RIO HONDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 West Colorado Street
Rio Hondo, Texas 78583
April 14, 2014

The Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Independent School District met in a Regular Session on Monday, April 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, 215 W. Colorado Street, Rio Hondo, Texas, with Mr. Wiesman, President, presiding.

TRUSTEES:	**PRESENT -**	President	**Thomas E. Wiesman**
		Vice President	**Jessica A. Gonzales**
		Secretary	**Tomas Gomez**
			Manuel Flores, Jr.
			Arnold Martinez, Jr.
			Claudia Villalobos
	ABSENT -		**Noe Alaniz, Jr.**
SUPERINTENDENT:			**Ismael Garcia**
RECORDER:			**Florence Landry**
ADMINISTRATION:			**Rita O. Lopez, Veronica Puente**
			Annette Jaramillo
			Fidel Garza, Jr.
			Deyanira M. Garcia
SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTORNEY:			**Ricardo Morado**
VISITORS:			**See Attached List**

Items 1 & 2 Mr. Wiesman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., after noting a quorum was present and that the meeting notice had been posted as required by law.

Item 3 Mr. Wiesman led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4 Invocation.

Item 5 Welcome/Open Forum:

Mr. Wiesman welcomed everyone and asked if anyone had signed up to speak under the Open Forum. There was no one.

Item 6 Student/Staff Recognition

Superintendent Garcia recognized six students for placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at the District level Fire Prevention Poster Contest competition. The winners: A PK student earned 3rd Place, a third grader placed 2nd, a fourth grader - 3rd Place, a fifth grader - 3rd Place, a seventh grader - 1st Place, and another seventh grader - 2nd Place. These students are eligible to advance to the State level and will be judged in the month of June 2014 at the Fire Fighter's & Fire Marshal's State Convention in Lubbock, Texas. In addition, Mr. Garcia stated, our students received the Grand Champion Award for 2013 for having the greatest number of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the competition.

Board Member Villalobos thanked Officer Esequiel Rios for involving the students in learning about fire safety and participating in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest competition. She also thanked the parents for helping the students represent our school district well and congratulated the students for earning the trophy.

Mr. Garcia also recognized the Rio Hondo Elementary Special Education Department for receiving numerous technology equipment valued at approximately $18,000.00 by entering and winning an essay contest. We would like to thank Ms. Susie Andrews for taking the initiative to participate in this contest which allowed the campus to add these wonderful resources to our special education department, he said.

Elementary School Principal Annette Jaramillo introduced Susie Andrews. Ms. Andrews gave a power point presentation demonstrating how the students are using the technology equipment. Ms. Andrews stated that students are motivated by the "hands on" approach using these resources.

Board Member Villalobos thanked Ms. Andrews for going out of her way to obtain this for the students.

Item 7 Superintendent Garcia explained that under the "Approval of Consent Agenda Items", there are two items: Approve Minutes of the Called Board Meeting of March 19, 2014, and Presentation of Monthly Financial Report, Cafeteria Report, Tax Collection Report, and Property Tax Refunds. Mr. Garcia requested that the item for Property Tax Refunds not be addressed until the next board meeting. Board Member Villalobos asked if the refunds had been approved already. Mr. Garcia explained that because the refunds have not been approved by the Board, and there is not an action agenda item, he is requesting that the Property Tax Refunds not be addressed until the next board meeting.

Regarding the Monthly Financial Report, Board Member Gonzales asked if the balance shown in account 161 would be enough funds to cover summer school. She also asked for clarification regarding expenses for community service accounts, fund 61.

Board Member Villalobos commented that fund 61 on page 4b of report does not have a line item name on it so it is not clear if it's a continuance from 4a or something different.

Ms. Gonzales also inquired regarding the balance of $7440 to be collected under Cocurricular and Athletics, Revenues Account 181. She also asked where funds collected at Pigskin event are placed.

A motion was made by Ms. Gonzales to approve consent agenda item 8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 8 *Minutes of the Called Meeting of March 19, 2014, approved.

Item 9 Presentation of Monthly Financial Report, Cafeteria Report, Tax Collection Report, and Property Tax Refunds.

Property Tax Refunds were not addressed at this meeting.

Item 10 Report on NSBA Conference Attended by Four Board Members in April 2014

Superintendent Garcia stated that the board members who attended the 74th Annual National School Board Association (NSBA) Conference in New Orleans April 5-7, 2014, will make a brief presentation on some of the highlights from the various sessions that they attended during the conference. This year's theme was, "Advancing the Education of America's Children - Transforming Leadership."

Board Member Gonzales stated that she asked this item be placed on the agenda because she believes that it is important the stakeholders and our community know why it is important to attend these conferences. Conferences are very important and we are learning. We are not partying and having fun as some people may be thinking she said. These conferences are very tiring and require alot of walking to get to the different classes. At the end of the day, all we want to do is have dinner and rest to get ready for the next day that starts at 7:00 a.m. Some people may be thinking, why are you taking trips, buying buses and cameras if we do not have any money. Unfortunately, the school still needs to run so we still need to attend these conferences; it is important and knowledge is power but it is also important to share the knowledge that we are learning, especially because we are new. In our School Board Operating Procedures Manual that we are working on, this is one of the things that we want to bring in this manual - that whenever a school board member attends these conferences, that they come back and they share with the rest of the school board members that were unable to go with the community, as to what they learned. Ms. Gonzales stated that one of the things she learned at the NSBA Conference was in reference to a Conference topic, "Hunger in Our Schools". She said it hurts her to hear that some students are going through their classes hungry, either because they do not like what is served or do not like the food for any other reason. Ms. Gonzales stated that she learned that even though she had been told that students did not have an option to be served any other food because the District receives money from USDA, some meals purchased from Chick-Fil-A, Dominoes and Subway are reimbursable. Ms. Gonzales stated she has given Superintendent Garcia the packet she brought from the Conference so that he may look into the options.

Board Member Arnold Martinez commented that he was also exhausted at the Conference. Mr. Martinez stated that attending the Conference changes status quo; he looked at other schools from all over the United States - "Rio Hondo - you want to improve it, and how do you do it", he asked. He stated that they have to bring information back and see what we can do to change status quo. Mr. Martinez shared information on "Myth of Education" class he attended. One of the topics was classroom size reduction. People say the least amount of kids a teacher has, the better the class. He commented that he is not a teacher so he does not know, but statistics show that if you get number of students down to fifteen, it will improve the class. However, it is going to cost 50% more per staff, he said. There has to be a balance so the question being asked is, "are we being effective with the class size". He said the second myth discussed was regarding homework. The presenter asked, "is your District being productive regarding homework"? Mr. Martinez said he also learned that third and fourth year teachers are still learning. Another topic discussed was technology. Technology is very expensive; cannot just throw technology, there has to be a plan. Need to be very specific in this area. Another myth discussed was about remediation. If the teaching method does not change, students still will not learn, he said. Mr. Martinez also spoke on retention. He said the presenter commented that retention of a student should be the very last resort. Mr. Martinez stated he hopes the District will help the children in class vs. stressing them at home with the parents. Hopefully we can be more efficient, he said. Mr. Martinez thanked Ms. Gonzales for giving him the opportunity to share information on the classes he attended.

Board Member Villalobos thanked the Superintendent and the Board President for allowing them to go on this trip. She said it was sad that not all eight members could go and even more heartbreaking that the Superintendent could not go because there were alot of great sessions that he could have learned from. As new school board members, we do not know all the rules. I want to learn and take our District to the next level, Ms. Villalobos said. When we go to these conferences, we see schools that started from the bottom and they grow to be great schools. That is what our schools and our community deserve and need, she said. We do not need people saying, "hey, you can't do that", and do something completely opposite that is going to affect our kids in a negative way. One of the sessions was, "Change is Good - You Go First". This session, Ms. Villalobos said, "hit the nail on the head". It was about a small school district that was facing exactly what we are facing, alot of change, alot of difficult choices and decisions to be made by a school board. It is hard. We need our stakeholders to buy in and that was one of the things that is transforming our school board meetings, she continued. She commented that she was very grateful to those who attend the board meetings and want to play a part in the change of our school because it is very difficult. People are going to say negative things and not the positive things. As a school board member, we may want to change things over night, but that is not how it happens. Change takes time. "And it is not just about us eight working together; it's about all of us working together for the benefit of our school", Ms. Villalobos stated. I think that this is a great thing that we got the opportunity to go. I am a teacher so I always want to come and learn and teach, and I want our administrators to teach me so I can better serve them and our kids, she said. Ms. Villalobos shared a story about "Ms. G"

and freedom writers. Ms. G has 150 of the worst kids possible and her administrators did not back her up. And like alot of our teachers do, like Ms. Andrews who does things out of the ordinary for our school. Alot of our teachers spend money out of their pockets to help educate our students. The sad thing is that there are resources out there and no one is taking the time to look at these things to help our kids. We should always think, not about what is best for the adults, but what is best for our students. How are our students and our District going to grow? "I think Rio Hondo has the best kids and is a great community, and deserve nothing but the best", Ms. Villalobos stated. They taught us and gave us resources at the Conference so that we could bring back to share. We have a list of about 100 things to do, and if you know all eight of us, we all have our ideas, she said. So we have to team-build and say, "hey, we have to stop looking at petty things and look at the big picture which is going to affect our students and our schools as a whole", Ms. Villalobos stated. We have to prioritize what is needed in our District because our District has taken the back seat for a long time. It is easy to want to point fingers but we cannot change the past. We have to look at what is before us today, know where we are at right now, and know where we want our District to go, and look forward to these opportunities. To grow from right now and stop dwelling on the past and grow as a community and a school - to better our school. I like to ask alot of questions, when they say; "Change is Good, You Go First", that is one of the things they said at the Conference, don't stop asking questions, that is what is going to get things done, Ms. Villalobos said. "I like to take to heart what I learned and hope to grow", Ms. Villalobos stated. "Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to go so that we can educate ourselves so that we can be better school board members so that we can prosper as a community", she stated. Ms. Villalobos also mentioned that board members take different sessions and debrief during breaks and always think about how they can help administrators. Ms. Villalobos thanked the administrators for all that they do and presented them with a thank you card and a pin.

Item 11 School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Health Fair Invitation for Event Scheduled on April 25, 2014.

Board Member Gonzales thanked Ms. Rita Lopez and Administration for organizing the Health Fair event scheduled for April 25, 2014, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Rio Hondo ISD Bobcat Stadium, and invited her fellow board members and the community to attend.

Item 12 Update on the New Bobcat Logo Selection Process

Superintendent Garcia updated the Board and Community on the new Bobcat Logo selection process. Mr. Garcia mentioned the names of the individuals serving on the Bobcat Logo Committee and the departments they represent:

Daniel Flores	Community Member
Zeke Rodriguez	Technology Department
Robert Lopez	Band Boosters
Israel Flores	Athletic Boosters
Arnold Martinez	Board Member
John Garza	Band Director

Rocky James	Athletic Director
Annette Jaramillo	Elementary School Principal
Fidel Garza, Jr.	Junior High Principal
Deyanira Garcia	High School Principal
Jr. High Student Council President	Daniel Saenz
High School Student Council President	Brianna O'Brien.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the information placed on the ballot: "Should RHISD return to its vintage logo?", "Should RHISD use the new logo the Athletic Department is using on its football helmets" (created by a local artist), or "Do you have an idea for RHISD's new logo?" Votes were taken up to April 11, 2014, Mr. Garcia said. The results: 216 votes to keep the original Bobcat, 227 votes for the new Bobcat, 29 votes to change the logo. Twenty-Eight entries were received for a new Bobcat logo. The Bobcat Logo Committee will be meeting on April 16, 2014, and will be reviewing the 28 entries that came in and will be selecting one. Then, Mr. Garcia continued, the logo that received the most votes (Bobcat with "RH" created by the local artist), and the one selected by the Committee on April 16, will be voted on, and the results will be presented at the May 2014 Board Meeting.

Board Member Gonzales asked why the athletic department was already using a new logo. Board Member Villalobos asked if the logo selected would be a logo that would represent the District for every event and department. Ms. Villalobos stated that when she tried to vote on the website, system would not allow her to do so. Ms. Rita Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, explained that it was not set up to be able to vote through the web site. Ms. Villalobos asked where the number of votes had come from. Ms. Lopez explained the process was through paper ballots. Ms. Villalobos expressed the importance of letting the community know exactly how the votes will be processed. This is important since it is something that represents our community and our District. School District Council, Attorney Ricardo Morado, stated that the District needs to be sure that the Bobcat selected be significantly different from the Bobcat used by Texas State University. Board Member Gonzales thanked Superintendent Garcia for placing this item on the agenda.

Item 13 Update Regarding the Use of Gymnasiums by Community Members

Superintendent Garcia stated this item has to do with TASB Board Policy GKD(LOCAL), Community Relations, NonSchool Use of School Facilities. Mr. Garcia informed the Board that on April 10, 2014, a meeting had been held with the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) to discuss how to proceed with the use of gymnasiums by the community. Members of the committee had more questions than answers, Mr. Garcia stated. Questions included: What is the cost associated with the opening of gyms? Is there accessibility to the rest of the facilities? Who would be responsible to monitor and ensure proper usage? Who should have accessibility? DEIC Committee suggested that scheduling guidelines be created to ensure equal opportunity for everyone using the current facilities available, and then see if Junior High and High School Gyms would be needed.

Board Member Gonzales stated that she asked Superintendent Garcia to place this on the agenda because there are several concerned community members and she wanted the community to know that their concerns are being heard and are being addressed. Ms. Villalobos asked if community members serve on the DEIC committee. She also asked how staff and administrators get selected for committee. Board Member Martinez said transparency was important to make sure that the cards are not stacked against the community. Ms. Villalobos asked what ensures that all members attend the meetings. Ms. Gonzales stated that it is important to include the proper number of community members as well. Superintendent Garcia explained that ultimately the Board will decide whether or not to change Board Policy GKD(LOCAL). Ms. Villalobos stated that the Board needs to be well informed so that the right decisions can be made since the decisions affect our schools. Board Member Gomez asked if the DEIC Committee will advise as to whether or not to open the gyms. Mr. Gomez also stated that more community members need to be involved so that their concerns and ideas may be heard. Ms. Villalobos stated plan needs to be well out-lined and fair to everyone. Mr. Martinez asked if athletic director was going to be a part of the committee. Superintendent Garcia stated he will continue to work on the details for this project.

Item 14 Superintendent Garcia stated that Mr. Ruben Cortez, member of the State Board of Education and the Region One Service Center, are requesting that School Board Members throughout the State of Texas consider approving a resolution that would endorse and support the inclusion of a high school level course in the study of Mexican-American history and culture in the curriculum and instruction provided and approved by the Texas State Board of Education. This course, if approved by the Texas State Board of Education, would be taken as an elective in those high schools that choose to offer it to their students.

Board Member Villalobos stated that this Resolution was mentioned at the NSBA Conference and that it would be good to teach students about roots and to show the diversity across the nation. She said she thinks this is a good idea but asked if the District would have to hire a teacher with a different certificate to teach this course. Board Member Martinez asked how it will affect electives. Board Member Villalobos said that she learned at the Grassroots meeting she attended, as explained by Mr. Ruben Cortez, that he has to get a certain number of signatures before he petitions the Texas Education Agency so at this point, it is only a petition.

A motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to approve the Resolution endorsing and supporting the inclusion of a high school level course in the study of Mexican-American History and Culture in the curriculum and instruction provided and approved by the Texas State Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gomez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 15 Superintendent Garcia stated that Administration is requesting approval from the Board to implement a summer schedule starting June 2, 2014, and ending on August 8, 2014. If approved, the District's Administrative Offices will open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Employees will be allowed 30 minutes for lunch. One of the advantages to this schedule is energy savings, Mr. Garcia said. The summer schedule does

not apply to the custodial, maintenance, or school district police department staff, Mr. Garcia explained.

Ms. Gonzales asked if one half hour for lunch was enough. Ms. Villalobos asked if there would be a skeleton crew on Fridays? She asked when do custodians, maintenance and police staff work? Where do the energy savings come from? Mr. Martinez asked if there would be someone to answer the phones.

A motion was made by Ms. Gonzales to approve the Summer Schedule for District Staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 16 Superintendent Garcia asked that Policy FFH(LOCAL) be pulled from Update 99 due to former employee Elda Garza being listed as the Title IX officer and the District has not selected an individual to be assigned as the Title IX officer.

Superintendent Garcia stated that as per Board Policy BF(LOCAL), after Board review of legally referenced policies and adoption of local policies, the new material shall be incorporated into the official policy manual and into other localized policy manuals maintained by the District. Update 99 is the second of two post-legislative updates, focusing primarily on incorporating changes in law from the 83rd Legislative Session that were not included in Update 98. Please bear in mind the (LEGAL) policies should not be adopted but, rather, should inform local decision making, he said. Board action is needed to adopt, revise, or repeal (LOCAL) policy.

Board Member Villalobos asked if the District is in compliance with graduation plans regarding House Bill 5, as addressed in Policy EIF (LEGAL).

Superintendent Garcia reviewed Local Policies: BDD, Board Internal Organization, Attorney; BP, Administrative Regulations; CFEA, Payroll Procedures, Salary Deductions and Reductions; CK, Safety Program/Risk Management; DAC, Employment Objectives, Objective Criteria For Personnel Decisions; EHDC, Alternative Methods for Earning Credit, Credit by Examination Without Prior Instruction; FFF, Student Welfare, Student Safety; and FFH, Student Welfare, Freedom From Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation. Mr. Garcia stated Local Policy FFH will be brought back in May 2014 for adoption.

A motion was made by Mr. Gomez that the Board add, revise, or delete (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 99, and to pull FFH Local Policy for the May Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 17 Mr. Wiesman closed the regular session at 8:31 p.m. to discuss personnel and other matters. The regular session resumed at 10:06 p.m. Items were as follows:

- Closed Session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss value of real property for potential sale.

No Action.

Personnel:

a. Level Three Grievance of Aracely Alvear

A motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to reinstate Aracely Alvear to her previous position. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gonzales. Votes in favor: Ms. Villalobos, Ms. Gonzales, and Mr. Gomez. Opposed: Mr. Flores, Mr. Martinez, and Mr. Wiesman. The motion died due to lack of majority.

Mr. Wiesman closed the regular session at 10:07 p.m. to address items b., c., and d. The regular session resumed at 10:52 p.m.

b. Consider Proposed Nonrenewal of Probationary Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to approve the Nonrenewal of the Probationary Contract, as discussed in Executive Session and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gomez. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Consider Accepting Resignations

A motion was made by Mr. Gomez approve the resignations, as recommended by the Superintendent, from:

Bianca Cantu	High School Science Teacher
Juanita Cavazos	High School Counselor
David L. Jones	PEIMS Director

The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Superintendent
No Action.

Item 18 There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Wiesman adjourned the meeting at 10:58 p.m.

Thomas E. Wiesman, President

Tomas Gomez, Secretary

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 commentarios o problemas esta noche durante el periodo de comentarios publicos, primero deben completar y presentar al Presidente del Consejo Directivo Escolar la forma de "Peticion para commentos publicos".

RIO HONDO I.S.D. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING OF April 14, 2014

1. Clifford F. Moriarty	26.
2. Anita G Lozano + daughter	27.
3. [illegible]	28.
4. [illegible]	29.
5. Adela T. Perez	30.
6. Sandy Heredia	31.
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