made homeless/foster youth home visits, researched the potential increase in Pathway options for Delta High School, continued the work on the Education Pathway for Rio Vista High School and certified the District's data for TOMS/CALPADS. The District's TOSA, Steve Wright rebuilt the databases that hold the usernames and passwords districtwide for the educational programs. Mr. Wright provided several technology workshops for the teachers and with the collaboration of the teachers created a Transitional Kindergarten report card. Ms. Latimer shared photos of activities from each of the school sites.



9.3.2 Presentation showing the results of the progress measurement of the Local Indicators on the California Dashboard – Nicole Latimer explained that California’s Accountability System is based on multiple measures that assess how local education agencies (LEA) and schools are meeting the needs of their students. The performance on measures are reported on the California School Dashboard. Ms. Latimer mentioned that the Dashboard is comprised of the data collected by the LEAs that are not included at the state level by self-reporting directly into the Dashboard as well as the seven Local Indicators. Two of the seven are for the County Office of Education.

9.3.3 Early Education Programs – Carrie Norris, Principal of Walnut Grove Elementary School and Stacy Wallace, Principal of Isleton Elementary School – Principal Norris gave an update on the Sacramento First 5 Program including photos of the daily activities, family engagement events and resources available to the families. She explained the partnerships and collaboration with the YMCA and Healthy Start Programs.

Principal Wallace provided the Board with information on the California State Preschool in Isleton. She was happy to announce that the preschool is full, with a growing waitlist. A dental screening event was held. Each student waited eagerly to be seated in the chair and be seen by the dentist.

Mrs. Norris invited the Board members to visit both programs. Member Fernandez thanked the principals for providing the resources to the communities of the district and making outside referrals as needed.

9.4 River Delta Unified Teacher’s Association (RDUTA) Update – Bill Hodges thanked Mrs. Wright and Mr. Gaston for responding to a student’s email regarding the air conditioning in his classroom. Several members of the RDUTA attended the CTA Leadership Conference in Reno where the LCAP was discussed. Mr. Hodges is aware that five LCAP groups have been assembled and he stated that RDUTA has been surveying the bargaining unit members at their individual sites and he has a concern that all but one LCAP meeting has been scheduled to be held in Rio Vista. He feels the opportunity should be available for all stakeholders. Mr. Hodges would like for RDUTA to participate in the school site council meetings. Member Fernandez informed Mr. Hodges that even though a site council had members, all of the meetings are open to the public.

Mrs. Wright clarified that the LCAP Goal Collaborative Work Group meetings that have been scheduled are not in lieu of the stakeholder meetings. These meetings are in addition to the stakeholder meetings and will be used as a preparation tool. She further clarified that the process used to determine how the LCAP Goal Collaborative Work Group meetings were scheduled. Any individual could sign up to be in a Goal Group and after those individuals had signed up for the groups, doodle polls were taken to find a time and place that fit the needs of each group.

9.5 California State Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #319 Update – None to report

9.6 Public Hearing: Delta Elementary Charter School’s Charter Petition 2020-2025 – Katherine Wright

**Open Public Hearing 7:51pm**

**Public Comment:** Superintendent Wright announced that on September 26, 2019 the Delta Elementary Charter School (DECS) submitted a petition to extend the agreement for another five years ending on June 30, 2025. She noted that the petition is open tonight as a Public Hearing and will be presented to the Board at the November 12, 2019 meeting for approval. Mrs. Wright introduced Steve Lewis, Superintendent of DECS. Mr. Lewis spoke of the Charter School’s community promise. This promise is to serve the community and to have strong partners in the Delta. Mr. Lewis stated that the Charter School is an Arts and Music school and is focused on project-based learning. He thanked Mrs. Wright for her involvement and the discussion on what collaboration looks like between both the Charter School and the District. Mr. Lewis sees a collaboration around the Arts and Music Programs and other possibilities. Mr. Lewis provided the Board with accomplishments DECS has had over the past five years. He would like data to be driving force on their decision making. He is proud of the growth of student enrollment over the past five years. He stated that to be a project-based school they must have strategies to engage students as well as the staff. A large focused has



been on wellness, efforts to address mental health with the students is a top priority. Mr. Lewis encouraged all members of the Board to schedule a personal tour of the DECS campus. Peter Stone, Chief business Officer of River Charter Schools was thankful for the opportunity to address the Board and appreciative the time to work with Mrs. Keema-Aston and Mr. Gaston and is looking forward to working collaboratively in the future.

Jayson Miller, attorney from Young, Minney & Corr, LLP reported that he believes the DECS charter petition meets all statutory requirements, which presents strong program. Mr. Miller informed the Board that he will be available to answer any question throughout the process.

Dr. Lisa Lindsey, a parent of two children who attend DECS and a Special Education Advocate, spoke of her experience with the Special Education Program at DECS. She feels they have built a strong Special Education program that benefits all students of the school as well as her son, a child with special needs and who is thriving on their campus.

Gloria White, a proud parent of students from DECS and Clarksburg Middle School, shared that she is very impressed with the way DECS is involved in the community, engages parent participation and serves as a resource for her children. She is involved in the School Site Council along with staff members and has been given the opportunity to review data to help target groups that may be struggling and to make sure all students receive the services they need.

Sarah Ruiz, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at DECS, shared that she is proud to be a product of the River Delta USD. She attended Bates Elementary, as well as Delta High School. After graduation, she started working in the District at Bates Elementary School as a Kindergarten teacher. Giving back to her community is a big part of her life and she strives to be a positive role model for children.

Phil Ogilvie, Board Vice President of River Charter Schools and a product of Bates Elementary School as well as Delta High School, thanked the Board for their services, dedication and the support they have given DECS. Mr. Ogilvie is a fourth-generation farmer in the winery business. He is aware of the changes and challenges the District has had over the past years and thanked the Board for continuing the care for the children. As a resident of Clarksburg, he is thankful for the support in the mutual goal in raising the children.

Member Fernandez asked Mr. Lewis to provide a comparison of test scores between DECS and the District's comparable schools.

Member Fernandez asked Mr. Lewis to be put on the schedule for 4:30pm on November 12<sup>th</sup> to tour the DECS campus.

Member Fernandez asked if the Charter Petition indicates, in terms of priority for enrollment, that the local children receive first priority, Mr. Lewis confirmed.

### **Close Public Hearing 8:14pm**

Action on the Charter Petition for Delta Elementary Charter School will take place at the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the River Delta Unified School District Board of Trustees held on November 12, 2019.

#### **10. Consent Calendar**

10.1 Approve Board Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board, September 10, 2019

10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports

As of October 8, 2019

10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report

September 2019

10.4 Request to approve the overnight fieldtrip for Riverview Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend the Point Bonita Science Camp in Sausalito, CA from April 1-3, 2020 – Marcy Rossi

10.5 Request to approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Center of Movement to provide yoga and mindfulness classes for Isleton Elementary School at a cost not to exceed \$4,000 – Stacy Wallace

10.6 Request to pre-approve the 2019-2020 ASB, Booster Club, PTC and PTA Fundraising

events – Elizabeth Keema-Aston

10.7 Donations

**Rio Vista High School, Riverview Middle School and D.H. White Elementary School**

Rio Vista Lions Club - \$2,252 for CatapultEMS subscription

**Riverview Middle School**

Rio Vista Lions Club - \$1,139.50 for Student Planners

Beth Brockhouse - \$179.48

**Isleton Elementary School - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sly Park Science Camp**

Bruce and Ofelia Gornto - \$235

Wence, Inc (Lucy's Café) - \$235

F & M Bank - \$470

Bob's Bait Shop - \$235

*Member Stone moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*

Member Fernandez acknowledged those who donated and thanked them for their continuing support.

**Action Items -- Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on any agenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public presentation and input on all items to a maximum of 20 minutes.** With Board consent, the Board President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comment, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard and the overall length of the agenda. The Board President may take a poll of speakers for or against a particular issue and may ask that additional persons speak only if they have something new to add. (BB 9323) Anyone may appear at the Board meeting to testify in support of, or in opposition to, any item on this agenda being presented to the Board for consideration.

11. Request to approve the second and final reading of the updated or new Board Policies, Administrative Regulations and Exhibits due to new legislation, mandated language and/or citation revisions as of July 2019 – Katherine Wright

*Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*

12. Request to approve and adopt the Tentative Agreement between River Delta Unified Teacher's Association and the River Delta Unified School District for 2018-2019 – Katherine Wright

*Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*

13. Request the approval to apply for the 2019 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant (EAG) – Elizabeth Keema-Aston

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*

14. Request the approval to apply for the School Bus Funding Grant from the California VW Mitigation Settlement Trust to replace a school bus(es) and approve Resolution 773 authorizing Elizabeth Keema-Aston to accept the grant and execute necessary documents to implement this resolution – Ken Gaston

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Fernandez seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote: 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*

15. Re-Adjourn to continue Closed Session, if needed – Board President reported that re-adjourning to Closed Session was not necessary.



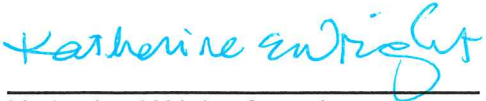
16. Report of Action taken, if any, during continued Closed Session (Government Code Section 54957.1) - Board President Fernandez reported Closed Session was not necessary – no actions to report.

17. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Board President Fernandez asked for a motion to adjourn.

*Member Casillas moved to approve, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent Riley, Elliott)*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted:

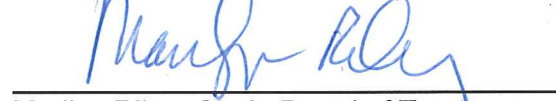


Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder

End

Approved:



Marilyn Riley, Clerk, Board of Trustees