

RIO HONDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 West Colorado Street
Rio Hondo, Texas 78583

**Official Minutes
Of the Regular Board Meeting
Of February 12, 2018**

The Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Independent School District met in a Regular Session on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 215 W. Colorado Street, Rio Hondo, Texas, with Mr. Flores, President, presiding.

TRUSTEES:	PRESENT -	President	Manuel Flores, Jr.
		Vice-President	Claudia Villalobos (Arrived during Executive Session)
		Secretary	Jessica Gonzales Arnold Martinez, Jr. Ernestina Rodriguez
	ABSENT -		Noe Alaniz, Jr. Alonzo Garza
SUPERINTENDENT:			Ismael Garcia
RECORDER:			Ron de la Garza
ADMINISTRATION:			Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson Dr. Virginia G. Miller Jesus Alfaro, Jr. Veronica Puente Deyanira Martinez-Garcia, Liz Valdez, Asael Rubalcava Lisa Leal, Ricardo Ortiz
SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTORNEY:			Leandra C. Ortiz
VISITORS:			See Attached List.

Items 1 & 2 Mr. Flores called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm., after noting a quorum was present and that the meeting notice had been posted as required by law.

Item 3 Roll Call

<u>✓</u> Mr. Manuel Flores, Jr., President	<u>x</u> Mr. Alonzo Garza, Member
<u>✓</u> Miss Claudia Villalobos, Vice-President	<u>✓</u> Mr. Arnold Martinez, Jr., Member
<u>✓</u> Mrs. Jessica A. Gonzales, Secretary	<u>✓</u> Mrs. Ernestina Rodriguez, Member
<u>x</u> Mr. Noe Alaniz, Jr., Member	<u>✓</u> Mr. Ismael Garcia, Superintendent

Item 4 Mr. Flores led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 5 Invocation.

Item 6 Student/Staff/Community Recognition.

Mr. Wilmoth introduced Robotics teams and presented trophy earned at TCEA Area 1 Robotics competition. Elementary team placed 7th. Mr. Flores stated that there is an ongoing initiative to introduce more STEM programs in all campuses.

Dr. Miller introduced CTE programs. Dr. Miller introduced Danette Atkinson, who spoke on behalf of the Culinary Arts program. She states that the culinary arts students prepared desserts for the board meeting. Three students competed at the FCCLA competition and received gold (Marilyn Trevino), silver (Caroline Gonzalez), and bronze (Hayleen Flores). Dr. Miller introduced the FFA/agricultural science program. Students spoke on behalf of the FFA program and of upcoming weekend show in Los Fresnos. Students also spoke on behalf of the Lumberjack program. Dr. Miller introduced Mr. Daniel Quintanilla, who is in charge of the Law Enforcement program. Mr. Quintanilla introduced the Law Enforcement Program and the students involved in the program. Students spoke about their experiences within the program, successes, and future plans in law enforcement.

Laura Solis presented Principals of Business Course and the recent projects her students have been working on. Student spoke about his experiences in the course and presented his video project to the board.

Item 7 Open Forum:

- a. Welcome of Visitors – Mr. Flores welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.**
- b. Hear from Patrons – Mr. Flores asked if anyone had signed up to speak under the Open Forum.**

High school senior, Briza Leal, presented her concerns with the basketball program and her reasons for quitting the girl's varsity team. She stated that she was the team's captain. Leal lists incidents against the coach such as threats, violations against UIL rules, and unfair treatment of her and other players. Leal stated that she experienced favoritism and put-downs while playing for the basketball team.

Item 8 Presentation by Administration on the Progress of the Intermediate School for the 2017 – 2018 School Year. (Exhibit 8)

Lisa Leal presented powerpoint, explaining professional development. She stated that math and reading specialists have been providing coaching for teachers. Leal stated that 98% attendance is the goal for the semester. Last semester the goal of 98% attendance was reached. She briefly spoke of parent and committee events offered (i.e, Muffins for Mom). Accelerated learning is offered, which consists of after school tutoring for both special ed and general ed. Leal briefly mentioned RTI programming. The school hosted its first UIL event, which was a success thanks to many volunteers. Leal briefly mentioned extracurriculars: the chess team will be competing at Landrum Elementary during the upcoming weekend, the robotics team placed at competition, and students placed at spelling bee past month. The school also had Career Day with help from the workforce commission. Several guest speakers gave advice on future career choices. Ms. Leal presented video to the board.

Item 9 Presentation by PBK Architects on the Middle School Project – Update. (Exhibit 9)

David Iglesias reports that the project is 60% complete. Mr. Iglesias presented powerpoint on progress. Mr. Garcia opened the floor for questions. None were asked.

Mr. Garcia stated a motion was needed to move an item. Motion to move **Item #16** after **Item #9** was made by **Mrs. Gonzales**. The motion was seconded by **Mrs. Rodriguez**. Motion carried.

Item 10 Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve and Sign a Proclamation to Honor Our School Counselors for National School Counselors Week. (Exhibit 10)

Mr. Garcia called on Dr. Miller. Dr. Miller spoke about Texas School Counselors Week, which officially occurred last week. She stated that many activities took place on campuses for the counselors. Dr. Miller called on middle school and high school counselors present and read out the proclamation. The proclamation was approved and signed. Counselors present were presented gifts and a banner.

Item 11 Closed Session or Meeting as authorized by Section 551.001 et seq of the Texas Government Code (The Open Meetings Act), under the following provisions:

- Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act – Consultation with Attorney regarding any matter in which the duty of the Attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.
 - a. Consultation with Attorney under Texas Government Code 551.071 regarding legal issues related to the junior high construction project.
 - b. Consultation with Attorney under Texas Government Code 551.071 regarding legal advice related to Superintendent Evaluation.
- Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act – For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee.

Personnel:

- c. Report on Employee Resignation(s). **(Exhibit 11c)**
- d. Recommendation on New Hire(s). **(Exhibit 11d)**
- e. Superintendent's Evaluation.

Mr. Flores closed the regular session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The regular session resumed at 9:30 p.m. Personnel items were as follows:

At the close of the Executive Session the Board reconvened and took the following action as deliberated in Executive Session:

- d-1. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding the hiring of Teacher(s) for the 2017 – 2018 School Year.

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A Motion to Approve the hiring of Teacher(s) for the 2017 – 2018 School Year was made by **Arnold Martinez, Jr.** The Motion was seconded by **Ernestina Rodriguez.** The Motion carried with at three (4) to one (1) vote in favor. The Motion passed. Voting for, were Manuel Flores, Jr., Jessica A. Gonzales, Arnold Martinez, Jr., and Ernestina Rodriguez. Voting against, was Claudia Villalobos.

Item 12 Presentation by Administration on the 2018 – 2019 School Year Registration Procedures. (Exhibit 12)

Mr. Garcia stated that current registration procedures can be too bulky for parents. Mr. Garcia called on Mr. Alfaro to speak about updates to procedures. Mr. Alfaro stated that one of the biggest issues is that the schools are trying to register every student every year. Mr. Alfaro stated that one recommendation made was only registering new students to the district and students who left the district and are returning. Students that are active at the end of the school year will no longer have to go through the registration process. The implementation of the online registration system is being pushed. Different procedures for different scenarios will be made and other details will be worked out. Planning on having online registration system all year round. Parents will not need to go to the school to make a change or update. Registrar will be notified when a parent tries to make an update on a student. Principles are on board with this idea. Mr. Flores asked if this program is mirroring any other school district. Mr. Alfaro stated that Los Fresnos and Brownsville have a similar system. Mr. Alfaro also stated that the system will cater more to the district's needs. Mr. Garcia stated that this item was for informational purposes only.

Item 13 Presentation by Administration on the Purchase of Lease Vehicles for Career and Technology for the 2017 – 2018 School Year. (Exhibit 13)

Mr. Garcia stated that this item was for conversation purposes only. During the budget process, career technology money was allocated to purchase an ag-truck and an expedition. The money is available. Instead of putting out \$90k-\$100k, a lease purchase is recommended for three vehicles (ag-truck, ford expedition, and ford transit (10 passenger) using the career technology funds. Mr. Garcia stated that a 3 year lease contract would be \$45,667/yr. and a 4 year contract would be \$34,000/yr. He does not recommend a 5 year contract, but that contract would be \$28,485/yr. The vehicles would be used for career technology and after hours they would be used for other purposes (i.e. athletics). Vehicles are currently being rented. The vehicles in the transportation department are not in good enough shape to transfer students outside of the Valley. Funds are recommended for career and technology department because this department typically has small groups of students traveling outside of the Valley. Item will be considered for action and brought back to board for approval. Mr. Garcia stated that the item will be put through the budget process.

Item 14 Presentation of the Monthly Financial Report, Cafeteria Report, and Tax Collection Report. (Exhibit 14)

Monthly reports were presented as of January 31, 2018.

Item 15 Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Select and Approve the Name of the New School. (Exhibit 15)

Recommendation made by Mr. Garcia to name the new school: Rio Hondo Middle School.

A Motion to Select and Approve the Name of the New School was made by **Arnold Martinez, Jr.** The Motion was seconded by **Ernestina Rodriguez.** The Motion carried Unanimously.

Item 16 Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action regarding the Weight Room at the New Middle School Project. (Exhibit 16)

Mr. Garcia listed the possible options for the construction of the new weight room:

Option 1. Converting three rooms into weight room, 30x12.8

Option 2. Converting one band hall/ensemble into weight room, 30x28

Option 3. Converting an 8th grade class room into weight room, 28.8x25.4

Option 4. Relocating resource room, 18x26

Mr. Garcia stated that they could also construct an additional building in the back of property. Garcia stated that this is the least favored option. Mr. Garcia answered questions regarding budget, previous attempts, alternatives and construction of weight room. Coach James stated that previous meetings concerning the weight room resulted in decreased spacing due to budget. The board discussed further options. The board was unable to come up with a decision. Mr. Garcia recommended that alternatives be considered and more time be given to come up with a decision. A facility workshop will take place Monday at 8:00.

No action was taken on this item.


Item 17 Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve and Designate Public Schools Week for the Week of February 26, 2018 through March 2, 2018. (Exhibit 17)

A Motion to Approve and Designate Public Schools Week for the Week of February 26, 2018 through March 2, 2018 was made by **Arnold Martinez, Jr.** The Motion was seconded by **Ernestina Rodriguez.** The Motion carried Unanimously.

Item 18 There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made by **Jessica A. Gonzalez** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by **Arnold Martinez, Jr.** The motion carried unanimously and **Mr. Flores** adjourned the meeting at **9:48 p.m.**



Manuel Flores, Jr., President



Jessica A. Gonzales, Secretary



Date Approved




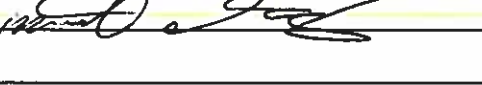
VISITORS/GUESTS

Persons wishing to have their comments heard tonight during the public comment period must first complete, and present to the Board President, the "Citizen's Public Comment Request Form."

VISITANTES/INVITADOS

Las personas que deseen presentar comentarios o problemas esta noche durante el periodo de comentarios publicos, primero deben completar y presentar al Presidente del Consejo Directivo Escolar la forma de "Petición para comentarios publicos".

RIO HONDO I.S.D. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING OF
Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

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