

# RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING February 18, 2020

1. **Call Open Session to Order** – Board President Fernandez called the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:31 p.m. on February 18, 2020 at Isleton Elementary School, Isleton, California.
2. **Roll Call of Members:**
  - Alicia Fernandez, President
  - Don Olson, Vice President
  - Marilyn Riley, Clerk
  - 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 @ 5:35 pm**

*Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*
5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:49 pm**
  - 5.1 Roll was retaken. Member Elliott was 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 Delta High School's Future Farmers of America Students, Mary Carli, Ibeth Martinez, Yamileth Martinez, Hannah Souza, Saul Torres, Trevor Rice, Daisy Morais and Reagan Cox
  - 5.3 Delta High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) Presentation – Shanan Spears, an Agriculture Teacher at Delta High School, introduced herself and the FFA students of Delta High and Clarksburg Middle Schools. The word "Tomorrow" chosen for the presentation was based upon the phrase Promise of Tomorrow. Mary Carli, FFA President, thanked the Board and began the presentation by introducing ninth grade student, Ibeth Martinez, who recited the FFA Creed. The Creed was written by E.M. Tiffany in 1933. Each student's speech was created using a word beginning with a letter in TOMORROW.
6. **Report of Action taken, if any, during the Closed Session (Government Code Section 54957.1)**

Board President Fernandez reported that during Closed Session, the Board received information and took the following actions. The Board adopted Resolution #777 for release and non-reelect of certificated employees hired under temporary contracts for the 2019-2020 school year.

Member Riley moved to approve, Member Elliott seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)

The Board adopted Resolution #778 non-re-employment for the 2020-2021 school year for Probationary 0, I & II Certificated Staff.

Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)

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

Member Fernandez announced that there was a request from Superintendent Wright to add an agenda item to this evening's agenda. "Request the Board to motion and vote on Student Expulsion Case #1920-340-002 - Katherine Wright, Superintendent", rationale is that the Board must vote in Open Session on student expulsion cases.

Member Fernandez moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 19. Student Expulsion Case #1920-340-002, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)

**8. Public Comment:** None

**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 Riley reported that she and Member Fernandez made site visits to Bates Elementary School and the YMCA Preschool in Courtland. They were very impressed by the preschool. Later in the day, they made a site visit to D.H. White Elementary School in Rio Vista and ventured out to the new development to see the single-family and age-restricted homes at Liberty.

Member Mahoney attended an introductory meeting with the Sheriff's Department and Rio Vision. The new Chief of Police, Lieutenant Jackson Harris, was introduced. During the meeting, it was announced that a new School Resource Officer began service in Rio Vista the prior week. Member Mahoney stayed after the meeting and spoke with several members of the City stressing his concern on the lack of funding the school district is receiving from the development projects. In particular, the planned low-income housing project.

Member Fernandez reported that she and Superintendent Wright attend the Sacramento County School Boards Association Dinner Meeting that was held at the Sacramento County Office of Education. The meeting was focused on Special Education. Member Fernandez also reported that she, Member Stone and Member Riley served on an interview panel for a public opinion research company.

9.1.2 Committee Report(s):

9.1.2.1 City and District 2x2 Committee – Member Mahoney reported that he and Superintendent Wright were scheduled to attend a 2 X 2 meeting with the City. While Member Mahoney and Superintendent Wright were waiting for the meeting to start at City Hall, City Manager, Rob Hickey, walked by and had realized that he had forgotten about the scheduled meeting. Mr. Hickey agreed to answer questions from Member Mahoney and Superintendent Wright. During the prompt to meeting Member Mahoney asked Mr. Hickey about the 53-acre parcel on the corner of Church and Airport Road that was previously set aside for a school site. Mr. Hickey informed them that the piece of land is now tabled for a low-income housing project. This project is to meet a low-income housing requirement set by Governor Newsom. This project will not generate funding for schools. Member Mahoney stated that during the meeting it was of his opinion that Superintendent Wright is a valuable asset to the District. She stood her ground and focused on the best interests of the District and its students.

9.1.2.2 Special Olympics Committee – Member Stone reported that the committee has had several planning meetings for the Special Olympics Event. During the last meeting, Mr. Gaston was in attendance and walked the field with the committee members creating the layout for the event. Member Stone mentioned that it will take a lot of work but will be worth it in the end. She encouraged everyone who can attend the Special Olympics Event to do so. She hopes there will be a lot of student and parent participation. Member Fernandez announced that the event will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Walnut Grove Elementary School.

9.1.2.3 Facilities Steering Committee – Member Fernandez noted that she, Member Mahoney, Member Stone and Superintendent Wright are the members of the Facilities Steering Committee. She referred to Superintendent Wright, who reported that the committee was developed to gain an understanding of what properties have sold for development, who purchased the properties, and who the developers are and whether the properties are designated for market rate or age-restricted homes. The committee will also develop a Facilities Master Plan for the District. There is a 1,200 home development scheduled to be built in Rio Vista. There are no funds or land set aside for a school site or an offer to build a school from the developers. In addition, there is another 850-home development planned. Mrs. Wright noted that all of these developer agreements are from years past. Mrs. Wright commented that she is grateful for Lamont Thompson, who has been contracted by the City. He has been an important partner in filling in the missing pieces of the who, what and where of the development chart. Superintendent Wright has asked the City to be allowed to sit in the negotiation meetings with the developers as an observer to obtain the understanding of how the developments will impact the District. They will be starting negotiations soon for the low-income housing project. Superintendent reported that City Council Member, Rick Dolk, has attended the Steering Committee meetings and has brought valuable information from the City.

9.1.2.4 LCAP Goal and Stakeholder - Member Stone reported that she has been involved with the LCAP Goal 2 group and they have made progress in the development of this goal. She feels the new LCAP Plan will be easier to read and understand.

Member Fernandez reported that she has attended the meetings for LCAP Goal 5. She noted that the group is working collaboratively with staff and community members.

Superintendent Wright reported that there are two different working groups for the LCAP. There are collaborative work groups, made up of administrators, staff members, teachers and community member that dissect the goals and make recommendations for the new three-year LCAP plan. Each group focuses on one of the five goals. In addition, there are stakeholder feedback meetings one of which was held on January 27<sup>th</sup> in Courtland and another on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Rio Vista at D.H. White Elementary School. The stakeholder feedback groups review the entire LCAP and evaluates the success of all five goals.

9.1.3 Superintendent Wright's report(s) – Superintendent Wright reported that she, Ms. Keema-Aston and Paul Delgado, the Lead Negotiator for RDUTA, attended the Governor's Budget Meeting. Some of the impactful changes of his proposal, are a decrease in COLA to 2.29% and an increase of one-time monies for different programs. Unfortunately, the funding is not on-going. The new funding formula for Special Education is very puzzling. In Governor Newsom's proposal this funding will be directly allocated to the SELPAs not the LEAs. The Governor's proposal does not provide financial relief for the increase of STRS and CalPers contributions as in the past. The District will rely on the COLA to offset the increase of these contributions.

Superintendent Wright mentioned that she also attended the County Superintendent Council Meeting along with the other Superintendents in Sacramento County. The main topic of conversation was the Governor's budget and how it will impact the districts.

Mrs. Wright also attended the Negotiation Symposium. There were many attorneys in attendance. They described the implications of the Governor's Proposed Budget. She is very thankful for the opportunity to attend these workshops, as the information is crucial to ascertain a deep level of understanding on what is going on with the proposed Governor's Budget.

Superintendent Wright reported that she, Bill Hodges, Marsha Montgomery and Elizabeth Keema-Aston attend the Labor Management Institute. They discussed, means of collaboration, and ways to involve stakeholders in decision making, and improving communication with all stakeholders.

9.1.3.1 Bond Feasibility Presentation – Matt Kolker, from Governmental Financial Strategies, Inc. gave a presentation on general obligation bonds, the current status of Bond Measures U and V for River Delta Unified School District, the development of Bond financing plans for potential Bond Measures and a schedule for submitting them for the November 2020 Election ballot.

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, Director of MOT

9.2.1 ADA/Enrollment Report – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer reported that the changes in enrollment from prior month has an increase of eight students and an increase in ADA of six. The current enrollment for the District is 1936 with an ADA of 1824, yielding 94.2%. The Estimated P2 ADA used for Second Interim is 1881.78. Estimated P2 ADA used at the First Interim was 1883.73.

9.2.2 Monthly Financial Report – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer – The financial report is reported as submitted. Ms. Keema-Aston noted that Isleton Elementary and Walnut Grove Elementary Schools has received a cafeteria equipment funding grant. An oven will be purchased for both sites.

9.2.2.1 D.H. White Modular Classroom Construction Project Update – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer, provided a spreadsheet and gave an update of the modular classroom projected at D. H. White Elementary School. Members of the Board asked for the format of the spreadsheet be revised for next month.

9.2.3 Summary of the Governor's Budget Report – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer reported the during that Governor's Budget Workshop it was proposed to reduce the COLA for next year, as well as, future years. This reduction will, in turn, reduce LCFF funding \$141,000 in FY2020-21; \$25,000 in FY2021-22 and \$77,000 in FY 2022-23. It was also reported that the California Price Index (CPI) will be increasing by 3.09% meaning the District will have less buying power. The Governor is addressing the teacher shortage by proposing over \$900 million for credentialing incentives.

9.2.4 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT reported that during the last month his team has been working on fixing heaters or freezers, as well as, normal monthly routine maintenance projects.

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

9.3.1 Differentiated Assistance Status and CA Dashboard Update – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services, provided the Board with a presentation on the District's 2019 California Dashboard results. Superintendent Wright explained that, in the data shown for the district's suspension rate, each student is only counted once even if the student has multiple suspensions.

As follow up information, the Board has asked for the student drop-out figures to be presented at the March Board meeting.

Superintendent Wright clarified that Differentiated Assistance is when a District is in improvement and support mode with the county and the state. She stated that districtwide the two categories our District qualifies for Differentiated Assistance are in Special Education and for Homeless Students. She mentioned that the school sites can

qualify for assistance at different levels: CSI, TSI, ATSI or general support from the County.

All of our school sites qualify for general assistance from the District with the exception of Riverview Middle School. They qualify for ATSI which is the highest level of need. Superintendent Wright is thankful that the Board supports the change in grade level configuration at Riverview Middle School and D.H. White Elementary School. She feels this will be a great opportunity for Riverview Middle School to make some critical decisions for improvement.

9.4 River Delta Unified Teacher's Association (RDUTA) Update – Bill Hodges, RDUTA President, reported that he feels the meetings with the District are going strongly and he is looking forward in making progress in moving forward.

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

10. **Consent Calendar**

10.1 Approve Board Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board, January 14, 2020

Special Meeting of the Board, February 7, 2020

10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports

As of February 18, 2020

10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report

January 2020

10.4 Request to approve the out-of-state travel for Rio Vista High School students to travel to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon April 24 -26, 2020 – Vicky Turk, Principal

10.5 Request to approve the Rio Vista High School FFA fundraising activity "Metal Rose" to benefit the Ag Mechanics Class – Vicky Turk, Principal

10.6 Request approval to apply for the California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF) School Garden Program for Bates Elementary School – Maria Elena Becerra, Principal

10.7 Request to approve the D.H. White Elementary School's PTC fundraising event "Penny War" to raise funds for replacement of the playground equipment – Samy D'Amico, Interim Principal

10.8 Request to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with CommuniCare Health Center to provide sexual and reproductive health education at Delta High School and Clarksburg Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services

10.9 Donations

**Rio Vista High School – In memory of Jerry Rubier for the Radio Rio Program**

Marci Coglianese

Barry Waldie

Jerry and Nadine Penick

Edythe Harlan

Jane McDaniel

Theta Theta, c/o Sue Esperson

Danny & Delinda Bowers

*Member Riley moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

Member Fernandez recognized those who made donations and thanked them for their support of our students and programs.

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 First Reading of the updated or new Board Policies, Administrative

Regulations and Exhibits due to new legislation, mandated language and/or citation revisions as of December 2019 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Mrs. Karen Clark, a parent from Delta High School, expressed her concerns of the amount of homework given by some teachers. She would like to see structured guidelines in the homework policy which is fair to the student and set guidelines for administration on what is a reasonable amount of homework.

Superintendent Wright noted that while employed at WestEd, she reviewed research on the effects of homework and has given presentations on what the data revealed from this research. She has made a few revisions to the homework policy. However, she will review the Board Policy and Administrative Regulations prior to the second reading of this policies.

*Member Fernandez moved to approve with the homework policy reviewed, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

12. Request to approve a contract with Williams & Associates LLC, School Facilities Program (SFP) consultant to analyze the District's eligibility for state funding for facilities– not to exceed \$27,450 General Fund - Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer

*Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

13. Request to approve the 2020 Districtwide Comprehensive Safety Plan – Katherine Wright, Superintendent. The Board would like to add the “Great American Shake-out” to the Emergency Plan.

*Member Casillas moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

14. Request the approval to conduct a Public Opinion Survey to determine Bond Measure(s) feasibility and to authorize Superintendent Wright to contract with a Public Opinion Survey firm– Katherine Wright, Superintendent

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

15. Request to approve the contract with Parker & Covert, LLC for legal counsel services regarding Bond Measures – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

*Member Stone moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

16. Request to approve Resolution #779 the transferring of funds from Fund 17 to Fund 01 – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

17. Request to approve Resolution #780 endorsing the Schools and Communities First Initiative – Bill Hodges, RDUTA President

*Member Mahoney motioned to table the resolution until the March 10, 2020 Board Meeting, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

18. Request to approve the contract with Datapath for Cloudpath services (3-year licensing), at a cost not to exceed \$23,511 - General Funds - Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

19. Request the Board to motion and vote on student expulsion case #1920-340-002 - Katherine Wright, Superintendent

President Fernandez reported that during Closed Session the Board review student case# 1920-340-002. Based on the foregoing recommendation of the Administrative Student Discipline Panel, President Fernandez motioned to expel student case #1920-340-002 and approved the Pupil Rehabilitation Plan.

*Member Fernandez moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

20. Re-Adjourn to continue Closed Session, if needed – Board President reported that re-adjourning to Closed Session was not necessary.
21. 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.
22. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Board President Fernandez asked for a motion to adjourn.

*Superintendent Wright announced that, in the past weekend, we lost a legend in the school district. The passing of Lou Camacho was unexpected, and she will be greatly missed. Lou was a teacher at Rio Vista High School from 1962-2000. She was an inspiration and very encouraging to her students. Her son, Steve Camacho, is a long-time teacher in the district and her husband, Joe, was a custodian for many years. Superintendent Wright requested that we close this meeting in memory of her.*

*Member Olson moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Elliott)*

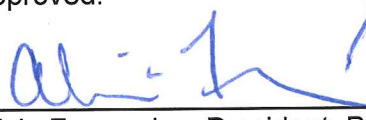
The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 pm

Submitted:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:



Alicia Fernandez, President, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder  
End