

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

March 12, 2024

1. **Call Open Session to Order** – Board President Lamera called the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:30 p.m. on March 12, 2024, at Walnut Grove Elementary School, Walnut Grove, California.
2. **Roll Call of Members:**
 - Marcial Lamera, President
 - Jennifer Stone, Vice President
 - Randall Jelly, Clerk
 - Marilyn Riley, Member
 - Rafaela Casillas, Member (Absent)
 - Wanda Apel, Member
 - Dan Mahoney, MemberAlso present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent
3. **Review, Approve the Closed Session Agenda**
 - 3.1 Board President Lamera announced items on the Closed Session Agenda
 - 3.2 Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items. – None to report
4. **Approve Closed Session and Adjourn to Closed Session**
 - 4.1 Board President Lamera asked for a motion to approve the Closed Session agenda and adjourned the meeting to **Closed Session @ 5:31 pm.**
Member Stone moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)
5. **Open Session was reconvened at 6:36 pm**
 - 5.1 Roll was retaken. Member Casillas was absent. All other members were present.
Also present: Katherine Wright, Superintendent; Tammy Busch, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services; Nancy Vielhauer, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and Jennifer Gaston, Recorder
 - 5.2 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ivan Lopez, Walnut Grove Elementary School student.
6. **Report of Action taken, if any, during the Closed Session** (Government Code Section 54957.1)
Board President Lamera reported that the Board received information; however, no actions were taken.
7. **Review and Approve the Open Session Agenda**
 - 7.1 Board President Lamera asked for a motion to approve the Open Session
Member Riley moved to approve, Member Apel seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)
8. **Student Presentations and Public Comment**
 - 8.1 Student Presentation: – SEL/Student Wellness Initiative - Walnut Grove Elementary Students and Staff – Gabino Perez, Principal, introduced the Lead Teacher of the presentation, Reina Reibe. Ms. Reibe introduced her colleagues, Noemi Alcaraz and Brenda Casillas-Lopez, and three students, Ivan Lopez, a second-grade student, Esmeralda Villanueva Torres, a third-grade student, and Areli Villanueva Torres, a sixth-grade student. Ms. Reibe mentioned that Walnut Grove Elementary School received grant money to promote Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Mr. Perez created an SEL team to create activities and events to promote positive and familial school culture. Ms. Reibe noted, on January 22, 2024, Walnut Grove Elementary School kicked off the new year with Kindness Week and officially became part of The Great Kindness Challenge. The Great Kindness Challenge theme for this year is Create Kindness. The Kindness Challenge was implemented school wide and was modified to meet the needs of each grade level. Each student received a Thirty Days of Kindness Calendar. The students shared kindness to their teachers, classmates, parents, siblings, and the environment. Acts of kindness were rewarded throughout the challenge. Noemi Alcaraz spoke of two exercises they planned with the students, one was to make a negative or unkind comment to a classmate, the student expressed that it made him feel sad and hurtful. During this exercise they wrote the unkind comment on a paper heart and wrinkled it as a symbol of the hurt

it caused. The other exercise given was to make a positive or kind comment to another student, the student expressed that it made him feel warm hearted. In closing, Ms. Noemi Alcaraz expressed that words leave an imprint on all your hearts and a lasting impact, so as a reminder to think before you speak, and not “wrinkle the heart” of someone. Brenda Casillas-Lopez noted that at Walnut Grove Elementary School, they create an environment where students feel encouraged, safe and learn to build relationships inside and outside of their classrooms. In Ms. Casillas’ classroom each student colored a heart-shaped card, left the interior space blank, and wrote their name on the back of the heart. Each heart was passed around the classroom and each student wrote a compliment about them in the blank portion of the heart. As they read their hearts, they chose a favorite compliment to share with the class and let the class know how it made them feel. Esmeralda, a student, explained that when she read her heart with the compliments, it made her feel happy and special. When asked how it made her feel when she wrote positive affirmations about her classmates, she said it made her feel like she was doing something nice for people. Ms. Casillas stated that compliments are crucial in social and emotional learning amongst students. It teaches them to give compliments and to appreciate the compliments they receive.

Mr. Perez introduced Areli, a sixth-grade student leader. She expressed how she felt about the school and the positive impact the school has made in her life. She listed many of the programs, activities and services available to students at Walnut Grove Elementary. She is thankful for the school and will be sad to be moving on to middle school.

8.2 Public Comments: Denise Morgan, community member, thanked the Board for all that they have done for the District. She mentioned that she has a better appreciation of what goes on by attending the meetings and learning about the District. She noted that being at Walnut Grove Elementary School was like coming home, noting that her oldest son attended the school at the same time as Principal Perez and had Ms. Riebe as a teacher. Mrs. Morgan introduced the new PTA President, Amy Clark. She announced that she has been appointed by the State PTA as a mentor for the Delta units and will be helping the PTA at Walnut Grove Elementary School. She asked for directions on how to interact with the Board of Trustees, if there are any boundaries, restrictions and any policies that need to be followed. Mrs. Gaston informed Mrs. Morgan that Public Comment is a platform for the public to make comments or statements but not to interact with the Board of Trustees. Ms. Gaston noted that, if she has specific questions, she is welcome to email her, and she would provide her with any information she needed.

Alex Wilson introduced himself to the Board as a proud former Walnut Grove student and wildcat. He provided background stating that his family has the pear orchard behind the school. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that in 2003 his grandfather donated a parcel of land behind the school to be used as soccer fields, providing photos of the land that he was referring to. He indicated that, at that time the field was donated, it had a functioning irrigation system and had been planted from seed, noting that it only needed routine maintenance. Mr. Wilson mentioned that, in 2015, the field had become abandoned, and the weeds were left to grow. In 2020, in efforts to clean up the field, it was disced destroying the irrigation system. He expressed his disappointment that the donation was neglected. He indicated that he would like to propose some solutions. He mentioned that he would find donors, such as irrigation and seed companies that would be more than willing to donate to this project. Mr. Wilson requested that the Board direct administrative staff to meet with him for possible solutions and or put an item on a future agenda for their consideration. His goal is to have the field restored as it was when he was a child for the current students and families. Mrs. Gaston informed Mr. Wilson that the process entails him reaching out to the site principal with his donation and proposal. The principal, Mr. Perez, could forward his recommendation to the Superintendent and district staff for its consideration.

9 Special Presentations, Reports, Information

9.1 Special Presentation(s) - None

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

9.2.1 Board Members’ report(s) Board President Lamera reported that on March 6, 2024, the Steering Committee met and the meetings outcome will be discussed later on the agenda. He mentioned that he and Superintendent Wright attended the dedication ceremony at Delta High School for the re-opening of the newly renovated baseball field. The project included new irrigation systems, sod, and infield dirt. He thanked all those who were instrumental in the project’s completion, Mr. Cornelson, River Delta USD staff, Ms. Busch, Superintendent Wright, Mr. Gaston. He thanked The Friends of Clarksburg for their donation, specifically Amanda Beck. As well as Warren Gomes Excavation, Inc. provided the excavation services and did a fantastic job leveling the field. And lastly, the parents, community members and students that spent a few weekends working on the fields.

Member Riley reported that on March 1st, she and Member Mahoney had the opportunity to read at D.H. White Elementary School during their Dr. Seuss Read Across America celebration. Each member read to students in two different classrooms.

Member Stone reported that she attended the District's elementary schools' basketball tournament that was held at Isleton Elementary School. She stated that it was an exciting time for the four elementary schools which ended in a three-way tie.

9.2.2 Committee Report(s)

9.2.2.1 City of Rio Vista 2 X 2 report(s) Superintendent Wright reported that the 2 x 2 meeting was cancelled due to illness.

9.2.2.1.1 Land Development Discussion – Superintendent reported that this topic is a follow-up discussion from the February Board meeting regarding each Board member knowing their constituents when it comes to the proposed California Forever Community. The new community that is being proposed is located just outside of Rio Vista area between Suisun City. This new 40,000 person community is on the November 2024 elections Ballot for Solano County residents to consider changing the property zoned as agriculture to residential. She explained that the specific details of the ballot initiative are not the topic of the discussion; however, this new community in this initiative is within the River Delta Unified School District's attendance boundaries. She explained that the District will need to discuss and decide, at a later date, either to keep this area as part of the District or redraw the District's attendance boundaries allowing this community for form its own District. This first step is to open the topic up for discussion. Superintendent Wright shared that, at her meeting with the California Forever group, they indicated that they are required to provide an Environmental Impact Report disclosing whether they will be including their own school district or remaining within the River Delta Unified School District attendance boundaries. This report is due in June 2024.

Member Lamera expressed that his stance has not changed in the past month. He expressed his opinion that having this new community in the River Delta Unified School District would lead to the northern end of the District not being distinctly represented by a member of the Board of Trustees. As of now, the Northern end of the District only has two representatives and the Southern end of the District has five. If California Forever passes, this new community will further alienate the Northern end of the District with more Trustee members coming from the Rio Vista area and the new proposed community. For this reason, Member Lamera is against having the new community in River Delta Unified School District attendance area.

Member Stone spoke to Member Lamera expressing that she understands what he is saying and his apprehension to having California Forever in the District's attendance boundaries. However, she stated that growth is coming whether we like it or not. Her opinion is that as a Board they should consider working with CA Forever in discussions on the plan and it would be detrimental if we don't work with them as they could potentially have more to offer. Because it would be in such close proximity, it could harm the District with loss of attendance, teachers, etc. Member Stone would like to make a list of pros and cons on this topic.

Member Mahoney stated that he will be very selective of any comments regarding this discussion. However, he did mention that as a District we do not have a say on whether the new community will come or not. If it does come to fruition, the District better have a plan and negotiate with them.

Member Apel asked a few clarifying questions on the topic and feels additional information is needed to continue the discussion.

Superintendent Wright mentioned that she met with the representatives from CA Forever regarding schools in their community. They indicated that they are planning multilevel school buildings with very little parking or playground areas. Superintendent Wright noted that this is the extent of her knowledge of their vision for schools. At a future meeting, CA Forever will be invited to present their plan for schools in their new communities. Superintendent Wright mentioned the Board should come up with specific questions they would like the CA Forever representatives to answer.

Superintendent Wright provided her own perspective, a perspective of one as a child growing up in Rio Vista and then teaching in Rio Vista. She felt offended that representative of the CA Forever group would imply that our small school district would be incapable of running a large district. As it stands right now, they are part of our district, and we should keep acting as such. She explained that they may have not intended their comments in that way, but it is how it came across. Member Lamera noted that he had this same thought and that the infrastructure in the District is small and each person wears many hats. He said it may be difficult to take on this task, not because the district employees are incapable, but because there are too few people to complete all that needs to be done. Member Apel noted that she has all the confidence in the world that Superintendent Wright and her Cabinet members are capable of running a large district and can stand up to this challenge. As the district grows, additional staff will be hired as they are needed.

Superintendent Wright mentioned that the Board of Trustees have not changed members since she was hired as the Superintendent. It has been a very cohesive team. She stated that the issue and situations associated with this development group has divided very cohesive families throughout the years. She noted that very hard decisions will need to be made by the Board and these decisions have the potential to tear people apart. In the past, the Board has had many different opinions; however, each one has had the ability to respect the opinion of others, even if they do not share their views. She hopes the same will be the case with the decisions with the CA Forever land developments.

Member Jelly requested that an informative packet be prepared and given to the Board of Trustees as soon as possible. A continued discussion can be agendaized at the next regular meeting with a Special Meeting to follow, inviting CA Forever representatives to attend.

9.2.3 Facilities Steering Committee Report(s)

9.2.3.1 Solar and Energy Discussion – Member Stone reported that the committee met on March 6, 2024, to review the financial documents for the solar projects. Member Stone noted that it is the committee's recommendation not to move forward with these projects, stating that financially they feel it would not be in the best interests of the District at this time. Taking on a loan of this significance could jeopardize the Bond rating for the upcoming Bond sales. Member Stone thanked Mr. Schlegel from Syserco Energy Solutions, Inc., for all his work putting together the proposal. Ms. Busch gave a brief explanation of the Bond rating process and how taking on a loan or liability at this time would affect the rating.

9.2.4 Superintendent Wright's report(s) Superintendent Wright reported that she had a meeting with CA Forever which was talked about earlier on the agenda. She mentioned that the District had a negotiations session with the Brann Ranch Development team and is moving closer to an agreement. Superintendent Wright mentioned that she attended the Delta High School baseball field dedication ceremony, noting that she was very appreciative to the donors and volunteers

who made the project a success. She also thanked the maintenance staff and gardeners for giving their time to maintain the project.

Superintendent Wright extended birthday wishes to Nancy Vielhauer.

9.3 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, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

9.3.1 Business Services' Report – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services, reported that the District is moving all Apple products including MACs, iPad, iPhone, to a mobile device management system. The District is currently migrating the District servers to a cloud based service. Ms. Busch is working on cyber security and risk management by revising different plans, such as the Workplace Violence Plan, Injury and Illness Plan. The District is working on obtaining a risk management certification in the next few months.

Ms. Busch mentioned that the business staff attended a financial system conference and will be attending a Frontline Conference, which is the District time and absence tracking system. They are now in the beginning stages of budget development for FY2024-2025.

9.3.1.1 ADA/Enrollment Report – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services, reported that the District-wide enrollment comparing from one school year to the next, the District has seen a decrease in enrollment and ADA. However, compared to last month, enrollment has seen an increase of seven students and ADA has increased by two.

9.3.1.2 Per Pupil Expenditure Report – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services, reported that the Per Pupil Expenditure report has been prepared for FY 2021-22 and 2022-23. This report is prepared and published annually in the SARC reports. She noted that central expenditures include district office, maintenance, and cafeteria. Exclusions include the after-school programs, Career Technical Education (CTE) and Agricultural Education Programs, as they pertain to a specific group of students.

9.4 Education Services' Reports and/or Presentation(s) - Nancy Vielhauer, Asst. Superintendent of Educational Services

9.4.1 Educational Services Update – Nancy Vielhauer, Asst. Superintendent of Educational Services, Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) Second Quarterly Williams Review Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 – Nancy Vielhauer, Asst. Superintendent of Educational Services, reported that SCOE staff did not conduct any site reviews of instructional materials during the second quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024. SCOE will review the district's SARCs beginning in the third quarter of FY 2023-2024. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) reported there were three teacher misassignments, zero corrected teacher misassignments, and one teacher vacancy in FY 2022-2023. There were no complaints filed in the district under the Uniform Complaint Procedure during the first quarter.

9.5 River Delta Unified Teacher's Association (RDUTA) Update – Chris Smith, RDUTA President, no update given.

9.6 California State Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 319 Update – Patty DuBois, CSEA President, no update given.

10. **Consent Calendar**

10.1 Approve Board Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board, February 20, 2024

10.2 Receive and Approve Monthly Personnel Reports

As of March 12, 2024

10.3 District's Monthly Expenditure Report

February 2024

10.4 Request the Approval to Apply for the Solano Community Foundation Grant for \$1500 to Benefit Rio Vista High School's Model UN Club – Clarence Isadore, Principal

10.5 Request to Approve Rio Vista High School Cheerleaders and Coach to Attend Universal Cheerleading Camp (UCA) at the University of California Davis from July 18-21, 2024 – Clarence Isadore, Principal

10.6 Request to Approve the Overnight Fieldtrip for Rio Vista High School's American Field Service

Students to Conduct an Exchange Visit to Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte, Michigan from April 26-29, 2024 – Clarence Isadore, Principal

- 10.7 Request to Approve the 2024-2025 Transportation Plan – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services
- 10.8 Request to Approve the Overnight Field Trip for Delta High School's Agriculture Department to Participate in the Reedley College Grapevine Judging Competition on April 12-13, 2024 - Craig Cornelson, Principal
- 10.9 Request to Approve the Renewal of District Employees Contracts FY 2024-2025 – Katherine Wright, Superintendent
- 10.10 Donations or Receive and Acknowledge

Isleton Elementary School

Isleton Elementary School PTA - \$650 Natures Critters Presentation
Isleton Elementary School PTA - \$300 Folklorico Dancers for Cinco de Mayo
Isleton Elementary School PTA - \$515 Family Night Science Wizard Presentation
Isleton Elementary School PTA - \$1,300 Blowup Movie Screen, Rolling computer Table and Misc. Classroom Supplies

President Lamera acknowledged the donations and thanked them for their continued support.

Member Jelly moved to approve, Member Apel seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

Action Items -- Individual speakers who have submitted a Comment Card 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 including the Public Comments made previously in this meeting. The Board will follow the process for Public Comments listed above. No Comments given

11. Request to Approve the Second and Final Reading of the Updated or New Board Policies, Administrative Regulations and Exhibits Due to New Legislation, Mandated Language and/or Citation Revisions as of December 2023 - Katherine Wright, Superintendent

Member Stone moved to approve, Member Jelly seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

12. Request to Approve Resolution No. 863 A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the River Delta Unified School District Prescribing the Terms and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds of its School Facilities Improvement District No. 1 (SFID#1); Approving Forms of and Authorizing Execution and Delivery of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate, and an Official Statement; Authorizing Distribution of the Official Statement and Sale Documents; and Authorizing Execution of Necessary Certificates and Related Actions – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

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

13. Request to Approve Change Order #4 to Bobo Construction, Inc. for the Delta High School and Clarksburg Middle School Cafeteria Modernization Project \$14,322.77 Measure K Bond Funds – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

Member Apel moved to approve, Member Jelly seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

14. Request to Approve the Demolition Proposal with Warren E. Gomes Excavating, Inc. for the Rio Vista High School Bookroom Portable Demolition, \$22,360 Measure J Bond Funds – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Riley seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

15. Request to Approve Change Order #1 to Hometown Construction for the HVAC Project at Rio Vista High School to Increase The Contract Duration to 182 days - \$0, ESSER Bond Funds – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

Member Apel moved to approve acknowledging that the Funds for this project are ESSER Funds, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

16. Request to Approve Change Order #1 to Hometown Construction for the HVAC Project at Isleton Elementary School to Increase the Contract Duration to 182 days - \$0, ESSER Funds – Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

Member Stone moved to approve acknowledging that the Funds for this project are ESSER Funds, Member Jelly seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

17. Request to Approve the Second Interim for FY 2023-2024 - Tammy Busch, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services

Member Mahoney moved to approve, Member Apel seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

18. Request for Future Board Agenda Items from Board Members – Board President Lamera asked the Board of Trustees for input on adding items to future Board agendas.

Member Riley moved to approve keeping the Land Development Discussion item on future Board agendas, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

19. Re-Adjourn to continue Closed Session, if needed – Board President Lamera reported that the Board would reconvene to Closed Session.

20. Report of Action taken, if any, during continued Closed Session (Government Code Section 54957.1) –Board President Lamera reported that the Board received information, however there is nothing to report.

21. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Board President Lamera asked for a motion To adjourn.

Member Riley moved to approve, Member Stone seconded. Motion carried 6 (Ayes: Stone, Jelly, Riley, Apel, Mahoney, Lamera): 0 (Nays): 1 (Absent: Casillas)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Submitted:

Approved:



Katherine Wright, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees



Randall Jelly, Clerk, Board of Trustees

By: Jennifer Gaston, Recorder

End