

# RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING

June 9, 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 5:33 p.m. on June 9, 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 Trustees 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 agenda item.

2. **Roll Call of Members:**

Alicia Fernandez, President  
Don Olson, Vice President (Joined Closed Session at 5:40pm)  
Marilyn Riley, Clerk (Joined Closed Session at 5:37)  
Jennifer Stone, Member (Absent)  
Chris Elliott, Member  
Rafaela Casillas, Member  
Dan Mahoney, Member

Also, present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent; Elizabeth Keema-Aston, 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 @ 5:36 pm**

*Member Elliott moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 4 (Ayes: Fernandez, Elliott, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 3 (Absent: Olson, Riley, Stone)*

5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:37 pm**

- 5.1 Roll was retaken. Member Stone 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 Laura Uslan, Principal of Delta High and Clarksburg Middle School.

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 actions.

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

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Latimer reported that at 6:41pm there had been no public comments received.

## 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 announced that she had attended the Seniors' graduation events for Rio Vista High School. She also noted that she attended her very first rally over the past weekend. The peaceful rally and was led by one of the graduating seniors from Rio Vista High School, Lane Eggers. Member Riley mentioned that there were close to 200 people in attendance. She is very proud of Lane Eggers for leading the event. Member Riley commended all who took part in preparing the virtual events, stating that they turned out amazing.

Member Mahoney reported that he and Member Stone made their last lunch delivery run on Friday of last week. He applauded the leadership provided by Superintendent Wright and Nicole Latimer during this stressful time. They arranged schedules for lunch deliveries to students who were very much in need in the rural Delta areas. Member Mahoney was amazed that Superintendent Wright could identify each student by name in such a short period of time.

Member Olson reported that he attended the academic awards night for Rio Vista High School. He also mentioned that he had watched the virtual 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony for Riverview Middle School. He commented that these activities were nicely done.

Member Fernandez gave an update on the Sacramento County Office of Education committee meetings that focused on providing guidelines relating to reopening schools in the Fall. She stated she and several River Delta USD staff members were on the committee. Member Fernandez reminded the audience that the requirements are ever changing based on the data received.

Member Fernandez reported that she sat on the interview panel for the Chief Business Officer along with Member Mahoney. She mentioned that the interviews were successful. They are very excited with the candidate chosen.

Member Fernandez mentioned that she attended the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization meeting, where they passed the Change in Election Method used by River Delta Unified School District to a "By Trustee-Area" method.

Member Fernandez reported that she attended the Delta High School's graduation ceremony. She praised Principal Uslan, stating that this was the best graduation she has attended at Delta High School. It was a very touching event. Member Elliott mentioned that he and Member Fernandez handed out the diplomas, and the ceremony was beautifully done. He felt the symbolism of the diploma coming to the graduate while they were with their families as they received. He stated that it was incredible.

Member Fernandez applauded Mr. Gaston and his staff for preparing the field for the graduation ceremony. She stated that it hadn't looked that good in a very long time.

Member Fernandez attended the virtual awards assembly for Delta High School and again stated that it was put together very nicely.

9.1.2 Superintendent Wright's report(s) – Superintendent Wright reported that she was honored to be a part of, and attend the graduations, promotions and awards celebrations throughout the district. She felt that the administration and staff members did a fantastic job celebrating the students all while following the restrictive guidelines. Superintendent Wright stated that she was proud of the district staff who made these celebrations happen for the students and thanked them all.

Superintendent Wright stated that administration and Cabinet are relieved to have the finalized guidelines from the Sacramento County Office of Education, the Department of Public Health and California School Board Association (CSBA). These documents are critical in preparing a reopening plan.

The next steps in preparing the reopening plan is to focus conversations on the different sections of the planning document. The opportunity for comments, concerns and feedback from both bargaining units are being obtained through planning sessions. These sessions will be in-person meetings and will be limited to ten people, while practicing social distancing. The District conducted a parent survey to obtain their comments on distance learning and how it worked or didn't work for their families.

Superintendent Wright stated that it is extremely important to focus on credible data when it comes to the Coronavirus. Superintendent Wright is hopeful that a draft copy of the District's Reopening of Schools Plan will be completed in draft form to present to the Board at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting. This task is very ambitious; however, she would like to have a something prepared for discussion.

Superintendent provided an update of the FM3 survey conducted and announced that they will be attending the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting to present the outcome of the follow-up survey given at the end of May. Superintendent Wright stated that in general the follow-up survey indicated that there is a viable chance a Bond measure would pass in School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) #1. The survey results indicated that there was a smaller chance of passing a Bond measure in SFID #2. Superintendent Wright stated that at the next Board meeting after the presentation given by FM3 on results of the follow-up surveys, there will be resolutions ordering a School Bond Election on behalf of SFID #1 and #2 as well as the other documentation need to put the measures on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

9.1.2.1 Recognition of Retirees 2019-2020 – Superintendent Wright recognized the retirees in the 2019-2020 school year. She thanked Jennifer Gaston for preparing the retiree presentation. The retirees honored were Mary Ann Ogo, Christy Ricketts, Pat Ciaramitaro, Angie Berry, Danny Alexander, Lindsay Hiromoto, Lynne Imel, Mike Imel, Laura Uslan and Elizabeth Keema-Aston. While honoring each of the retirees, she gave a brief summary of their work in the District and thank them for all that they have done for the students.

Member Fernandez noted that she calculated that this is a total of 186 years of experience in the District. She thanked them all and wished them all the best in their retirement.

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 Monthly Financial Report – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer stated that the report is as submitted. Ms. Keema-Aston made clarification on the 2019-2020 TRANS.

9.2.1.1 D.H. White Modular Classroom Construction Project Update – Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer reported that the project is on schedule.

9.2.1.2 May Revise Update, Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer provided the changes in the Governor's May Revise on the state's Budget.

9.2.1.3 Community Eligibility Program (CEP) Food Services Update - Elizabeth Keema-Aston, Chief Business Officer explained the alternate meal counting and collection procedure of the CEP program. Ms. Keema-Aston provided three alternative options the District can choose from. **Option 1:** Do not participate in CEP yielding negative balances of approximately \$14,806 annually. **Option 2:** Participate with Sacramento County elementary schools with reimbursement rate of 92.3% and a loss of approximately \$3,158 annually.

**Option 3:** Participate with all elementary schools with reimbursement rate of 79.9% with a loss of approximately \$9,659 annually.

The direction of the Board was to bring the options to the June 23, 2020 Board meeting. If it is determined that the deadline to submit participation notification to California Department of Education is prior to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the resolution pass by the Board giving the authorization to the Superintendent to make the decision on behalf of the Board will be utilized.

- 9.2.2 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT reported that most of his staff is back to work. They focused on getting the sprinklers working properly and preparing for the graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Gaston made note that the electric bus grant has been put on hold and should resume its progress in the next few months. The application process for the CARB grant has been extended, they anticipate having funds distributed by the end of the year.

- 9.2.2.1 D.H. White Elementary School modular installation presentation – Ken Gaston, Director of MOT announced that the project is on schedule and provided a slideshow of the modular classroom installation project including the steps needed to complete the project.

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

- 9.3.1 Special Education Update – Nicole Latimer, Director of Educational Services & Special Education reported that when preparing for the Board report there were only six student enrolled in the Extended School Year (ESY) distance learning summer school program. She gave an updated confirming the enrollment has increased to 15 students, with a potential of 19 students who will participate in the ESY summer program.

- 9.3.2 Beyond the Bell (BTB) Presentation - Nicole Latimer, Director of Educational Services and Special Education demonstrated the activities of the Beyond the Bell staff during the COVID-19 pandemic school closures. Showcasing the on-site activities, such as handing out enrichment packets with art supplies when students came on campus for meal service. The staff members also made phone calls to check on the social and emotional well being of students. The BTB staff attended virtual classroom meetings and led break out rooms for extra support helping the students with their homework.

- 9.3.3 School Plan for Student Achievement - Nicole Latimer, Director of Educational Services and Special Education reported that the school sites have been working steadfast and diligently to continue to provide our students with opportunities for excellence in education and experiences that are rich rigor, technology and campus culture. In preparing their SPSAs, each Principal has provided us with three areas they are proud of as well as three areas for continued growth. After Ms. Latimer presented the Board with a summary for each school site, a Board member asked each Principal to reflect on how the distance learning impacted the students.

- 9.4 River Delta Unified Teacher's Association (RDUTA) Update – Mrs. Latimer read a statement on behalf of Mr. Hodges, RDUTA President. His report read as follows: President Fernandez, Superintendent Wright and members of the Board and thanked them for their time. Mr. Hodges provided the Board with results of a survey he orchestrated with members of the RDUTA bargaining unit. He hopes the District will ensure that the RDUTA will be fully informed of its plans and that RDUTA staff will be a part of the collaborative groups moving forward in preparation of the 2020-2021 school year.

- 9.5 California State Employee's Association (CSEA) Chapter #319 Update: No report given

## 10. Consent Calendar

- 10.1 Approve Board Minutes
  - Regular Meeting of the Board - May 12, 2020
  - Special Meeting of the Board – May 26, 2020
- 10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports
  - As of June 9, 2020
- 10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report
  - May 2020

- 10.4 Request to approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Sara M. Hall, M.A., BCBA to provide Behavior Intervention Assessments and Plans for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$30,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.5 Request to approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Hand-in-Hand Therapeutics for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$45,000– Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.6 Request to approve the Professional Expert Consultation Agreement with Linda Mitchell For Adapted Physical Education Services for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.7 Request to approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Meladee McCarty to provide Program Specialist services for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.8 Request to approve the Expert Agreement with Hancoch McCarty to provide Assistive Technology Services and Assessments for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.9 Request to approve the Independent Contract for services Agreement with Elaine H. Talley, M.Ed., J.D. to serve as a non-bias facilitator for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$3,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.10 Request the approval of Rio Vista High; Riverview Middle; D.H. White Elementary; Isleton Elementary; Walnut Grove Elementary; Bates Elementary; Clarksburg Middle and Delta High Schools' Single Plan for Student Achievement for school year 2020-2021 as presented – Site Principals
- 10.11 Request to approve the 2020-2021 General Agreement for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (Pristine Rehab Care) to provide speech therapy services for district students at a cost not to exceed \$240,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.12 Request to approve the General Agreement for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (Point Quest Lodi Campus) for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$100,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.13 Request to approve the General Agreement for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (Point Quest Instructional assistant) for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$90,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.14 Request to approve the General Agreement for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (Kadiant LLC) to provide applied behavior analysis therapy and related services for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$90,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.15 Request to approve the General Agreement for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (CCHAT Center) to provide deaf and hard of hearing services for District students for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.16 Request to approve the General Agreement for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency (Jabbergym, Inc.) to provide physical therapy services for District students for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 – Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education
- 10.17 Request to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RDUSD and the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) for Special Education Services Starting July 1, 2020 – at a cost not to exceed \$4,661, Special Educational Funds – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education

10.18 Donations to Receive and Acknowledge:

**River Delta Unified School District**

Connie Abendschein and Connie's Angels for cloth masks

Member Mahoney requested to pull item 10.3 for discussion.

*Member Mahoney made a motion to pull agenda item 10.3 and approve the remainder consent calendar items, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Elliott, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Stone)*

Member Mahoney requested clarification on the expenditures made for California Water and the City of Rio Vista on the Monthly Expenditure Report.

*Member Mahoney moved to approve consent item 10.3, President Fernandez seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 6 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Riley, Elliott, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Stone)*

Member Fernandez recognized the donation and thanked them for keeping us safe during this pandemic.

Superintendent Wright thanked Christy Ricketts for her efforts in connecting the District with Connie Abendschein who donated masks for our CSEA members returning to work. Superintendent Wright read a note from Connie acknowledging all of the people who helped by either donating supplies or sewing the over 1300 masks in four weeks for the Delta community members. Superintendent Wright also expressed her appreciation to Connie and her Angels for providing masks for our staff members.

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 citations revisions as of March 2020 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

12. Request to approve the "Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators" for the 2020-2021 school year – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

13. Request approval of election process and Resolution #789 Specifications of Election Order, Publication of Notice of Election form, Notice of Election and Certification of maps and boundaries for the November 3, 2020 Elections of District Board Members for the 2020-2024 term of office – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

14. Request to approve the elimination and reduction of an Instructional Assistant III position – Nicole Latimer, Director of Education Services & Special Education

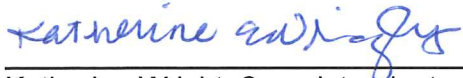
*President Fernandez moved to approve, Member Olson seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 5 (Ayes: Fernandez, Olson, Elliott, Casillas, Mahoney): 0 (Nays): 2 (Absent: Riley – lost connection, Stone)*

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

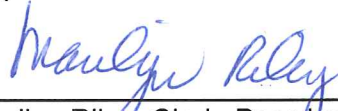
The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm

Submitted:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:



Marilyn Riley, Clerk, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder  
End