

MINUTES

RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 13, 2021

Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center

**Meeting was held TELEPHONICALLY and available to the public
Via streamlined audio only**

Board Members

Present:
Joseph W. Martinez, President
Stephanie Lewis, Clerk
Nancy G. O'Kelley, Member
Dina Walker, Member
Destiny Lopez, Student Board Member

Board Members

Absent: Edgar Montes, Vice President

Administrators

Present:
Cauhtémoc Avila, Ed.D., Superintendent
Darren McDuffie, Ed.D., Lead Strategic Agent: Strategics,
Congruence and Social Justice
Also present was Martha Degortari, Executive Administrative
Agent and Jose Reyes, Interpreter/Translator

A. OPENING

A.1 CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 p.m.

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education, which was held telephonically and available to the public via streamlined audio only, was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

A.2 OPEN SESSION

A.2.1 Comments on Closed Session Agenda Items

Any person wishing to speak on any item on the Closed Session Agenda will be granted three minutes.

None.

A.3 CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Clerk Lewis

As provided by law, the following are the items for discussion and consideration at the Closed Session of the Board Meeting:

Time: 6:34 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

**A.3.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
EMPLOYMENT/DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/REASSIGN
MENT OF EMPLOYEES (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION
54957)**

**A.3.2 STUDENT EXPULSIONS/REINSTATEMENTS/EXPULSION
ENROLLMENTS**

A.3.3 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Agency designated representatives: Cuauhtémoc Avila, Ed.D., Superintendent; Rhea McIver Gibbs, Ed.D., Lead Personnel Agent, Personnel Services; and Rhonda Kramer, Lead Personnel Agent, Personnel Services.

Employee organizations: California School Employees Association, Chapter 203 (CSEA), Rialto Education Association (REA), Communications Workers of America (CWA)

A.4 ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member O'Kelley

Time: 7:04 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

A.5 OPEN SESSION RECONVENED - 7:00 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

A.6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President, Mr. Joseph W. Martinez, led the pledge of allegiance.

A.7 REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

In closed session, the Board took the following action:

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Clerk Lewis

The Board of Education accepted the request for an unpaid leave of absence for classified employee #2659231, January 25, 2021 through April 30, 2021.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Member Walker

The Board of Education accepted the request for an unpaid leave of absence for classified employee #2258331, January 12, 2021 through June 3, 2021.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member O'Kelley

The Board of Education accepted the request for an unpaid leave of absence for classified employee #2638231, January 19, 2021 through June 3, 2021.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Clerk Lewis

The Board of Education accepted the request for an unpaid leave of absence for classified employee #2311131, January 12, 2021 through June 3, 2021.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Member Walker

The Board of Education accepted the request for an unpaid leave of absence for classified employee #2067431, January 11, 2021 through June 3, 2021.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

A.8 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended below:

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Member Walker

Item E 1.2 - Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2020 will be amended to reflect the individual votes of Board Members on the following items:

- **A.9.1 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ayes (4): Stephanie Lewis, Edgar Montes, Nancy G. O'Kelley, and Dina Walker. Abstain (1): Joseph W. Martinez

Approved by a Majority Vote

- **A.9.4 ELECTION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNTY COMMITTEE**

Ayes (4): Stephanie Lewis, Joseph W. Martinez, Edgar Montes, and Nancy G. O'Kelley. Abstain (1): Dina Walker

Approved by a Majority Vote

- **F.1 RESOLUTION NO. 20-21-25 - TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES (TRAN)**

Ayes (4): Joseph W. Martine, Edgar Montes, Nancy G. O'Kelley, and Dina Walker. Abstain (1): Stephanie Lewis

Approved by a Majority Vote

Approved by a Unanimous Vote

B. PRESENTATIONS - None

C. COMMENTS

C.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

At this time, any person wishing to speak on any item not on the Agenda will be granted three minutes.

Jennifer O'Farrell, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, wished everyone a Happy National Mentoring Month. She shared that mentoring energizes communities, it empowers youth to envision a brighter future, and it unlocks new career pathways and educational opportunities. As a District partner, she indicated that Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire celebrates the incredible potential of our district's youth and the mentors who are helping them achieve success and self-sufficiency. She shared the following statistics achieved by a student with a Big Brother or Big Sister by their side: 60% increase in school attendance, 80% increase in 2 academic subjects, 100% refrain from criminal activity, 100% this last year graduated high school and 74% of them were first in their family to have a diploma. She invited everyone to join in celebrating the power of mentorship.

Nikki Race, former Rialto USD student, gave kudos to the District for the Food Program which was provided to families. She now has children of her own who attend the District and said the improvements to the meal service program are inspiring. She shared that it has been great to see the food go from the gardens to the kitchen at Nutrition Services. The staff members are always enthusiastic and eager to get fresh food out to the kids, and it is great to see that not only the Staff but the Leaders of the Central Kitchen and District become so integrated into the Food Program.

She indicated that not only has Rialto Unified School District made the Food Service Program available for students, but they have also made it possible for the families of the community to provide stability in the most unstable of times by providing food boxes to families. She praised Rialto Unified School District for being the first to provide this program and now many other districts have followed suit, which is something to be really proud of.

She also complemented the gardens at the school sites which help kids understand where their food comes from and to take pride in helping take care of something that helps nurture them and their families. She thanked the directors of the food program and the District, and said she is proud to be an alumni.

Ana Bernal, Community Member, shared that she and her family wanted to express their gratitude towards the Rialto Nutrition Services Department. Her family recently moved to the area about three months ago and since they arrived, they have been taking their three children to get lunch every Tuesday and Thursday. She indicated that on January 4, 2021, they were hit with the Coronavirus, and being away from family made it difficult to get groceries. She left a message with Nutrition Services wondering if they could continue pick up lunch or if they would have to skip the week. Within less than 5 minutes someone called her back for her address to deliver the lunches to her children. She and her husband were extremely grateful.

Dr. Faith Mowoe, ELA and GATE Educator at Milor Continuation High School, shared the following words received in a memorandum of December 10, 2020 from Patricia Chavez, Ed.D., Lead Academic Agent Secondary Innovation: "In an effort to prepare for the uncertainties of dealing with a national pandemic and its effect on student grades, moral and overall well-being, the following grading policy will be implemented." She also shared the following Response to a "Dear REA" question in the December 18, 2020 edition of the REA News and Views: "Teachers have an Ed Code right to assign a grade which cannot be changed by an administrator or a parent. However, districts have the right to set the parameters for grading, and teachers must grade according to those parameters."

She quoted the following from Thomas Jefferson: "That democracy cannot long exist without enlightenment; That it cannot function without wise and honest officials; That talent and virtue, needed in a free society, should be educated regardless of wealth, birth or other accidental condition; that other children of the poor must thus be educated at common expense." "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." She indicated that Jefferson's quotes could not have been more prescient in their manifestation of this country's history than in our understanding and appreciation of the devastating magnitude of the horrific attack on the U.S. Capitol building that the entire world witnessed on January 6th, 2021.

She also said that she has been impressed and commends the District for the support they have received from all levels from the beginning during unprecedented times. She said that from the very beginning of the pandemic when some school districts were scrambling to accommodate their various educational needs, the Rialto Unified School District hit the

ground running with such invaluable supplies as the following: Google Classroom, Laptops, Hotspots, an IT Department that's staffed with knowledgeable and incredibly supportive professionals, Educational Support Staff, ELlevation for EL monitoring, Mental and other health resources, and Nutrition resources.

She is in hopes that the new grading system is intended to be temporary, to help deal with the unfortunate realities of the current pandemic life battles, and to help keep the students' morale. She said she fears that if this were to become permanent, we would be on the wrong side of the moral argument in support of public education, and they would be left teaching with one hand tied behind their backs even as they are required to instill more academic rigor in their pedagogical delivery as they prepare for such high stakes tests as the CAASPP.

Mirna Ruiz, Representative of Rialto Council of PTA, congratulated the four amazing students that participated in Rialto Council of PTA's Reflections Art Program. She asked the Board to acknowledge the wonderful art on the front and back covers of the Board Agenda for tonight's agenda. She shared that the pictures were done by: 1. Maximilian Mora Ponce 1st Grade from Boyd Elementary School; 2. Jaylene Ibarra Jimenez 3rd Grade from Kelley Elementary; 3. Richard Nava Kindergarten Kelley Elementary; 4. Navalee Nava 1st Grade from Kelley Elementary. The program has been in place since 1969, and the Reflections Art Programs theme for 2020-2021 was " I Matter Because..".

She indicated that the students have moved up to Fifth District PTA where they will be competing with another eight Council PTAs throughout the County of San Bernardino. She once again congratulated the amazing students and their parents for participating, and she thanked Ms. Rachel Garvin from Boyd, Maria Rangel, Reflections Committee member, and Ricardo Carlos and Matthew Peters from Communications/Media Services for their help.

Tobin Brinker, Frisbie Middle School History Teacher, voiced his concerns about returning to live instruction. He explained that San Bernardino County is still in the midst of some of its highest numbers of positive COVID cases and the state is just beginning to roll out the vaccines. He indicated that Rialto teachers who are speaking together on social media are asking for our District to wait before trying to begin live on campus instruction.

He shared that San Bernardino City Unified School District has already made the decision to not reopen for live instruction this year. This past week Los Angeles Unified has announced that it will not apply for state money and will not try to re-open in February. Los Angeles Unified has even gone further and has given approval to its Superintendent to pursue a lawsuit against the state over its re-opening plan.

He recommended that the District should wait until they have enough teachers that have been vaccinated before returning. He said he strongly advocates that the District obtain enough vaccines for all district staff and work with HMO partners to get staff vaccinated.

He also shared that there are numerous teachers that are concerned about being forced to get vaccinated. He is in hopes that the District will work with unions to create clearly defined options and show respect to individuals with unique health concerns.

Luis, Community Member, thanked the District for providing food for his six nephews during the entire time of distant learning. He is especially thankful for the safety precautions taken to distribute these meals. He said it is a great feeling when you see the care and caution that is taken when delivering the meals and it shows that safety is always taken into consideration for students, parents and staff.

C.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to speak on any item on the Agenda will be granted three minutes.

None.

C.3 COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Rialto Education Association (REA), California School Employees Association (CSEA), Communications Workers of America (CWA), Rialto School Managers Association (RSMA).

Lisa Lindberg, REA President, shared about a very successful community service project which took place over the winter break. Current REA members, retirees, CSEA employees, Rialto Lions Club, friends, and family members donated money, materials, and time to build over 150 desks for District students in need of a work space at home for Distance Learning.

She indicated that the project was led by REA Treasurer Shannon McCreight, who is also a third grade teacher at Myers Elementary

School. Daniel Cueves, Program Specialist at Trapp Elementary School guided the team in the building process and they managed to turn ordinary educators into talented carpenters.

On behalf of REA, Ms. Lindberg also thanked Pastor Mark Baur at First Baptist Church in Rialto and Reverend Jose Vindel from the Rialto Methodist Church for providing a COVID safe workspace outside for the volunteers.

C.4 COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

C.5 COMMENTS FROM STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

C.6 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

D. PUBLIC HEARING - None

E. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

All items on the Consent Calendar will be acted upon in one motion unless pulled by Board of Education members or the Superintendent for individual action.

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

With preferential vote by Student Board Member, Destiny Lopez

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.1 MINUTES

E.1.1 MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting held November 18, 2020.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.1.2 MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2020

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting held December 16, 2020.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.2 GENERAL FUNCTIONS CONSENT ITEMS - None

E.3 INSTRUCTION CONSENT ITEMS - None

E.4 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT ITEMS

E.4.1 WARRANT AND PURCHASE ORDER LISTING

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve Warrant Listing Register and Purchase Order Listing for all funds from November 30, 2020 through December 10, 2020. (Sent under separate cover to Board Members). A copy for public review will be available in the District's website.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.2 DONATIONS

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Accept the listed donations from Thinkwise Credit Union; Frontstream; DonorsChoose.org; Columbia Steel; House of Roses/Rose Nelson; ConvergeOne, and request that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.3 ADDENDUM TO LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY'S CLINICAL FIELDWORK AGREEMENT

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve Addendum to Loma Linda University's Clinical Fieldwork Agreement to include the Occupational Therapy Program through September 30, 2022, at no cost to the District.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.4 AGREEMENT WITH ART SPECIALTIES, INC. - SIMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve an agreement with Art Specialties, Inc. to provide and install digitally printed signage with Simpson Elementary School, Seahawks, and PBIS expectations at Simpson Elementary School, effective January 14, 2021 through April 1, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$18,932.00, and to be paid from the General Fund – Site Budget/Title I/STEP-Up.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.5 AGREEMENT WITH PARENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION (PIQE) TRAINING – JEHUE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve an agreement with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) for parents to participate in the Level 1 and Level 2 PIQE trainings held (virtually) at Jehue Middle School, effective February 9, 2021 through April 6, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$11,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund – Site Title I.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.6 AGREEMENT WITH PARENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION (PIQE) TRAINING – CARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve an agreement with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) for a minimum of fifty (50) parents at a cost of \$7,000.00 and an additional \$2,000.00 for any additional class for parents to participate that will be held (virtually) at Carter High School, effective February 11, 2021 through April 1, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$11,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund – Site Title I.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.7 AGREEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL TUTORS OF AMERICA – CASEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve an agreement with Professional Tutors of America to provide one-to-one academic remediation tutoring services for Casey Elementary School students, effective January 14, 2021 through June 30, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$22,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund - Site Title I.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.8 AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CABE PDS)

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve an agreement with California Association of Bilingual Education: Professional Development Services (CABE PDS) to provide six (6) days of virtual professional development in the areas of Dual Language Immersion and the ELA/ELD Framework, effective January 14, 2021 through June 30, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$15,000.00 – General Fund - Title III.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.9 ACCEPT RAISING A READER GRANT FROM MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Accept the gift of thirty-two (32) Raising A Reader Family Packs funded by the Masons of California to support transitional kindergarten through first grade literacy at Boyd Elementary, Curtis Elementary, Morris Elementary, and Myers Elementary, valued at \$43,100.00, at no cost to the District.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.10 AGREEMENT WITH DR. NOMA LEMOINE & ASSOCIATES

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve an agreement with Dr. Noma LeMoine & Associates to provide one (1) additional day of professional development in the area of culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, effective January 14, 2021 through May 1, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$5,500.00, and to be paid from the General Fund - Title III.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.4.11 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WESTED – SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING STUDY

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WestEd to collect student data for the Social Skills Training Study for students in 3rd grade, effective January 14, 2021 through June 30, 2022, at no cost to the District.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.5 FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT ITEMS

E.5.1 RESOLUTION NO. 20-21-16, ANNUAL DEVELOPER FEE REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF DEVELOPER FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Adopt Resolution No. 20-21-16, Annual Accounting of Developer Fees for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, in compliance with Government Code Section 66006, at no cost to the District.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

E.6 PERSONNEL SERVICES CONSENT ITEMS

E.6.1 PERSONNEL REPORT NO. 1248 FOR CLASSIFIED AND CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member Walker

Approve Personnel Report No 1248 for classified and certificated employees.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

F.1 AGREEMENT WITH EHECATL WIND PHILOSOPHIES - EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

The "Reasoning" language of the item back-up on pages 75-76 was amended as follows:

Ethecat! Wind Philosophies provided guidance and support in the development of our series of Ethnic Studies courses being taught at our three comprehensive high schools. Eisenhower High School's (EHS) Ethnic Studies team and the Site Equity Committee went above the standard district course offerings and developed an ethnic studies pathway. In addition to Ethnic Studies, MultiCultural Literature, and U.S Race and Gender courses, EHS added to the pathway Women Studies and Afro-Latin Jazz. Both courses, Women Studies and Afro-Latin Jazz, were developed in the Fall of 2020 and approved through curriculum council in December 2020.

During the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester, Ehecatl Wind Philosophies will provide sessions of equity and cultural bias curriculum to all staff which will help ensure the success of the ethnic study program at EHS. This professional development series engages and extends the concept of culturally sustaining pedagogies (CSP) that perpetuate and foster linguistic, literate, and cultural pluralism as part of schooling for positive social transformation. This training also encompasses the unpacking of implicit bias, microaggressions, and deep personal reflection to analyze one's own internal biases, levels of privilege and marginality, intersectionality, and positionality in the classroom and how that may affect one's teaching methodologies. After board approval of the Women Studies and Afro-Latin Jazz courses, Ehecatl Wind Philosophies will provide additional professional development and support to the EHS staff in the building of the corresponding lesson plans for these two recently developed courses.

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By President Martinez

Approve an agreement with Ehecatl Wind Philosophies to provide sixteen (16) full days of professional development to Eisenhower High School teachers in the facilitation of the creation of Women Studies and Afro-Latin Jazz courses, and conduct professional development to staff in the area of equity and social justice, effective January 14, 2021 through June 30, 2021, at a cost not to exceed \$54,400.00, and to be paid from the General Fund - Site Title I.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

F.2 SALARY INCREASE FOR AVID TUTORS AND BRIDGE ACADEMY TUTORS

Moved By Clerk Lewis

Seconded By Member O'Kelley

Ratify the hourly wage increase for AVID Tutors and Bridge Academy Tutors to \$16.00 an hour, effective January 1, 2021, at a cost not-to-exceed \$23,418.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

F.3 AGREEMENT WITH DOCUSIGN

Moved By Member O'Kelley

Seconded By Clerk Lewis

Approve purchase of 11,500 envelopes or packages, and support of DocuSign software effective January 14, 2021 through January 13, 2022, at a cost not-to-exceed \$29,744.25, and to be paid by the General Fund.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote

G. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rialto Unified School District will be held on January 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. **telephonically and via streamlined only.**

Materials distributed or presented to the Board of Education at the Board Meeting are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.

Moved By Destiny Lopez, Student Board Member

Seconded By Member O'Kelley

Time: 7:56 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4-0 Vote


Clerk, Board of Education


Secretary, Board of Education