

RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Citizens' Oversight Committee

Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
Rio Hondo Community College Board Room
Informational Meeting

Minutes

I. Call To Order

- A. Call to Order** - *The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.*
- B. Pledge of Allegiance** – *COC Member Steven Valdes led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- C. Roll Call** - *COC members that were present: Michelle Yanez-Jimenez, Steven Valdes, Richard Gardner, Maribel Garcia, Maria Claver, Ray Chacon. COC Members Absent included: Vicky Santana, Daniel Canchola, Gustavo Camacho, Fred Hawthorne, and Irina A. Preciado.*
- D. Open Communication for Public Comment** - *Chair, Michelle Yanez-Jimenez called for open comment and there was no comment from the public.*
- E. Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2011** –*The COC committee voted to approve the minutes.*

II. Reports

- A. President's Update** – *Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. thanked the members for attending the meeting. He discussed the Summer 2011 Newsletter, and highlighted the College's ranking for associate degrees in the Community College Week. He mentioned that the College is ranked 2nd in the state and 13th in the nation for the degree in Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Protective Services; 3rd in the state and 15th in the nation for a degree in Family and Consumer Science/Human Services; and 10th in the state and 33rd in the nation for award degrees in all disciplines for Hispanic students. Dr. Martinez said, "These rankings reflect the high achievement of students at the College, and the support they receive from faculty and staff." COC Member Richard Gardner asked how many community colleges are in the state. Dr. Martinez replied that there are "1,200 community colleges in the country, and 112 college campus in the state of California." Dr. Martinez also discussed the full re-accreditation of the Fire Academy at Rio Hondo, which is located in Santa Fe Springs. He discussed the "outstanding real-world opportunities" students receive at the Academy, as Fire Academy students were able to go out and fight fires in Arizona for two-weeks in a real-world setting. Dr. Martinez also discussed a partnership with the College and HUD. The partnership would include adding fair housing issues into the curriculum, possible internships for students within HUD, and ensure that communities around Rio Hondo receive fair housing. Dr. Martinez then began discussing college life, five weeks into the Fall*

semester. School started on August 18, and “enrollment remains pretty strong”, said Dr. Martinez. He mentioned that the College has been able to maintain the same schedule this year as last year. He said, “We are the only community college in the state to maintain stability in course offering. And as long as we can stay stable, it will do us well.” He began discussing the South Whittier Educational Center, which is progressing well. Classes will be offered in the Spring semester at the Center, while the College is doing research for a class schedule at the El Monte Center. Moving on to the budget, Dr. Martinez said that the “state budget does not look good.” Mid-term review from state projected revenue, he continued, may require that “all triggers be pulled” – meaning cuts will be made. “Fees will go up to \$46/unit next summer,” he stated. He said, however, that “thanks to Teresa Dreyfuss, V.P. Finance and Business, the College is doing well.” The College is in a “lean and stable institution, with good leadership from Teresa Dreyfuss.” Dr. Martinez then closed by discussing the upcoming 50th year of offering classes at Rio Hondo. He said the Foundation will probably take the lead on this, but he is looking forward to “bringing the community together, and inviting past students.” COC Chair Michelle Yanez-Jimenez asked when the 50th year celebrations will begin. Dr. Martinez said next year, during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

- B. Building Program Progress Report** – Program Manager Jim Sinsheimer gave COC members an overview of the six projects currently in construction at Rio Hondo College. He said the eight projects are progressing well, some of which are wrapping up and some are just getting started. He shared at the Administration of Justice building is nearing completion, despite the financial issues the contractor has had. Flooring, lighting, elevators, and concrete are being worked on, while the exterior is taking shape. Furniture is to be moved within two weeks. The building is scheduled to be done the first week of November. The Student Services/Union/Quad is to be open in the near future, with part of the middle quad open soon as well. The landscape in the upper quad has been completed. Eighty-five percent of the Student Services building, he said, is completed, with end of October being date of scheduled completion. Interior and painting is ongoing, with the AC system being installed this week. The Student Union is almost completed. “The exterior is almost completed, and the student dining and facilities equipment has been installed,” he said. The staff is to move in by the end of December, and it is scheduled to be open, with a new café, by the Spring semester. The PE Complex has installed new equipment for the pool, a new retaining wall has been added, as is a new fire lane near the structure. The Blue Light Phone System has been installed, and activated, throughout campus, as has the installation of the blue light phones on the South Whittier Educational Center. For the El Monte Educational Center, Mr. Sinsheimer said bids for construction are due tomorrow as building for the Center is from the ground up. “Fifty contractors have shown interest in the pre-bid job walk,” he said. For the South Whittier Educational Center, bids for the construction of the annex, a three classroom space. Construction will begin next month for use in the Spring Semester, he said. COC Member Richard Gardner asked if there is a prequalification process for all

contractors submitting bids. Sinsheimer stated that if the project is at or over \$5 million, there is no prequalification on this project, but at or over \$5 million. COC Member Steven Valdes asked if they always go with the lowest bid. Sinsheimer stated, "Yes, we are required by law to do so, but the bid must meet all requirements," COC Member Maribel Garcia asked what sort of qualifications are considered. Sinsheimer said there are a lot, over twenty pages worth of required qualifications, with a lot of detail. COC Member Maribel Garcia asked if the bid-contracting process takes on any minority business. Sinsheimer said "yes, that minority business do represent part of the bids, and contractors." COC Chair Michelle Yanez-Jimenez asked why there have been so many bids on the El Monte project. Sinsheimer said that it is a pretty good sized project, but could be a sign of the economic times. COC Chair Michelle Yanez-Jimenez asked if there will be a ribbon cutting for the Administration of Justice building. Dr. Martinez answered that there will be, in the Spring. He also noted that there will be a mini-celebration for the October 11 Upper Quad opening on campus.

C. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report – Each member of the COC was given copies of the Bond Measure A Expenditure Summary to review. Vice President of Finance and Business, Teresa Dreyfuss, walked everyone through the information, which included a summary of projects and expenditures as well as project details and expenditures by company.

D. Future Meetings – The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2011, and starts at 5:30 p.m.

III. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.