

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

August 11, 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 5:30 p.m. on August 11, 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:**

Alicia Fernandez, President
Don Olson, Vice President
Marilyn Riley, Clerk (took leave at approx.. 7:45pm)
Jennifer Stone, Member
Chris Elliott, Member (joined Closed Session at 5:49)
Rafaela Casillas, Member
Dan Mahoney, Member

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 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 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)

5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:44 pm**

- 5.1 Roll was retaken. All 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 Alicia Fernandez, Board President

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 did not take any action.

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

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

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

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Latimer read the public comment submitted. Keith Russell, a teacher from Rio Vista High School, expressed his concerns regarding the purchase of the Swivl cameras and accessories. He feels that, although it may be useful at the elementary school level, it could be replaced by the use of Teacher's Assistant or student helpers at the secondary level. It is of his opinion that the District doesn't

have the resources to support another type of technology and, when the student return to full in-person learning, it is likely that these devices will not be used.

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 spent the day shadowing Mr. Gaston where she was able to see firsthand of all the things he is responsible for on a daily basis. Member Stone made the comment that she has a new found respect for what Mr. Gaston does for the District. He is knowledgeable of the entire district inside and out. She reported that great progresses are being made at the school sites and she is excited to spend another day with Mr. Gaston when the students are back at the school sites. She thanked him for spending time showing her around and explaining what happens each day.

Member Elliot reported that his three sons and other Clarksburg Boy Scouts took part an Eagle Project at Delta High School. Mr. Gaston helped the boys with the beautification project in front of the Delta High School. Member Elliott thanked Mr. Gaston for making the Eagle Project possible.

Member Elliott stated that this Board meeting would be the last meeting he will attend as a Board Member. Member Elliott announced that he will be resigning his seat on the Board of Trustee due to personal reasons. He noted that, while he will be participating during this meeting, he will be abstaining on all items. Member Elliott mentioned that he has appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees for River Delta USD.

Member Mahoney acknowledged the positive attributes that Member Elliott has brought to the Board during his term of office. Member Mahoney noted that he very much appreciates Member Elliott's insight on different topics. He thanked Member Elliott for his service to the District.

Member Mahoney reported that he and Mr. Gaston will be meeting with a solar company later in the week to discuss River Delta USD being the beneficiary of a solar project. He hopes to have news to report back at the next Board meeting.

Member Fernandez reiterated all that has been said about Member Elliott. She has appreciated the past three years getting to know him and appreciates his feedback, dedication and public service to the students and the community. She wished Member Elliott and his family all the best.

Member Fernandez thanked all who have worked to obtain the signatures in support of each of the Bond Measures and of those who filed the documents for both Measures J and Measures K for the November ballot.

9.1.2 Superintendent Wright's report(s) Superintendent Wright began her report by welcoming the Board of Trustees to the beginning of the new school year. Mrs. Wright mentioned that this school year should prove to be exciting, interesting, and definitely unique. She stated that we are looking forward to exercise patience, understanding and empathy for people. We will be working together through this difficult time.

Superintendent Wright stated that, since the last Board meeting, many things have occurred. On June 17th, the Governor made the decision for counties that are listed on the Monitoring List must start the school year with Remote Learning. This decision required the District to switch gears from planning for the Hybrid Model to a Remote Learning Model in a short period of time. Superintendent Wright stated that she has had the distinct honor to work with many dedicated workers during this time of crisis. She mentioned that these people are working hard day in and day out without any complaints. She said it has been nice to receive supportive texts and emails thanking all those who are working so hard in preparation for school this year.

Superintendent Wright reported that August 12th at 5:00pm is the deadline for anyone residing in Trustee Area 6 or Trustee Area 7 wishing to run for a seat on the Board of

Trustees for River Delta Unified School District to submit paperwork at the county elections office.

Superintendent Wright stated that the school sites have been hosting drive-through events where the teachers, administrators and classified staff members have been providing materials necessary for students to start the school year. The next three days have been set aside for teachers, parents, and students to have an opportunity to make connections in preparation for the academic Remote Learning beginning on August 17th.

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, Directors of MOT

- 9.2.1 Monthly Financial Report – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer reported that the estimated beginning balances have been included in the Financial Report. These balances will be adjusted and provided to the Board at the next month included in the Unaudited Actuals. The Business Office personnel is in the process of closing the books for 2019-2020.
- 9.2.2 Governor's Budget 45 Day Revise – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer reported that normally the 45-day Revise is brought to the Board as an information item only. This year, however, there are significant changes to the District's Budget that will require the Board's approval. The revised Budget will be brought to the Board as an action item later on the agenda.
- 9.2.3 D.H. White Modular Classroom Construction Project Update – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer reported that the project is on budget. The plan is to have this project completed mid-August.
- 9.2.4 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT reported on some of the projects his team has been working on over the summer. Last year one half of the visitor's bleacher were replaced at Rio Vista High School stadium. The second half of the bleacher section has been removed and will be replace for the safety of visitors, staff and students. As a student project, the woodshop class has removed the wooden benches by the cafeteria area of campus. Mr. Gaston mentioned that wood as been purchased to complete the project. However, due to the school site closure the project has been put on hold.

Mr. Gaston reported that his staff has been working to repair old sprinklers systems. Sprinklers have been repaired in front of Delta High, Clarksburg Middle Schools as well as the lower field at Riverview Middle School.

Grant funding was received for Riverview Middle School to install a bicycle rack and cage for students to keep their bicycles, scooters and skateboards safely stowed during school hours.

In regard to the modular classroom project at D.H. White Elementary School, the temporary fencing has been taken down and should be removed in the next few days. The permanent fencing has been put back into place. There are a few small repairs remaining for the contractor to complete. Once that is done the District can take full ownership of the buildings. The District will paint the modular classrooms after the project has been signed off. Staff members have placed desks and other furniture items in the classrooms and the teachers have started to move in their supplies.

Mr. Gaston provided a presentation of the Eagle Scouts Beautification Project at Delta High School. John "JJ" Breitenbach, a Delta High School student, contacted Mr. Gaston with plans of an Eagle Scout Project. An Eagle Scout Project is a way to demonstrate leadership of others on a project that benefits the community. An average project takes approximately 100 hours. Working with the students, district staff helped with the

preparation the planter area by removing large roots, rocks, and decayed galvanized piping. Mr. Gaston stated that it turned out to be a great project.

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

9.3.1 Educational Services Update – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Service Officer, welcomed everyone Back to School. Ms. Latimer reported that staff has been working diligently changing from the Hybrid In-person Learning Model to a Remote Learning Model. She provided the Board with a sample of tasks the Educational Services Department has been working on.

9.3.2 Williams' Settlement Public Notification regarding sufficiency of teachers, facilities, textbooks and instructional materials – Fourth Quarter (April - June) – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services reported that there have been no insufficiencies reported during this quarter.

9.4 Student demands and expectations for a more inclusive, equitable and safe school environment – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer, invited students, former student, staff and community members with an opportunity to share their concerns or personal experiences with the Board of Trustees regarding implicit bias, law enforcement on campus and Black History Education. Ms. Latimer gave a summary of the June 18, 2020 communication received. With the direction of the Board, Superintendent Wright introduced former Rio Vista High School student, Lane Eggers, Lane Eggers thanked Superintendent Wright, Ms. Latimer and the Board of Trustees for allowing to speak on this pressing issue. Mr. Eggers stated that the intent of this communication was in no way a reprimand of the District's actions. It was more of a way to submit ideas on how the District can create a better environment for all students especially the students of color. Mr. Eggers explained the reasoning of the points listed on the communications. It is of his opinion that Implicit bias training would be helpful to teach faculty to acknowledge and understand personal bias, help to lessen racial disparities in the classrooms, and help develop meaningful relationships with students of color. Mr. Eggers mentioned an organization that specializes in this area of training is Facing History and Ourselves, which has an office in the Bay Area. Mr. Eggers suggested that the District recognize Black History Month, offer resources on Black History and include an Ethnic Studies course as part of its course offerings.

Several Board Member thanked Mr. Eggers for sharing his concerns. Member Mahoney mention that he had attended a training when employed in the Antioch USD facilitated by Dr. Sharroky Hollie, focusing on Facing History and Ourselves. Superintendent Wright thanked Mr. Eggers for sharing his prospective and wished him well at Colorado State University in the upcoming school year.

9.5 River Delta Unified Teacher's Association (RDUTA) Update – RDUTA President, Marsha Montgomery thanked the Superintendent and Board for the opportunity to speak. She mentioned that it was her pleasure to represent the Union as their President. Mrs. Montgomery introduced herself to Board and gave a summary of her background. She mentioned that teaching is her second career. After 24 years of service in the Air Force, she retired as a Master Sargent as a medic. After she left the Air Force, she went back to school and has been teaching at Rio Vista High School for the past 18 years. She congratulated Charles Van Riper, a teacher at Delta High, School for applying and being awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Institute of Teaching for his Vineyard and Wildlife Programs. Mrs. Montgomery stated that, although they are excited to start school tomorrow, they are nervous. The Union Board, Superintendent Wright and Ms. Latimer have spent time over the summer working on the "Cohort" MOU and then switch gears and started working on the Remote Learning MOU and will return to the "Cohort" MOU at a later date.

Board President Fernandez thanked Mrs. Montgomery for her service to the District as well as her service for our country.

9.6 California State Employee's Association (CSEA) Chapter #319 Update – Melinda Barkman, CSEA Chapter #319 President, reported that they have been getting ready for school to start and that she and her team have been working on the "Classified" MOU and will be meeting soon with the District for its completion.

10. **Consent Calendar**

- 10.1 Approve Board Minutes
 - Regular Meeting of the Board – June 23, 2020
- 10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports - As of August 11,2020
- 10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report
 - June and July 2020
- 10.4 Request to approve the Consolidated Application (ConApp) for 2020-2021 school year – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.5 Request to approve the independent contract with West Coast Broadcast Services, LLC to provide engineering services to support KRVH (Radio Rio), at a cost of \$5,000, Fund 49 Blended Learning components – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer
- 10.6 Request to approve the three (3) year renewal of Lexia software licenses for a 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years at a cost of \$53,220, Educational Services Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.7 Request to approve the renewal of IXL Learning for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$13,197, Educational Services Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.8 Request to approve the purchase of Renaissance myON Reader licenses for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$15,836.80, from Educational Services Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.9 Request to approve the purchase of Swivl devices and accessories at a cost of \$72,889.23, Educational Services Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational services Officer
- 10.10 Request to approve the renewal of the Read 180 program for use at Delta High School and Clarksburg Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$1,433.74, Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.11 Request to approve the Professional Expert Agreement with Jeff Simpson to provide speech therapy services for the 2020-2021 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, Special Education Funds – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.12 Request to approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Danielle Christy, M.A., to provide an Independent Educational Evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, Special Education Funds - Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer
- 10.13 Request to declare as surplus the list non-operable technology equipment from inventory and deem their value as zero – Maria Elena Becerra, Principal
- 10.14 Donations to Receive and Acknowledge:
 - Walnut Grove Elementary School – Hotspots**
 - Morris Motors \$100
 - Emily Pappalardi \$200
 - Dr. Spalding \$100
 - Kay Dix \$1140
 - Walnut Grove Rotary \$2508
 - Walnut Grove Elementary School – Summer Program**
 - Grow West \$12,000
 - Mary Wilson \$800
 - Russel Ooms \$80
 - Dennis Leary \$375
 - Courtland Town Association \$1,000
 - Alicia Fernandez \$80
 - MBK Engineers \$500
 - Walnut Grove Iron Works \$50
 - Sally Christie \$500
 - Walnut Grove Elementary School – Chromebooks**
 - Walnut Grove Rotary \$9,000
 - Clarksburg Middle School**
 - Courtland Town Council \$1000

Delta High School

Courtland Town Council \$1000

Member Mahoney made a motion to pull item 10.3 and approve the remaining items on the consent agenda, Member Riley second: Motion carried by roll call vote 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report for June and July 2020 - Member Mahoney had questions regarding the payments to the City of Rio Vista for the sewer and water invoices for Rio Vista High School. Mr. Gaston addressed this issue noting it is an ongoing problem with the City. Mr. Mahoney also asked about the \$113,000 payment to Datapath. Ms. Silva explained that expenditures were the purchases of Chromebooks and other technology devices in preparation for Remote Learning. Ms. Silva also clarified that the Napa Valley Tours payment was a transportation invoice for a student fieldtrip prior to the COVID-19 school closure. Lastly, Ms. Silva noted that PG & E had recently had a rate increase, which increased the monthly expenditures.

Member Mahoney moved to approve item 10.3, Member Fernandez seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

Member Fernandez recognized the donation and thanked them for their continued support. Member Mahoney also acknowledged the steadfast support from Ms. Beth Brockhouse.

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 or Exhibits due to new legislation or mandated language and citations revisions as of May 2020 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Member Olson moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

12. Request to approve Resolution #797 authorizing inter-fund transfers of Special or Restricted Funds for FY 2020-2021 – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer

Member Olson moved to approve, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

13. Request to approve Resolution #798 authorizing temporary inter-fund Transfers (borrowing) for Restricted Funds for FY 2020-21 – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer

Member Olson moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

14. Request to approve the Professional Expert Agreement with Elizabeth Keema-Aston to provide fiscal services at a cost not to exceed \$10,000, General Fund – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer

Member Olson moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

15. Request to approve the 45-Day Revision on the 2020-2021 River Delta Unified School District's Budget – Sharon Silva, Chief Business Officer

Member Fernandez moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

16. Re-Adjourn to continue Closed Session, if needed – Board President reported that re-adjourning to Closed Session was not necessary.
17. 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.
18. 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 by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Stone, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Riley) 1 (Abstain: Elliott)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

Submitted:

Approved:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees



Marilyn Riley, Clerk, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder
End