

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

May 11, 2021

1. **Call Open Session to Order** – President Stone called the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:31 p.m. on May 11, 2021. 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 Stone gave instructions on how the public is to address the Board during Public Comment or on any agenda item.

2. **Roll Call of Members:**

Jennifer Stone, President
Dan Mahoney, Vice President
Marilyn Riley, Clerk
Rafaela Casillas, Member
Marcial Lamera, Member
Wanda Apel, Member
Randall Jelly, Member

Also, present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Jennifer Gaston, Recorder.

3. **Review Closed Session Agenda (see attached agenda)**

- 3.1 Board President Stone announced items on the Closed Session Agenda

- 3.2 Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items Only – None to report

4. **Board President Stone 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 Lamera seconded. Motion carried by roll call Vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:54 pm**

- 5.1 Roll was retaken. All members were present.

Also, present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Jennifer Gaston, Recorder

- 5.2 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Stone

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

Board President Stone reported that, during Closed Session, the Board did not take any actions.

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

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

Member Lamera moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Latimer greeted the Board and reported that there no general public comments. However, there is one public comment that will be read during Action Item 16.

Reports, Presentations, Information

- 9.1 Board Member(s) and Superintendent Report(s) and/or Presentation(s) –

- 9.1.1 Board Members' report(s) Member Lamera reported that he had the opportunity to facilitate the Spanish Town Hall Meetings at Bates Elementary, Walnut Grove Elementary along with Member Casillas. He commended Member Casillas for the fantastic job of facilitating these meetings relaying the District's stance to the Spanish

speaking community while encouraging the community members to express their thoughts, concerns and questions. Member Lamera expressed that he felt these meetings were extremely successful in that there was a high level of participation from the Spanish speaking community members. Historically, the level of participation from this population was very low. Member Lamera noted that he attended the other Town Hall meetings either in-person or virtually via Zoom. He recognized the Board members who participated in the Town Hall meetings, as well as the community members who provided input and rallied to keep their schools open.

Member Lamera voiced his stance on the School Closure topic, stating that he will not support closing any schools in the District as he was a victim of the school closure at Clarksburg Elementary School 15 years prior. He does not want to put this added stress on any students. He hopes the District will move in the direction of recovering the Districtwide learning loss that transpired during the pandemic. Member Lamera commented that as a Board member, he would like to hold Bates Elementary School, Walnut Grove Elementary School and Riverview Middle School accountable for the actions presented in their improvement plans. He would also like to find areas in the general budget for additional cuts to help with the 2023-2024 budget projections.

Member Lamera stated that, although it is the Board's responsibility to make difficult decisions to ensure the District remains solvent, it is also the Board's responsibility to represent their constituents effectively when making large impactful decisions.

Member Riley reported that she and Member Mahoney facilitated the Town Hall Meeting at Rio Vista High School. She thanked all those who attended and provided their input.

Member Riley reported that she attended the Rio Vista High School Swim Team's finals. She stated that her granddaughters and family members provided a barbeque for the swimmers to celebrate their season.

Member Casillas reported that as the Trustee that represents Area 3, the Walnut Grove School attendance area, she wanted to be clear that her personal opinion is that Walnut Grove Elementary School should not be on the list of schools for potential closure. She stated that the data shows that the enrollment, academic achievement, the positive school climate, school culture, and the unity of the staff members along with the community members are healthier than they have been in ten years. She stated that, after listening to her Spanish and English-speaking constituents, it is very clear that they deserve the respect and set aside Bond funds to upgrade and renovate the school and to keep it open for many years. Member Casillas reiterated her belief that Walnut Grove Elementary School should have never been placed on the potential closure list. She is in opposition to closing any of the District schools and she affords those on the potential closure list time to increase enrollment and improve the academics.

Member Jelly reported that she does not support the closure of Walnut Grove Elementary School.

Board President Stone shared the same sentiments of her colleagues stating that there were wonderful suggestions received at the Town Hall meetings and the principals should be given the opportunity to make the improvements.

9.1.2 Committee reports

9.1.2.1 Facilities Planning Steering Committee – Jennifer Stone, Board President reported that the committee has not had the opportunity meet. She mentioned that and now that the Town Hall meetings have concluded, it would be interesting to review the data gathered from these meetings and formulate a plan moving forward. Therefore, there is nothing to report.

9.1.2.2 School Closure Discussion – President Stone stated that many of the Board members have already voiced their opinions on the topic of school closures and encouraged the others to share their thoughts. President Stone noted the feedback and suggestions from the meetings should be used to create a plan and the opportunity should be given to the school sites to make the changes needed for improvement.

Member Lamera stated that he liked the plans that each one of the three principals provided for their improvements. He would like the principals to have the chance to implement these plans.

Member Jelly indicated that she is a member of the Riverview School Site Council and she has witnessed Mrs. Rossi implementing these ideas. Member Jelly has seen progress at Riverview Middle School.

Member Stone acknowledged that the Board had determined that the timeline for school closure provided by the California Department of Education (CDE) would be utilized as a template. Although, President Stone does not want to abandon the idea of a permanent school closure but use this time for the implementation of the plans. Member Stone believes that meetings need to be held to establish goals that can be evaluated at a later date and hold the principals accountable for the improvements at their site.

Member Mahoney agreed with President Stone. Member Mahoney mentioned that the energy at the Town Hall meetings was incredible and he would like to see this level of energy and enthusiasm continue. Member Mahoney stated that “status quo” will not work in keeping the District fiscally solvent; enrollment number must be increased. Member Mahoney feels that the plan for Bates Elementary School has the potential of being very successful. However, if the numbers do not increase with the implementation, a completely different conversation will need to be held.

Member Lamera is in agreement to conduct check-ins periodically to evaluate their progress and provide support.

Board President Stone mentioned that Site Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) will be presented to the Board in June. The sites SPSA should indicate how they plan to remedy the issues at hand. She noted that Summer break is just around the corner and we probably will not see any improvements until approximately September. September may be a good time to start the evaluation process. Member Lamera agreed, adding that November or December may be a good time to revisit the closure conversation as indicated in the CDE timeline.

Superintendent Wright asked the Board for clarification. She asked if they are requesting to be aware of the site goals, how much progress has been made towards the goals, monitor these goals and make suggestions to support the plans. Mrs. Wright likes the idea of moving forward with a positive mind set, and to work collaboratively setting up a rigorous check-in period. Meetings should be geared around school improvement and possibly including staff members, school site council members, whomever is needed to provide input on how the plans are progressing. She suggested the possibility of holding Town Hall meetings to obtain input from the community members of their prospective on how these plans are making progress.

Member Apel indicated that the goals need to have measurable benchmarks so improvements can be seen and that we are not relying on someone’s word that improvements have been achieved. President Stone was in agreement.

Superintendent Wright asked for the Board’s direction moving forward. She asked if it is their intention to table the closure and work on school improvements. The consensus of the Board is to allow the schools time to implement their improvement plans and evaluate them later in the calendar year. Walnut Grove Elementary School has been removed from the discussion of school closures to focus the energy in supporting Bates Elementary School and Riverview Middle School.

- 9.1.3 Superintendent Wright’s report(s) – Superintendent Wright reported that this last month has been busy and productive. District staff has had their initial meeting with RGM Kramer to discuss the next steps moving forward with Bond projects.

Superintendent Wright announced that eight Town Hall meetings have been held in four of communities to provide community members the opportunity to address the Board regarding the potential school closures. She thanked all who attended including staff members either in-person or via Zoom. She also thanked those who worked additional hours to set up the hybrid meeting model. The hybrid meeting model allowed the District the ability to offer the meeting both in-person and Zoom simultaneously.

Superintendent Wright noted that negotiations sessions have been held with both RDUTA and CSEA and they have had great discussions on MOU language, as well as contract language. She said that she felt very lucky to have great teams to work with.

Superintendent Wright reported that the first round of Chief Business Officer (CBO) interviews has been conducted and is looking forward to the second round later this week. She thanked Ryland Consulting and Vina Guzman for the help she has provided the District as the Interim, CBO.

Superintendent Wright mentioned that a significant amount of time has been dedicated to writing the narratives for the 2021-2022 LCAP and will be sending it to the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) for review. This has been a very difficult LCAP to write with the lapse of normalcy due to Covid-19.

Lastly, she reported that she has been working with the City of Rio Vista to advertise their vaccination clinic for those 16 years and older. All three counties are requesting the District provide a physical location and volunteers if requested to provide vaccination clinics for those 12 years and older. She has been working with the City in coordinating a couple of grant opportunities of approximately \$50,000 in total funds for the Rio Vista Schools. The grant application requires the school sites to specify a project they would like to complete. If approved, they will work with the City to complete their projects. They are waiting to hear if their grant applications have been accepted.

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 – Vina Guzman, Interim Chief Business Officer reported as submitted. Member Mahoney commended Sharon Silva and Ken Gaston for working with the City of Rio Vista last June, finding errors in the billing. On this month's billing, it showed a substantial reduction the costs.

9.2.2 Presentation Regarding GO Bond Sale for SFID #1 and SFID #2 – Matt Kolker, Governmental Financial Strategies thanked those who attend the Bond sale. He provided the Board with an overview of the Bond Sale process. He stated that there were five bids on Measure J and four bids on Measure K. The winning bid for both Measure J and Measure K was from Citigroup.

9.2.3 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT, Mr. Gaston reported as submitted.

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 greeted the Board and was apologetic that her updated did not include a presentation with pictures of the students. Ms. Latimer reported that the Educational Services Department is working diligently in getting the Summer Programs up and running. She has been working on completing the LCAP and the District Services Agreement (DSA) for Migrant Education. End of year processes are high on the priority list for all those in her department.

9.3.2 Academic Resource Center (ARC), Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer reported that ARC is one of the programs that will focus on closing the academic learning gap due to Covid-19 and support existing educational needs of the students in the district. ARC is very similar to what you might see on a college campus, where

students would make an appointment and get one on one support service. A list of sessions can be found online. A student can sign-up for a group session focused on a specific subject. This will be a positive way for staff and students to work together meeting the needs of students. ARC will be offered as an after-school program. However, there are many pieces that need to be reviewed, such as transportation and staffing. She hopes to implement ARC on both secondary campuses and trickle down with some form of ARC type program for the elementary school at a later date.

- 9.3.3 Special Education Update – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education reported that the end of the school year tends to be a little on the crazy, aside with all that needs to be accomplished prior to Summer Break. He thanked the teachers, instructional aides, all the related service providers and administrators, for this time of year they do dozens, if not hundreds, of IEPs for students in preparations for programing in the next school year. Mr. Anderson noted that we are required by Special Education law to provide Extended School Year (ESY) programs for students who maybe at a high risk of regression and learning loss. This year, due to the CARES Act, there will potentially be an additional ten days of instruction. This additional program will be open to not only Special Education students that typically attend ESY, but to those who may not normally have this privilege. Mr. Anderson mentioned that there are a few items later in the agenda that are relate to social and emotional health. He stated that, although we have focused on this topic for many years, there has been a renewed focus as the students come back to school.

9.4 River Delta Unified Teachers Association (RDUTA) Update – Marsha Montgomery, RDUTA President greeted the Board and Superintendent Wright. She reported that everyone is winding down for the end of the school year and getting ready for the Summer School. The union is continuing negotiations and they are in the process of electing a new Union Board.

9.5 California State Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #319 Update – Melinda Barkman, CSEA President submitted a update read by Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer. She reported that the CSEA team and the District are still in contract negotiations and is hoping to be completed soon.

9.6 Public Hearing regarding the dedication and naming of the Fitness and Wellness Center at Rio Vista High School – Fitness and Wellness Center – In Memory of Elizabeth McCormack – Victoria Turk, Rio Vista High School Principal

Open Hearing: 7:54pm

Public Comment: Victoria Turk gave an explanation on how the grants were received for both the first and second awards for the Rio Vista High School Library. She spoke of the additional grant received by the same donors for the Fitness and Wellness Center. Due to the foundations ongoing support for Rio Vista High School and the health and wellbeing of our students, Rio Vista High School stakeholders including the Rio Vista Booster Club, staff, and the Rio Vista High School Site Council are seeking the Board’s approval to rename the building to Harvey L. and Maud C. Sorenson – Fitness and Wellness Center – In Memory of Elizabeth McCormack. There were no other public comments regarding the renaming of the facility.

Close Hearing: 7:56pm

10. **Consent Calendar:**

- 10.1 Approve Board Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Board – April 13, 2021
- 10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Report - As of May 11, 2021
- 10.3 District’s Monthly Expenditure Report
April 2021
- 10.4 Request to Approve a Bond Oversight Committee Applicants for Measure J and Measure K Relating to Oversight of Expenditures of Bond Proceeds – Katherine Wright, Superintendent
- 10.5 Request to Approve the Revision to the 2021-2022 Districtwide School Calendar – Katherine Wright, Superintendent
- 10.6 Request to Declare the Non-Operational River Delta Unified School District Buses as surplus – Ken Gaston, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation
- 10.7 Request to Approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with

- Rick Bledsoe, ATP for the 2020-2021 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, Special Education Funds – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education
- 10.8 Request to Approve the Independent Contract for Services Agreement with Deborah McCloskey, MACCC-SP for the 2020-2021 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$2,750, Special Education Funds – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education
- 10.9 Request to Approve the Service Agreement with Care Solace for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$6,660.50 – Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education
- 10.10 Donations to Receive and Acknowledge:
- Rio Vista High School – Incentive Fund**
 - Verla Chaddick
 - Cathy Jo Dueseenberry
 - Michael Oyoung
 - Rio Vista High School – Joseph Turk Memorial Scholarship Fund**
 - Rosie Turk
 - River Delta Unified School District**
 - Bart and Lori Lapkin – One case of non-medical masks

Member Stone recognized the donations and thanked them for their continued support.

Member Lamera requested that Consent Calendar 10.4 be pulled for discussion, approving the remaining items; Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

Member Lamera made a general statement reminding the Bond Oversight Committee applicants of the responsibilities of being a Bond Oversight Committee member.

Member Lamera moved to approve item 10.4; *Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

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 March 2021 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Member Casillas moved to approve, *Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

12. Request to Approve Resolution #811 Authorizing FY 2020-2021 Expenditures from Educational Protection Act Funds (Prop. 30) – Vina Guzman, Interim Chief Business Officer

Member Casillas moved to approve, *Member Jelly seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

13. Request to Approve Resolution #812 Related to the Reduction or Elimination of Particular Kinds of Certificated Services – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Member Lamera moved to approve, *Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

14. Request to Approve Resolution #813 Authorization to Adopt California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA) Procedures and Related Items – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Member Mahoney moved to approve, *Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

15. Request to Approve Budget Reductions and Reallocations for FY 2021-2022 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Vina Guzman, Interim Chief Business Officer

Member Mahoney moved to approve, *Member Lamera seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)*

16. Request to Approve the Repayment Schedule for the City of Isleton – Vina Guzman, Interim Chief Business Officer

Public comment: Through a letter sent to the Board and Superintendent Wright. Charles Bergson, P.E. City Manager thanked Board President Stone and Superintendent Wright for meeting with them the prior month to address the redevelopment obligation for the City of Isleton. The letter stated that the City of Isleton holds a redevelopment agency debt to the River Delta Unified School District in the amount of \$198,034 and was accrued many years back by the City and for the benefit of the District. He stated that these funds were never disbursed. On behalf of the City, Mr. Bergson requested that this obligation be relieved over a period of fifteen years in an amount of approximately \$13,000 per year.

Superintendent Wright and Vina Guzman, Interim Chief Business Officer gave the Board a few additional details including that there was another obligation of approximately \$20,000 that needs to be added to the amount indicated by Mr. Bergson.

Member Lamera made a motion to approve a 2-year payment plan that includes interest, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

17. Request to Approve the Purchase of a Wheelchair Accessible Van to Transport Special Education Students – Ken Gaston, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

Member Casillas moved to approve, Member Mahoney seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

18. Request to Approve Resolution #814 Beginning May 12, 2021 Identifying District Representatives Authorized to Execute Documents Related to Construction to Katherine Wright, Superintendent, and Ken Gaston, Director of Maintenance, Operation and Transportation – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Member Riley moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

19. Request to Purchase Five Electric Busses from Lion Electric Using VW Mitigation Settlement Program Grant Funds, DERA Grant Funds and SMAQMD Grant Funds – Ken Gaston, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

Member Casillas moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

20. Request to Approve the Job Description Social, Emotional, and Academic Development (SEAD) Coordinator - Tom Anderson, Director of Special Education and Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer

Member Lamera moved to approve, Member Casillas seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

21. Re-Adjourn to continue Closed Session, if needed – Board President Stone reported that re-adjourning to Closed Session was not necessary.

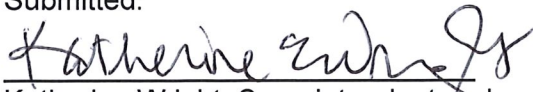
22. Report of Action taken, if any, during continued Closed Session (Government Code Section 54957.1) Board President Stone reported Closed Session was not necessary – no actions to report.

23. Adjournment: With no further business before the Board, Board President Stone asked for a motion to adjourn with support of the Norris Family.

Member Riley moved to approve, Member Mahoney seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm

Submitted:


Katherine Wright, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:


Jennifer Stone, President, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder

End