

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
3939 THIRTEENTH STREET • P.O. BOX 868 • RIVERSIDE, CA 92502-0868

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

October 9, 2013

9 a.m., Riverside County Office of Education, 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA 92501

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

With at least 48-hours' notice, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in a Board meeting, may request assistance by contacting the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education at 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside or by calling (951) 826-6478.

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Romero at 9:01 a.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Colapinto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

Members in attendance:

Ms. Elizabeth F. Romero, President, Trustee Area 6

Mr. Bruce Dennis, Vice-President, Trustee Area 4 (arrived at 9:05 a.m.)

Mr. Gerald Colapinto, Trustee Area 1

Mrs. Lynne D. Craig, Trustee Area 2

Dr. Susan J. Rainey, Trustee Area 3

Dr. Ralph R. Villani, Trustee Area 5

Dr. Jay Hoffman, Trustee Area 7

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This item is placed on the Agenda so that members of the audience have an opportunity to speak to any item on the Agenda or regarding subjects or concerns that do not appear on the Agenda. Any person wishing to speak is requested to complete the "Request to Address the Board" form found at the back of the room and to bring it forward to the Board Secretary. Each person wishing to address the Board will be limited to ***five minutes*** without the ability to transfer the time to another speaker. Board Bylaw 9323 limits the total time for public input on each item, subject, or concern to 20 minutes. Government Code Section 54954.2 and Education Code Section 35145.5 prohibit the Board of Education from discussing or acting upon matters not on the Agenda.

Nancy McCall, CSEA Representative, presented RCOE employee, Jocelyn Woods, with a CSEA award. Barbara Hale, Sycamore Academy, Director and Principal, invited the Board to attend Lake Elsinore's renewal of their charter at tomorrow night's LEUSD Board meeting. Lou Monville, Imagine Schools Riverside, Coachella Campus, gave the Board an update on their continued progress.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It is moved by Member Dennis and seconded by Member Craig that the agenda be approved as presented.

7 ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items #1-3 are considered routine and may be enacted by a single motion. It was moved by Member Hoffman and seconded by Member Dennis to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

7 ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Board of Education, August 21, 2013.

2. **PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The Riverside County Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board approve the Certification List #CL 10-13 (Temporary County Certificates) as prepared by Mr. Steve Hovey, Chief Personnel Officer.

3. **DONATION**

- Donation from the Target Corporation in the amount of \$25.82 received by the Special Education Department.

ACTION ITEM

1. **ACTION ITEM 1 – APPROVAL OF WRITTEN EXPLUSION APPEAL DECISION #070113E**

It was moved by Member Rainey and seconded by Member Colapinto that Expulsion Appeal Decision #070113E be approved as presented.

7 ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **River Springs Charter School Semi-Annual Report**

Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Executive Director, gave the Board her semi-annual update. After Dr. Hermsmeyer's lengthy presentation, the following additional information was requested by members of the Board:

Member Villani requested information on what lending institution is loaning money to River Springs and asked to know how curriculum diversity is researched and implemented. Dr. Hermsmeyer shared her issues with having access to traditional school collaboration and expressed that she would like to have more opportunities to mix with public schools but that those opportunities are not and have not been made available to her in Riverside or San Diego counties.

Member Hoffman expressed great concern with the data presented on English Learners; he felt it was glossed over during the presentation. He requested a written report to specifically address the needs of those students at the greatest risk of failing.

President Romero echoed Dr. Hoffman's sentiment that at the end of the day, their primary concern is about student achievement. The performance issues are a grave concern to the Board. While she does support county offices extending a hand in collaborating with the charter school movement, she feels it is not the reason for the disparity in the English Learners data. She felt that the fact that River Springs is in year 6 of Program Improvement should have been addressed in the report. She also feels that River Springs has greater flexibility in how the students are served and she requested a written plan of action on how the English Learner students will be served. A 600 API for English Learners is unacceptable at any district level.

Member Dennis found it disconcerting that after 5 years of the school being opened, the reason for the EL gap has not even been recognized; much less addressed. After 5 years, the reason(s) should have been identified and a plan should have already been implemented. Dr. Hermsmeyer agreed with the statement and shared that they felt the tactic they chose was going to help. After seeing the results, she recognized that it helped, but it didn't help enough; there should have been significant growth. She said it's definitely their number one goal this year and she will share her plans with the Board once she gets it together. He requested that their API data be disaggregated further, based on length of enrollment, to determine the deficiency.

Member Craig asked to know why English Learners would be drawn to River Springs. Dr. Hermsmeyer said a big reason for EL students coming to their charter school is because they don't feel safe at their own campus. She said the parents want a safer, kinder, gentler school environment and that it isn't always the best fit. She shared an example of a student on an independent study program with 3 days attendance required on campus and 2 days required at home, if the home studies aren't done and the student doesn't progress adequately, they are removed from the school but it could take as long as a year to accomplish that.

Deputy Superintendent Jessup reminded the Board that as the charter authorizer, the Board will be approving River Springs LCAP.

Member Rainey suggested that when they disaggregate their data, they further disaggregate the data of the students who have been there longest to understand their performance. She said it would be helpful to the Board to know how long English Learners have been in the River Springs program. Dr. Hermsmeyer said they have about a 20% turnover every year and that she would provide that longitudinal data by program.

Member Hoffman would like to know the number of Spanish speakers River Springs has serving English Learners and he would like to know their status as credentialed teachers, paraprofessionals, etc.

2. Sexual Harassment Investigation Process and Procedures

Current Board Policies and Administrative Regulations were presented by Paul Jessup, Riverside County Deputy Superintendent of Schools at the request of Dr. Villani. The documents are fairly standard based on CSBA's Policies and Procedures and are applicable with federal and state law. Dr. Villani wanted to discuss the issue of employees of the Board and specifically, the secretary of the Board as an employee. Dr. Villani asked staff to define the employees of the Board. Deputy Superintendent Jessup agreed and said it was a different issue than the issue brought forward and staff will prepare a document defining employees of the Board. Member Villani asked that the policy be updated. Member Dennis asked that these policies be identified and brought forward to the subcommittee for review.

3. Board Member Voting – Abstention and Recusal

Deputy Superintendent Jessup reviewed Robert's Rules of Order, California Fair Political Practices, and Board Bylaw 9323 relating to abstention and recusal.

4. Quarterly Surplus Report

Deputy Superintendent Jessup reviewed the Quarterly Surplus Property Report of items valued at less than \$25,000.

5. Fiscal Update

The Fiscal Update was reviewed by Deputy Superintendent Jessup and received as information.

6. Facility Update

The Facility Update was reviewed by Deputy Superintendent Jessup and received as information.

7. Legislative Update

The Legislative Update was presented by Deputy Superintendent Jessup and received as information.

8. Introduction of Issues That May Be Addressed at Future Meetings

9. President and Board Member Comments

Vice-President Dennis requested a complete breakdown of all RCOE lobbyist expenses (salaries, office space, etc.) by the next meeting. He also complimented RCSBA on their planning of the Legislative Summit and is looking forward to hearing Ron Bennett speak. Lastly, he was on the CCBE conference planning committee and was pleased with the feedback.

Member Villani attended the CCBE Conference in Monterey and found it very rewarding. He enjoyed every session he attended and found all of the information pertinent and timely. He also said he would like for CCBE to consider a new location for their annual conference; as Monterey is a difficult location for travel.

Member Hoffman echoed Member Villani's sentiment about the CCBE Conference. He also enjoyed it.

Member Craig also attended the CCBE Conference and was particularly pleased with all of the positive comments and acclamations about CBK. Debra Sacks did a wonderful job at her session and she was proud to be a part of it. She also invited the Board to attend RCSBA's Legislative Summit on November 2 at La Sierra High School. Community members and local businesses have also been invited to attend and nurture a collaborative working relationship with all parties.

President Romero also enjoyed the CCBE Conference. She also attended the UNITY Conference put on by the California Latino School Board Members in conjunction with African-American Board Members. She said it was a great collaborative conference and a great opportunity to address the achievement gaps amongst their monolingual non-English speaking students. She looks forward to sharing some of the models from the conference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 - 9:00 a.m., Board Room, 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA

RCBE MEETINGS:

9 a.m. start time, all remaining meetings. All meetings will be held at 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA, Board Room except December, which will be held in Indio.

December 11, 2013 - Indio
January 8, 2014
February 12, 2014
March 12, 2014
April 9, 2014

May 14, 2014
June 11, 2014
June 25, 2014

RCOE EVENTS:

October 24, 2013 – Eleventh Annual Riverside County Education Summit, 8:30 a.m., Palm Springs Convention Center
February 1, 2014 – Academic Decathlon (Written Tests, SQ, Awards Ceremony), 7 a.m., Perris High School
March 1, 2014 – Mock Trial (Finals, Awards Ceremony), 9 a.m., 3:30 p.m., Riverside Historic Courthouse
March 12, 2014 - Spelling Bee, 9 a.m., Moreno Valley Conference Center
March 15, 2014 – History Day (Competition, Awards Ceremony), 7 a.m., 4 p.m., Ramona High School
April 2, 2014 – RIMS Inland Science Fair Awards, 6 p.m., Riverside Municipal Auditorium
May 6, 2014 – Celebrating Educators, 11:30 a.m., Riverside Convention Center
May 8, 2014 – Employee Recognition, 5:30 p.m., Riverside Convention Center`

RCSS EVENTS:

March 11, 2014 – Riverside County State of Education Address, 11:30 a.m., Renaissance Esmeralda
March 18, 2014 – Riverside County State of Education Address, 11:30 a.m., Riverside Convention Center
April 23, 2014 – Ninth Annual Student Academic Awards Dinner, 6 p.m., Riverside Convention Center

OTHER EVENTS:

November 2, 2013 – Riverside County School Boards Association (RCSBA) Legislative Summit, La Sierra High School
December 4-5, 2013 – California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly (CSBA), San Diego
December 5-7, 2013 – California School Boards Association Annual Conference (CSBA), San Diego
April 5-7, 2014 – National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana

PUBLIC VIEWING OF DOCUMENTS

As per Government Code Section 54957.5, all documents related to this meeting are available for public viewing at each Riverside County Board of Education Meeting and at 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA 92501.