

# RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Citizens' Oversight Committee

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Thursday, March 19, 2009, 6:00 p.m.  
Rio Hondo Community College Board Room

## Minutes

*The tour of the building sites began at 6:15 p.m. before the meeting was called to order. COC members toured the Library/Learning Resource Center which will be completed this Summer. They saw the Central Plant and were informed about the infrastructure project which is in its last phase and will be completed after a final 'punch list' review. The members were also taken into the Applied Technology Building to view the progress of the renovations. The tour was lead by Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager for the Building Programs. Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College participated in the tour along with Vice President of Finance and Business, Teresa Dreyfuss and Jonathan Guz from Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P. the college's bond counsel.*

### I. Call To Order

- A. **Call to Order** - *The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m.*
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - *COC member, Bob Archuleta led the pledge.*
- C. **Roll Call** - *COC members that were present: Bob Archuleta, Gustavo Camacho, Asuncion Guzman (student representative), John Lopez, Diana Villalba, Joseph Vu and Michelle Yanez-Jiminez. COC members absent: Juanita Gonzales, Carlos Jackson, Rob Lawe and Steven Valdes.*
- D. **Open Communication for Public Comment** - *Chair, Michelle Yanez-Jiminez called for open comment and there was no comment from the public.*
- E. **Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2008** - *The committee approved the minutes with no corrections.*

### II. Reports

- A. **Tour Building Sites** - *The tour was conducted prior to the meeting being called to order.*
- B. **President's Update** - *Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President reported that since the Fall of 2008, he and the building program's Program Manager had been making presentations to local agencies about the college and specifically about the building programs. To date, they have presented at five City Council meetings, two high school Board of Education meetings, and two Chamber of Commerce meetings. During these presentations, there were also questions about the college's accreditation.*

*Dr. Martinez shared with the COC members that the college is fully accredited and that the accreditation team from Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) gave the college a warning which gives the college another year to show evidence of all the work that is being done on planning and student learning outcomes. WASC will re-visit in October 2009 and Dr. Martinez is confident that the warning will be removed at that time. In 2008, twelve institutions were visited, of those, seven were put on warning and only five had their accreditation affirmed. This reflects the changing standards for accreditation that require far more documentation than the previous standards. Dr. Martinez announced that there would be a Board of Trustees retreat on Saturday, March 21. Rio Hondo College enrollment is up by nine percent and students are also taking more units.*

- C. Report From Bond Council** - *Jonathan Guz from the law offices of Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P., made a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of a Citizens Oversight Committee. Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P, serves as the bond counsel for the college. His presentation was recorded by the college for use at future times and for new members to the COC. He outlined clearly for the committee that committee members do not have a role in the way that the bond monies are allocated or in the development of projects, but only in the oversight that the bond monies are being spent on the projects outlined in the project list that voters approved. The committee is responsible for producing an Annual Report to their communities on bond activities as well as reporting back to their communities about the status of the program.*
- D. Building Model Progress Report** - *There was a brief discussion about the building models and where they should be located on the campus. Michelle Yanez-Jiminez asked if the models could be used in the presentation that the President and Program Manager have been giving and was told that the models are too heavy to be transported to those events but they are mobile enough to be moved around the campus. There was discussion of the model going into the Learning Resources Center and it was decided that further discussion would be engaged at the June meeting.*
- E. Building Program Progress Report** - *Jim Sinsheimer was introduced as the new Program Manager for the Rio Hondo College Building Program. Jim provided a status update on all of the projects in the program. The projects that have been completed include: the Pedestrian Bridge, the Fire Training Facility Phase II, the Building Panels and other minor improvements around the campus. The projects currently in construction include the following: Learning Resource Center, Central Plant and Infrastructure, Applied Technology Renovation, Santa Fe Springs Fire Training Facility Phase II and the South Whittier Educational Center. The Administration of Justice Building will break ground on March 26 at 11 a.m. Mr. Sinsheimer also told the COC that all roads on the campus are currently open and that there has been no issue with traffic or circulation throughout the construction process. He also reported that the Physical Education Complex has been stamped by DSA and is pending the state's*

*authorization of funding and campus coordination. The Student Services Building has been submitted to DSA and is currently in the back check process. The Student Union Building is under design. The campus quad landscaping is also under design and will be submitted to DSA shortly. The Terrace Walks project has been stamped by DSA and is on hold as the Program Management team investigates the stability of the slope.*

- F. Annual Report** - *Each member of the COC was given a copy of the Annual Report and informed that 126,000 reports were mailed and they are available for COC members to give to the community members as they report to their communities. The members were very pleased with the final product.*
  - G. Bond Quarterly Expenditure Report** - *Vice President of Finance and Business, Teresa Dreyfuss reviewed the quarterly reports with the COC members and reported that the college sold the Series B bonds - about \$65 million worth - in less than two weeks. The college received a "AAA" rating from Standard & Poor's - the highest rating possible - indicating the college has an extremely strong capacity to meet its financial obligations. The bonds also received an "Aa2" rating from Moody's, which means they are of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk. The bonds were sold at premium with an additional 1.5 million was received after the sale, above the \$65 million bond. This equates to an additional \$825,000 after the payment of commissions and other issuance costs.*
  - H. Building Program Web Page** - *Anne Turner from VMA Communications reviewed the Building Programs website with members of the COC. She showed them how to navigate to the site and the available information. One of the members requested that there be a left hand navigation icon that would allow visitors to learn about how the college is building 'green.' Jim Sinsheimer, who is very versed in LEED Certification and other sustainable building practices, will produce the document. It will be posted per the member's request. Ms. Turner also showed the members how their constituents could use the website to ask specific questions about the program. The fact that the option has not been used is a good sign that the COC is doing a good job of communicating the work that is being done.*
  - I. Future Meeting Dates and Place** - *The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.*
  - J. Other Business** - *Committee members were reminded to complete and submit their Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interests).*
- III. Comments from Committee Members** - *There were no comments from the members.*
- IV. Adjournment** - *The meeting adjourned at 8:15*