

**MINUTES**  
**RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education**

**March 1, 2023**  
**Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center**  
**182 East Walnut Avenue**  
**Rialto, California**

**Members Present:**     **Stephanie E. Lewis, President**  
                              **Joseph W. Martinez, Clerk**  
                              **Evelyn P. Dominguez, Member**  
                              **Edgar Montes, Member**  
                              **Steven Gaytan, Student Board Member**

**Members Absent:**     **Nancy G. O'Kelley, Vice President**

**Staff Present:**        **Cuauhtémoc Avila, Ed.D., Superintendent**  
                              **Rhea McIver Gibbs, Ed.D., Lead Strategic Agent**  
                              **Patricia Chavez, Ed.D., Lead Innovation Agent**  
                              **Diane Romo, Lead Business Services Agent**  
                              **Rhonda Kramer, Lead Personnel Agent**  
                              **Martha Degortari, Executive Administrative Agent, also present**  
                              **was Jose Reyes, Interpreter/Translator**

**A.     OPENING - 6:30 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

**B.     PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Attorney, Carlos Villegas of Fagen, Freedman and Fulfroost, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** Clerk Martinez

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

**Vice President O'Kelley was absent. Vote by Board Members to adopt the agenda:**

**Approved by a Majority Vote**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**D.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

None.

**D.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**

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

**Ana Gonzalez, Representing Alianza Latina**, shared that she wanted to express her concerns regarding the item on today's agenda to discuss the need for a Board training, proper etiquette, and Robert's Rules of Order. She expressed to the Board that they are the example to students, and how children are expected to behave in the classroom starts here in the boardroom with the Board. She encouraged the Board to think about their actions. She said she has not been able to attend the last few meetings, but knows there have been discussions about finding solutions for the better, of education of our children. She recommended that they resolve their issues in closed session. She said it is okay to agree to disagree, and she herself has had to learn that. She commented that there are children, including her children who are watching these Board Meetings and they are seeing chaos between the Board. She said the Board needs to do better.

**Mirna Ruiz, Parent and Community Member,** commented that she is very glad to hear that a Board training will be taking place. She reminded the Board that they need to look at what is happening in the District. She said they need to focus on student and staff needs, as there is no need to disclose "dirty laundry" in public. She indicated that the Board is not setting a good example and knows they can do better.

**Celia Saravia, Representing Parents of Children with Special Needs,** extended an invitation to their annual celebration of the holy sacraments on April 16, 2023, at the San Bernardino Cathedral. She also commented on the importance on continuing to recognize District employees who work so hard to support students. She said that there are so many staff members that deserve recognition and unfortunately, she would not have enough time to mention them all. She commented that they do not favor the Nutrition Services staff but they deserve all the recognition they receive because of their hard work, particularly since the pandemic. She mentioned that while many were at home during COVID, Nutrition Services staff was out making sure that students and community members received food. She also asked to give special recognition to Mr. Derek Harris who made sure families and staff members in need were reached. She said the Board has worked very well together and they would like to see that respectful relationship to continue between them. She reminded them that we are all here for students and if we want them to be respectful, then we as adults need to model that respect.

**Edgar Montes, Board Member,** shared that he submitted a request form to make his public comments because he noticed that the agenda tonight did not include standard language allowing for Board comments. He shared that it is normal for people to have disagreements and for them to be different, but never thought there would be a time where he would see a Board agenda where time to allow for Board comments was omitted. He felt this shows a lack of respect to silence Board member comments. He said he does not blame the Board President but felt there are people in the District who should have known better. Mr. Montes questioned why Attorney Carlos Villegas was asked to be present at this meeting. He questioned whether a fight or violation of the law was anticipated.

He requested that the Board find a way to work together. He said he knows that a third of the Board is still new. He understands that there is a need for a Board Governance Workshop, but does not agree to go about the process in the way it is being done tonight. He indicated that he will speak up every time he sees that the Board is being denied the right to speak. He was glad that the Student Board Member was not present at the last Board meeting to witness the disruption and comments made by the Board.

**Joseph Martinez, Board Clerk** requested to share that for the sake of unity and to continue to work together with the Board, he would take blame for recent happenings between the Board.

**E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**E.1 PLANNING FOR GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP AND POTENTIAL ACTION TO DESIGNATE TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED**

The Governing Board is planning a governance-focused workshop for **March or April, 2023**. The Governing Board will consider and may vote to designate topics to be addressed at the Workshop, including but not limited to, conduct of Governing Board meetings, parliamentary procedure, calling meetings and agenda setting, and review of Board Bylaws.

**Vice President O'Kelley was absent. Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Majority Vote**

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By** Clerk Martinez

**Seconded By** Member Montes

**Vice President O'Kelley was absent. Vote by Board Members to adjourn with preferential vote by Student Board Member, Steven Gaytan:**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Approved by a Majority Vote**

  
Clerk, Board of Education

  
Secretary, Board of Education