

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

September 8, 2020

1. **Call Open Session to Order** – Board President Olson called the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:31 p.m. on September 8, 2020. As the result of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), on March 12, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20. This order includes directives canceling large gatherings. The Executive Order also allows local legislative bodies to hold meetings via conference calls while still satisfying state transparency requirements. The Governor has also issued Executive Order N-33-20, prohibiting people from leaving their homes or places of residence except to access necessary supplies and services or to engage in specified critical infrastructure employment. The health and well-being of our students, staff and community members are the top priority for the Board of Trustee of River Delta Unified School District. To facilitate this process the meeting was held remotely via Zoom Webinar. Access was available to the public to attend with audio and video.

We have modified the meeting procedures while the Shelter-in-Place for Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) is active. President Fernandez gave instructions on how the public is to address the Board during public comment or on any agendized item.

2. **Roll Call of Members:**

Don Olson, President

Marilyn Riley, Clerk

Jennifer Stone, Member

Rafaela Casillas, Member

Dan Mahoney, Member

Alicia Fernandez, (Resigned August 26, 2020) Vacant Trustee Seat

Chris Elliott, Member (Resigned August 12, 2020) Area dissolved due to redistricting in 2019

Also, present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent; Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer and Jennifer Gaston, Recorder.

3. **Review, Approve the Closed Session Agenda and Adjourn to Closed Session**

3.1 Board President Olson announced items on the Closed Session Agenda

3.2 Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items. – *None to report*

4. **Board President Olson asked for a motion to approve the Closed Session agenda and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session @ 5:34 pm**

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

5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:42 pm**

5.1 Roll was retaken. All active members were present, Member Casillas had some technical difficulties.

Also, present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent; Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer and Jennifer Gaston, Recorder.

5.2 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Olson, Board President

6. **Report of Action taken, if any, during the Closed Session** (Government Code Section 54957.1)

Board President Olson reported that during Closed Session, the Board did not take any action.

7. **Review and Approve the Open Session Agenda**

Board President Olson asked for a motion to approve the Open Session Agenda.

Member Riley moved to approve, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 4 (Ayes: Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 3 (Absent/Abstain: Casillas – Technical difficulty, Fernandez - resigned, Elliott – resigned)

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Latimer reported that there were no comments submitted.

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 Mahoney reported that he and Mr. Gaston met with a developer interested in building a solar station on River Road in Rio Vista. The developer requested the District enter into an agreement and, by doing so, the District's electric costs would have a significant decrease. However, the company is requesting a 20-year commitment. Member Mahoney stated that Mr. Gaston is an amazing negotiator. Mr. Gaston asked pointed and clarifying questions to many components of the agreement. The developer has not responded.

9.1.2 Superintendent Wright's report(s) Superintendent Wright began her report by informing all that Board Member Fernandez was needing to resign her position on the Board effective immediately. Mrs. Wright asked if Member Fernandez would like to say words.

Member Fernandez stated that this was one of the most difficult decisions she has ever had to make and that she will miss seeing everyone at the monthly meetings. Over the past 14 years on the Board, there were many times that were overwhelming, stating the most challenging was during budget cuts that effected the students and schools. She also mentioned that leaving during a pandemic is worrisome and she fears that many students will be falling behind academically. Member Fernandez thanked Cabinet Members, Superintendent Wright, Nicole Latimer, Sharon Silva, Bonnie Kauzlarich, Jennifer Gaston and Ken Gaston for all they do for the District. She had a heartfelt thank you for each Board member and what they have meant to her. Member Fernandez stated that overall, together as a Board, she is most proud of the decisions made by the Board that are best for the students of the district. Lastly, she asked the Board to keep steering the ship in the right direction, remembering to ensure equity for all students.

Several Board members thanked Alicia Fernandez for her years of service and stated that they will miss her.

Superintendent Wright reported that she started working at Delta High and Clarksburg Middle School as the Vice Principal when Member Fernandez join the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Wright mentioned that it was very welcoming to have such an active Board member involved at the school sites. Superintendent Wright expressed her deepest gratitude for the 14 years of services, her selflessness, devotion, reading and understanding all materials presented and has thought of all the students of the district prior to making a decision. We will especially miss of her attention to detail, compassion and empathy for all student especially those represented in our minority and under privileged groups. Superintendent wished Member Fernandez all the best in her future endeavors for the greater good.

Superintendent Wright welcomed Tom Anderson back into the River Delta family as the Director of Special Education. His former role in the District was Director of Educational Services/Director of Special Education/Principal of River Delta High/Elementary and Wind River all at the same time, from 2008-2011. Superintendent Wright gave a brief description of his background during the time he was not working in the District.

Superintendent Wright thanked all the employees who have taken on may tasks to conquer the overwhelming duties required to meet all the new state and local mandates during the Covid pandemic.

The admin team has been working on opening the Assessment and Emergency Counseling Centers at two of the district school sites as well as reviewing and understanding the state guidance for in-person instruction for small cohorts, such as, the special education population, homeless and foster youth and English learners, especially those who have limited or no access in their home. The team is also working to understand the Elementary School Waiver process. Superintendent Wright reported that

the team has completed the Draft Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for 2020-2021. She explained that she anticipated that changes will be needed prior to adoption.

Superintendent Wright reported that the California Department of Education (CDE) has mandated changes to account for attendance during Distance Learning, requiring daily participation of each student. Mrs. Wright thanked Codi Agan, Nicholas Casey and Samy D'Amico for creating a template and instructions for teachers districtwide to use for taking attendance meeting the mandates. The template will be used until Aeries, the student information system software, has been updated and the District has created training videos and instructions on how to use the updated Aeries software.

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 – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer, Chief Business Officer; Ken Gaston, Director of MOT

9.2.1 Monthly Financial Report – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer reported that the 45-day revised will be added in September.

9.2.2 D.H. White Modular Classroom Construction Project Update – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer reported that the project is on budget and that Mr. Gaston will report on the status of the project during his report.

9.2.3 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT noted that the report is reported as submitted.

Mr. Gaston spoke of the meeting with Member Mahoney and the developer regarding the solar project. He stated that the meeting was not as he expected. Although there may be long-term savings on electricity, the long-term effects would need to be determined prior to asking for the Board's approval for making the 20-year commitment.

Mr. Gaston requested that Mr. Casey inspect the classrooms to make sure there were not any items that need to be addressed. Mr. Casey provided a list of final items to be completed. The contractor completed his portion of the work on the modular classrooms. Mr. Gaston made note that the remaining tasks are to install window blinds, bring in additional furniture and technology ports need to be configured. To conclude, when we have an idea of the remaining funds in the budget, a determination of what ground covering will be installed such as grass, decomposed granite, or asphalt.

Mr. Gaston met with the Sacramento County of Education on the fiberoptic project in Courtland. They planned to begin installation next year, Mr. Gaston urged them to begin sooner due to the connectivity issues in the area and the impact our students have during distance learning.

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

9.3.1 Educational Services Update – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer reported that Education Services have been supporting teachers and students during the beginning of the school year. Working through issues that have developed, her mantra is "Everything is figureoutable". Ms. Latimer prepared a video presentation for the Board. Unfortunately, the presentation would not play during the Zoom webinar.

9.3.2 Special Education Update – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education

9.3.2.1 Mental Health information – Angela Patin and Holly Pauls, District Nurses – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education, mentioned that he is excited to be back in the District. Mr. Anderson mentioned that he has devoted a large amount of time on the topic of social and emotional support for students and it has always been a high priority of his. Prior to the pandemic, the social and emotional support of students has been a hot topic, mostly because we became aware that these supports have a positive impact on the students. Mr. Anderson provided a

presentation on the “Effects of Covid-19 pandemic Related Stress on Student Mental Health”. He touched on the pandemic-related sources of student mental health issues, such as, health concerns, worries around family financial stability, social isolation, lack of access to mental health services, remote learning difficulties, and bereavement. Other issues around the social-emotional impact on students including, anxiety, depression, suicide and exacerbating of pre-existing mental health conditions.

The River Delta school counselors are working with both students and staff members. The counselors are working directly with teachers on social-emotional learning lessons, so that the teachers can use them in their classes during Distance Learning and when they return to in-person teaching.

Mr. Anderson thanked Angela Patin and Holly Pauls, our District nurses, for obtaining all the information for the presentation.

9.4 River Delta Unified Teacher’s Association (RDUTA) Update – RDUTA President, Marsha Montgomery reported that the teacher’s union is moving along and working many hours to accommodate the new mandates set by the state. She also mentioned that they are working on the MOUs to return to school and the regular contract language with the District. The teachers are doing their best to encourage and support the students.

9.5 California State Employee’s Association (CSEA) Chapter #319 Update – Melinda Barkman, CSEA Chapter #319 President – Nicole Latimer read an update on behalf of Melinda Barkman. The update stated that the Chapter #319 negotiation team has sent a counter proposal to the District for the Covid Crisis MOU. The MOU is to cover aspects of Distance Learning, Hybrid Learning and in-person instruction that relate to all classified members. In waiting for a response, she is hopeful to reach an agreement with the District soon.

10. **Consent Calendar**

10.1 Approve Board Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board – August 11, 2020

10.3 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports - As of September 8, 2020

10.3 District’s Monthly Expenditure Report
August 2020

10.4 Request to approve a Leave of Absence for Cheyenne Jahner – Bonnie Kauzlarich, Director of Personnel

10.5 Request to declare as surplus non-operational electric equipment from D.H. White Elementary School – Nicholas Casey, Principal

10.6 Request to approve the three-year digital monitoring system agreement with Hapara G Suite Highlights, at a cost not to exceed, \$22,833.36, Educational Services Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer

10.7 Request to approve the update Appendix A – Designated Positions for the Conflict of Interest Code for River Delta Joint Unified School District – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

10.8 Donations to Receive and Acknowledge:

River Delta Unified School District – Student School Supplies

Judy Tussy - \$300

Riverview – Student Planners

Rio Vista Lions Club - \$1000.20

Member Mahoney made a motion to pull items 10.1 and 10.3 for discussion, approving the remaining items on the consent agenda, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent/Abstain: Fernandez - resigned, Elliott – resigned)

Discussion on item 10.1, Member Mahoney would like to add the curriculum mention by Lane Eggers in the August 11, 2020 Board Minutes. 10.3 Further discussion on the water/sewer issue on the City of Rio Vista invoices.

Member Mahoney moved to approve items 10.1 with language added to minutes and 10.3, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent/Abstain: Fernandez - resigned, Elliott – resigned)

Member Olson recognized the donation and thanked them for their continued support.

Action Items -- Individual speakers shall be allowed two minutes to address the Board on any agenda item. The Board may limit the total time for public input on each agenda item to 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 or Exhibits due to new legislation or mandated language and citation revisions as of May 2020 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

12. Request to approve the first reading of the updated or new Board Policies, Administrative Regulations or Exhibits due to new legislation or mandated language and citation revisions as of July 2020 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

13. Request to approve Resolution #799 regarding the 2019-2020 Appropriations (Gann) Limit Calculation – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer

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

14. Request to approve the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report for 2019-2020 – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer

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

15. Request to approve to hold a Public Hearing on the Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials and to Approve Resolution #800 on the Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials as per Education Code Section 60199 and 5 CCR 9531 for 2020-2021 school year – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer

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

Open Public Hearing: 8:04 pm

Public Comments: Nicole Latimer reported that no public comments were submitted.

Close Public Hearing: 8:06 pm

16. Request to accept and approve the Timeline and Procedures related to the filling of Board of Trustee's Vacancies created following the resignation of Trustee Fernandez and the August 12, 2020 application deadline for the November 3, 2020 election for the Board of Trustees for Trustee Areas V, VI & VII (Clarksburg and Rio Vista Trustee Areas), it is necessary for the Board to appoint replacements to fulfill these required duties for the 2020-2022 and 2020-2024 terms of office – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

17. Request to approve Change Order No. 1 and grant permission to file the Notice of Completion of the installation of two (2) modular classrooms at D.H. White Elementary School by Kerex Engineering – Ken Gaston, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

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

18. Request the Board to hold a Public Hearing on the Draft River Delta Unified School District's Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan 2020-2021. The Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan 2020-2021 will be brought to the Board for approval and adoption at a Special Meeting of the Board via Zoom webinar, date, and time to be determined– Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

Open Public Hearing: 8:13 pm

Public Comments: Superintendent Wright explained components of the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for 2020-2021 and the details of creating the document. Member Stone stated that she was extremely impressed with the attention to detail throughout the plan. As a parent she is very happy with the completed document. Nicole Latimer reported that no other comments were made from the public.

Close Public Hearing: 8:17 pm

19. Re-Adjourn to continue Closed Session, if needed – Board President reported that re-adjourning to Closed Session was not necessary.
20. Report of Action taken, if any, during continued Closed Session (Government Code Section 54957.1) - Board President Olson reported Closed Session was not necessary – no actions to report.
21. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Board President Olson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Member Riley asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Graham DuBois. Member Riley mentioned that Graham passed away at 4:31pm this afternoon. Graham's wife, Patti, has been a long-time employee of the District. Both Graham and Patti graduated from Rio Vista High School. Graham will be missed.

Member Casillas moved to adjourn, Member Riley seconded. 5 (Ayes: Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent/Abstain: Fernandez - resigned, Elliott – resigned)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm

Submitted:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:



Marilyn Riley, Clerk, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder

End