

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

October 12, 2021

1. **Call Open Session to Order** – Board President Stone called the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:30 p.m. on October 12, 2021 at Bates Elementary School, Courtland, California.
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, MemberAlso present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent
3. **Review, Approve the Closed Session Agenda and Adjourn to Closed Session**
 - 3.1 Board President Stone announced items on the Closed Session Agenda
 - 3.2 Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items. – *None to report*
4. **Board President Stone asked for a motion to approve the Closed Session agenda and adjourn the meeting to Closed Session @ 5:32 pm**

Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Lamera seconded. Motion carried 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays): 0 (Absent)
5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:45 pm**
 - 5.1 Roll was retaken. All members were present.
Also present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent; Tammy Busch, Chief Business Officer 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 the Board received information; no action taken during Closed Session.
7. **Review and Approve the Open Session Agenda**

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

Member Lamera moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 7 (Ayes: Mahoney, Riley, Casillas, Lamera, Apel, Jelly, Stone): 0 (Nays): 0 (Absent)
8. **Public Comment:** Kaitlyn Gilliland, a Rio Vista High School teacher submitted a written comment. She was not present in person or virtually, so Ms. Latimer read her statement to the Board. Ms. Gilliland stated that she is in her seventh year serving in River Delta Unified School District and that Rio Vista High School has 23 certificated teachers, six of which have taught with her during her tenor in the District. She stated that some of these positions have turned over multiple times over the last six years and that the District has had a consistent issue with teacher retention and has been exacerbated by the nationwide teacher shortage. Ms. Gilliland feels that it isn't fair to the teachers who have been asked to absorb the responsibility of the vacant positions. Speaking of her own experience, she has been helping plan Chemistry labs for Delta High School and, although she has been compensated for this task, she feels that it is not a sustainable solution in the long term. Ms. Gilliland fears that teachers who have continued to work in the District are going to get burn out and the problem will only get worse. Ms. Gilliland stated that, when students do not show up for class, the teachers are asked if anything in the classroom environment might be causing this behavior and to make the necessary changes. She made a question to the Board that if teachers stop showing up to work, is it not their responsibility to figure out why and to make necessary changes? Ms. Gilliland hopes that the Board will consider addressing her following questions at the next meeting. These questions are: Is the issue of teacher recruitment, and teacher retention something

that the board is seriously discussing? To what extent have you involved your teaching staff in these discussions? And what, if any, action has been taken so far to address this issue?

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 Lamera reported that Board President Stone and he made site visits to Walnut Grove Elementary, Bates Elementary, Clarksburg Middle and Delta High Schools. He was happy to see the students in class where they should be. Member Lamera stated that it was exciting to see the Dual Immersion Program in action. He has plans to visit the other school site in the next upcoming week and invited any of his fellow Board members to join him.

Member Mahoney reported that he has attended the community engagement meetings that have been held at the school site for discussion of the Bond Funds. He feels that these meetings are extremely important for parents and members of the community to attend as these are public tax dollars being spent.

Member Mahoney noted that he had attended a funeral of a retired Rio Vista High School teacher, Tom Quijada. He spoke of fond memories and requested a moment of silence be held in his honor.

Member Riley announced that she attended the Deven Davis Memorial volleyball game. The proceeds from the game will benefit the Deven Davis Scholarship Fund. Member Riley was happy to say that Rio Vista High School won the game.

9.1.2 Committee report(s)

9.1.2.1 Facilities Planning Steering Committee, Superintendent Wright reported that the most pressing issue discussed was the Brann Ranch property which was purchased by a land developer. The current agreement for the Brann Ranch property is due to expire in December of 2021. A new agreement between River Delta Unified School District and the developer will need to be approved defining what funding will be provided to the District and the impact the development will make on the local schools. Superintendent Wright made note that the Rio Vista Planning Commission is meeting tomorrow evening, October 13th, at 6:00pm to consider an extension of the current agreement. She stated that the meeting will be held virtually if anyone would like to listen or make a comment.

9.1.3 Superintendent Wright's report(s) Superintendent Wright reported that the District still has eight teacher vacancies that are currently be covered by long term subs which greatly affects the availability for daily subs. In alignment to Ms. Gilliland's questions, River Delta Unified School District analyzes the vacancies and Edjoin applications daily, is in communication with internship program, is working with the Sacramento County Office of Education to identify best practices for recruitment and retention of staff, is in discussion with the California Department of Education regarding reasons for the vacancy and working with nearby universities to place student teachers as provisional interns in our vacancies. She asked if anyone is aware of someone with a degree who would be interested in becoming a sub in the District to please encourage them to apply on Edjoin. Superintendent Wright also announced that the District is in desperate need of bus drivers and instructional aides.

Superintendent Wright announced that the governor and legislators released information on regulations that will require staff and students to have their COVID vaccines by August 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year. The District has been notified of a movement to protest this regulation by participating in a school "Sick Out" day on October 18th. The District strongly encourages all of our families to refrain from hurting our local schools but rather express their opinions and feeling directly to the policy makers. The District is doing everything possible to keep the schools open and need the students to attend school to have the most positive impact on their education.

Superintendent Wright mentioned that she had received several texts and phone calls informing her of an active fire at Rancho Marina mobile home park. With approval from the fire chief, she and several staff members were able to walk through the park

accessing the loss of homes of district families and staff members. She stated that over 30 homes in the community were lost and identified that a staff member and approximately 27 students were among those who lost their homes. Many community members have reached out to guidance on how they can help. After speaking to the affected families, she believes that, at this time, gift card donations for clothing, shoes, food, and basic essentials would be most helpful to them. She stated that, although all the people are safe, many of them have not been able to locate their beloved pets. She stated that our hearts and prayers go out to all of the families.

9.1.3.1 Notice of Intention to Amend the Conflict of Interest Code for River Delta Unified School District – Superintendent Wright informed the Board that as part of the process in amending the conflict of interest code it is essential and legally-required for River Delta Unified School District reflect the current structure of its organization. Part of the processes in amending the conflict of interest code is identifying the proper officials who should be filing statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) and hold a 45-day public comment period, and to notify all employees of the 45-day comment period. She stated that with this notice starts the 45-day public comment period, there is no action required from the Board at this time.

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 – Tammy Busch, Chief Business Officer; Ken Gaston, Directors of MOT

9.2.1 Business Services' Report – Tammy Busch, Chief Business Officer gave an update on the Food Services Department and Technology. She stated the District is serving universal meals serving 16,857 Lunches, 8,492 Breakfasts, 928 Snacks and 4,548 Dinners. The District has conducted a walk through of all cafeteria facilities to assess the needs of each kitchen. Ms. Busch mentioned that, in March, the District will undergo an Administrative Review for the Food Services Department. Ms. Busch announced that the proceeding Friday was Calvin Pettigrew's last day working with the District and that she would be meeting with Sodexo in the next few days to define the roles of the District and Sodexo and meet the interim replacement for Mr. Pettigrew. Board President Stone voiced that she would miss Calvin as he was very kind and helpful when she was planning PTA events.

Ms. Busch announced that the District qualified for Emergency Connectivity (ECF) Program. Funds will be spent to help provide technology devices and connectivity services to support students. The District received \$59,000 for hotspot service and \$277,894 for Chromebooks to families that filled out the qualifying survey. The funds spent by the District will be reimbursed by the ECF Funding Program.

9.2.1.1 ADA/Enrollment Report – Tammy Busch, Chief Business Officer reported that the September (Month 2) Attendance and Enrollment Report submitted was in comparison to the same month of FY2019-2020.

9.2.1.2 Monthly Financial Report – Tammy Busch, Chief Business Officer reported that the financial report reflected income and expenses as of September 30, 2021. Member Mahoney pointed out that the water and sewer bills have decreased significantly of the past years and thanked Ken Gaston and Sharon Silva for their previous efforts to resolve the water and sewer issues.

9.2.2 Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Update, Ken Gaston, Director of MOT was pleased to announce that they have hired a utility worker after 18 months of searching. Mr. Gaston noted that a four-hour custodial position has also been filed and they are waiting for the hiring process to be completed and hopes to have these newly hired employees to be starting soon.

Mr. Gaston shared with the Board that Michael Mimiaga, the Supervisor of Transportation, was one of the many firefighters who fought the fire at Rancho Marina.

Mr. Gaston informed the Board that he anticipates losing a few more bus drivers due to retirement. He stated that they have had several interested applicants; however, due to split shifts, it is very hard to fill the positions. He indicated that the drivers start their morning shift around 5:30am, work for a few hours, have time off, start their afternoon shift which is an addition few hours and ending their day around 6:00pm. They are paid for approximately 5.5 hours of work time. He mentioned that he has spoke with other districts and they are facing the same issues as our District. Mr. Gaston has made contact with Michael's Transportation Service, and they also are suffering from the lack of drivers and would not be unable to provide services for the District.

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

9.3.1 Educational Services Update – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer reported that she will be conducting the Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER III) Funding meetings to gather input for how these funds will be utilized. These relief funds are to address the impact of COVID-19. Ms. Busch indicated that 20% of these funds need to be allocated differently, for the academic impact of lost instructional time.

Ms. Latimer mention that several employees have been attending the Aeries.com workshops to learn the changes in Aeries, our District's student information data system.

Ms. Latimer stated that the first round of Kevin Bracy professional development motivational speaking engagements has been completed. This training has been time well spent for staff and students.

9.3.2 Williams' Settlement Public Notification Regarding Sufficiency of Teachers, Facilities, and Textbook and Instructional Materials – First Quarter (July – September 2021) – Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer reported that there have been no complaints received during the first quarter.

9.3.3 Special Education Update – Rebecca Bryant, Interim Director of Special Education – Ms. Latimer explained to the Board the Rebecca Bryant is currently serving the District as our Interim Director of Special Education. She has made herself available to the case managers to answer any questions they may have and to provide support and guidance.

9.4 River Delta Unified Teacher's Association (RDUTA) Update – Alyson Stiles, RDUTA President – Not present; no report given.

9.5 California State Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter #319 Update – Melinda Barkman, CSEA President – Not present; no report given.

10. **Consent Calendar**

10.1 Approve Board Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board, September 14, 2021

10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports

As of October 12, 2021

10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report

September 2021

10.4 Request to Approve the Contract with Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. for the 2021-2022 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$87,000 – Covid Funds - Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer

10.5 Request to Approve the Contract with Document Tracking Services for the 2021-2022 School Year to Create a Variety of District Documents Including the School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) and Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) at a cost not to exceed \$4,650 – Educational Service Funds - Nicole Latimer, Chief Educational Services Officer

10.6 Request to Declare as Surplus 30 Wooden Cubicles Desks in the Woodshop of Rio Vista High School and Deem Their Value as Zero – Victoria Turk, Principal

10.7 Request to Pre-Approve the Isleton Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) School Fundraisers for the 2021-2022 School Year – Stacy Wallace, Principal

- 10.8 Request to Declare as Surplus District Vehicles that are Non-operational or the Cost of Repairs is Greater than Their Value – Ken Gaston, Director of MOT
- 10.9 Request to Pre-Approve the Bates Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) School Fundraisers for the 2021-2022 School Year – Maria Elena Becerra, Principal
- 10.10 Request to Pre-Approve the Delta High School's Associated Student Body (ASB) Fundraisers for the 2021-2022 School Year – Christine Mabery, Principal
- 10.11 Donations to Receive and Acknowledge:

Rio Vista High School – Striping of the Football Field

Gomes Excavating

Rio Vista High School – Student Activities

Foster's Bighorn

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

Member Stone acknowledged those who donated and thanked them for their continuing support.

Action Items -- Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes to address the Board on any agenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public presentation and input on all items to a maximum of 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 the Board to Place Votes for the Reclamation District 551/755 Levee and Drainage Facilities Improvement Assessment Ballots – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

- 12. Request the Board to Place Votes for the Clarksburg Lighting Assessment District Property Owners: Proposed Street Lighting Assessment Increase and Public Hearing – Katherine Wright, Superintendent

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

- 13. Request to Approve the Purchase of 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan S to Provide Transportation for Special Education Students a cost not to exceed \$32,599.41 – Ken Gaston, Director of MOT

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

- 14. Request to Approve the Purchase of a 2018 Chevrolet Traverse LS at a cost not to exceed \$35,005.19 – Transportation Funding – Ken Gaston, Director of MOT

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

- 15. Request to Award a Contract for the Installation of Marquee Signs to RA Jones Construction for D.H. White Elementary School and Walnut Grove Elementary School and Award a Contract for the Installation of a Marquee Sign to Bockman & Woody Electric Company for Riverview Middle School – Tammy Busch, Chief Business Officer

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

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

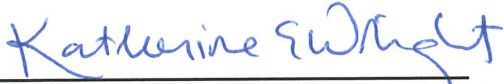
- 17. Report of Action taken, if any, during continued Closed Session (Government Code Section 54957.1) - Board President Stone reported Closed Session was not necessary – no actions to report.

- 18. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Board President Stone asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder

End

Approved:



Marilyn Riley, Clerk, Board of Trustees