

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

October 13, 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 October 13, 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 Olson 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 @ 5:33 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 6:38 pm**

- 5.1 Roll was retaken. All active members were present.

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

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Latimer greeted the Board and attendees. She advised the Board that there were 66 public comments submitted for items on the agenda and asked for direction regarding reading the comments. The first comment was read in Spanish and translated for the Board by Mr. Samy D'Amico, Vice Principal for D.H. White Elementary School. The parent was concerned for her children and in support of returning to school for in person instruction. One parent was concerned of the quality of instruction and learning environment at one of the middle schools in the district. In summary, most of the comments were submitted for line item number 13. Regarding the Hybrid Learning Plan and were read during that portion of the agenda.

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 Stone reported that she worked with Calvin Pettigrew at the school sites during the food distribution event. Member Stone also delivered lunches to families which included weekend meals. She acknowledged the cafeteria staff members for preparing the large quantity of meals. Member Stone and an acquaintance have refinished eight donated desks and they are available for any student in need.

9.1.2 Superintendent Wright's report(s) Superintendent Wright began her report welcoming all the attendees and thanked them for attending the meeting and providing public comments. She reminded the public that the remainder of the comments will be read during the item number they are associated with.

Superintendent Wright reported that the District has been meeting the CSEA Chapter #319 bargaining unit. The meetings have been productive and collaborative while working on the provisions for working conditions. Both parties have signed off on the return to school MOU and has been returned to CSEA for the 610 process.

Superintendent Wright noted that the District has met with RDUTA for a collaborative sessions working on a Return to School MOU. RDUTA submitted their counterproposal to the District, the following day the District accepted and signed their proposal with all its provisions and without any changes. However, Superintendent Wright received notice that RDUTA has decided not to sign their submitted counterproposal and have asked for further discussion.

Superintendent Wright had the pleasure of meeting with all the Sacramento County Superintendents and the Sacramento County Health Official, Dr. Kasirye, to discuss the conditions of reopening schools. Several Superintendents who have opened their campuses shared their reopening experiences. Dr. Kasirye shared scientific data with the Superintendents and informed them that her staff works solely with scientific facts and not data that is politically driven.

Superintendent Wright was excited to report that a mobile COVID-19 testing service will be available to provide COVID-19 testing to staff members and students. The testing service will be located at Walnut Grove Elementary School and should be opening soon. She thanked the school nurses for setting up the testing site and for being the contact people for the District. The District encourages staff members to be tested routinely, even if they are not experiencing symptoms.

Superintendent Wright is appreciative for staff members who have jumped in to working on the transportation routes and eligibility lists, due to the restrictions set by the County Health Department. Dr. Kasirye provided guidelines for students receiving transportation services.

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 beginning balances have been posted by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE). The business office is currently working on posting budget revisions and carry

overs. She is pleased to announce that the District has hired a Director of Accounting, Vicki Preciado, who will be starting in the position on October 19, 2020.

9.2.2 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update - Ken Gaston, Director of MOT, noted that in general his report is as submitted. He would like to add that his team has collected soil samples from Rio Vista High School's football field. They have been taken to Ag Source Laboratories to determine what amendments need to be added to the soil to clear up the dead spots. The results of the samples indicated that the soil has high salt and clay content. The company recommends that seven tons of gypsum per acre is to be added to the soil. The football field area is roughly two acres. 28,000 pounds of gypsum would need to be added to the field to breakdown the soil content. However, we are not in the position to plow the mineral into the soil of the football field. The District is looking for alternative options to add the nutrients into the soil.

The District has received notification from the City of Rio Vista to set up a meeting to assess the water meter located on the campus of Rio Vista High School that has been charged at the higher water/sewer rate. The District believes the meter to be an irrigation only meter and should be charged at the lower rate. Members Olson and Mahoney would like to be included at the meeting. Mr. Gaston mentioned that, if this is the case, Sharon Silva will work with the City to correct the sewer and water billing rates.

Member Mahoney asked to have the water/sewer invoices for both Rio Vista High School and Riverview Middle School to be reviewed. He also thanked Mr. Gaston and his crew for upgrading the irrigation project at Riverview Middle School, stating that the field is starting to look green again, and without "crop" circles. Mr. Mahoney also stated that he believed that nutrients can be added to the water source. He also suggested that the District ask Grow West for a donation when submitting an order. Mr. Gaston acknowledge the suggestion and mentioned that he has been working with Grow West for the analysis. He also informed the Board that a port near the water source would need to be installed to add the minerals.

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 the department has been focusing their efforts during the past month on technical support for the students and how to support the reopening of schools. There have been several Senior Tech Team meetings to support the grading and attendance systems mandated by the Department of Education. Mr. Wright has been creating multiple training decks to implement these mandates. The District has updated the practices and protocols for authenticating Zoom users to increase the virtual classroom security and lessen the risk of Zoom "booming".

The reopening of schools' checklists has been created. Ms. Latimer has started the first round of inspections at Rio Vista High School. After items on the checklist have been addressed or fixed, a follow-up inspection will be scheduled.

Ms. Latimer responded to a question posed by Member Mahoney at the September Board meeting. Clarification was made on the resolution brought to the Board for Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials is part of the Williams Settlement.

9.3.2 Williams' Settlement Public Notification regarding sufficiency of teachers, facilities, and textbook and instructional materials – Third Quarter (July - September) – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer reported that the District had no insufficiencies reported during the quarter.

9.3.3 Special Education Update – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education reported that Superintendent Wright and Ms. Latimer have included him in all aspects of the plans for district. His involvement in these plans have included the needs of the Special Education population along with

all students of the district. Mr. Anderson reported that a small population of students have been on campus to receive individualized services.

- 9.4 River Delta Unified Teacher's Association (RDUTA) Update – RDUTA President, Marsha Montgomery greeted the Board and reported that RDUTA has met with the Superintendent Wright and her team to discuss the draft version of the MOU, and have further revisions to discuss. She stated that the teachers would like to come back to school and teach the students in person. They realize that Zooming is not a way to have an effective educational system. However, they would like to come back to a safe environment. A concern is involving the ventilation systems and the winter weather approaching. Other concerns involve the use of their sick days and the lack of security if doors are propped open. Lastly, they want to make sure the classrooms are stocked with cleaning supplies, mostly at the middle and high schools to clean between periods.
- 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. Mrs. Barkman stated that final changes have been made to the MOU with the District and was returned for signatures. Once it is returned to CSEA, it will be signed and sent in for the 610 process. She thanked everyone for their patience during this time.

10. **Consent Calendar**

- 10.1 Approve Board Minutes
 - Regular Meeting of the Board – September 8, 2020
 - Special Meeting of the Board – September 28, 2020
- 10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports - As of October 13, 2020
- 10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report
 - September 2020
- 10.4 Request to approve the emergency purchase of a 45' Articulating Boom, at a cost of \$22,890.07 – Ken Gaston, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation
- 10.5 Request to approve the purchase of the Barracuda hardware and the 60-month subscription of Barracuda Essential Security Service at a cost of \$35,110.66 – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer
- 10.6 Request to approve the contract with Document Tracking Services for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$4,650 – Educational Services Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.7 Request to approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Maxim Staffing Solutions to provide nursing services, guidance and assistance for implementing the practices and procedures in the RDUSD Health and Safety Plan for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education
- 10.8 Donations to Receive and Acknowledge:
 - Assessment and Counseling Center at D.H White Elementary School**
 - Mr. and Mrs. Conklin - \$6,000
 - Rio Vista High School – Class of 1970 donations towards the Gymnasium Scoreboard**
 - Karen Maxwell
 - Blaine and Sylvia Hutson
 - Kathleen Korth
 - Emmett and Elizabeth Morrell
 - Michael and Cathy Palumbo
 - Michael and Jane Grassel
 - L. Del Chiaro
 - David and Logan Santos
 - Delfina McMillan
 - Joanna Fonseca Haston
 - Riverview Middle School**
 - Beth Brockhouse - \$153.84

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)

Member Olson recognized the donation and thanked them for their continued support. Mr. Gaston reported that Mrs. Turk has work very hard to orchestrate the installation of the scoreboard and the project has been completed.

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 July 2020 – 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)

12. Request the Board to conduct interviews, and if appropriate, take action to appoint a qualified candidate for vacancies in Trustee Areas V, VI and VII. Request direction from the Board on next steps to fill any vacant positions after the October 13, 2020 meeting – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Superintendent Wright announced that one application was received by the deadline for Trustee Area V. Two late applications were received, one for Area V and one for Area VI. Superintendent Wright recommended conducting the interview and appointment for Area V. She asked for the Board's direction for filling the vacancies in Trustee Areas VI and VII.

Public comments included one in support of appointing Marcial Lamera to represent Trustee Area V and two other comments asking the Board to consider reopening the application process for Trustee Area V for additional applicants.

Marcial Lamera, a former River Delta Unified School District student and qualified candidate for Trustee Area V provided a presentation regarding his background, of his priorities involving the responsibilities and his offer of a fresh perspective if appointed to the Board representing Trustee Area V is approved. He thanked the Board for considering him in filling this vacancy.

Member Olson moved to approve the appointment of Marcial Lamera for Trustee Area V and to repost the vacancies for Trustee Areas VI and VII with a deadline of November 2, 2020 at noon, 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)

13. Request to approve the River Delta Unified School District's Hybrid Learning Plan for 2020-2021 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Public comment: Over all comments from students, staff members, parents and community members were in support of the Hybrid Learning Plan, mostly indicating that they wanted to reopen schools as soon as possible while adhering to safety precautions. There was a small group of comments from students, staff members and parents urging the Board to stay in the Distance Learning Model, either until the second semester or until a vaccine has been made available. There were also a few parents that were strongly against having parent volunteers in the classrooms during instruction if the teacher was present via Zoom and not in the classroom in person. One parent conveyed that they would have liked additional input from parents in a reopening plan.

Superintendent Wright reminded the Board and the audience that Action Item number 13. is to approve the District's Hybrid Learning Plan for 2020-2021, as a first step to reopen and not to approve a date for reopening schools.

Member Olson 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)

14. Request to approve the 2020-2021 California State Preschool Contract to continue the River Delta Unified School District State Preschool at Isleton Elementary – Stacy Wallace, Principal of Isleton Elementary School and Director of CA State Preschool in Isleton

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)

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 Olson reported Closed Session was not necessary – no actions to report.
17. Adjournment: With no further business before the Board, Board President Olson asked for a motion to adjourn.

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 8:44 pm

Submitted:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:



Marilyn Riley, Clerk, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder
End