RIO HONDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 West Colorado Street
Rio Hondo, Texas 78583
September 9, 2013

The Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Independent School District met in a Regular Session on Monday, September 9, 2013, 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
			Manuel Flores, Jr.
			Arnold Martinez, Jr.
			Claudia Villalobos
	ABSENT -	Secretary	Tomas Gomez
			Noe Alaniz, Jr.
SUPERINTENDENT:			Ismael Garcia
RECORDER:			Florence Landry
ADMINISTRATION:			Elda Garza, Rita Lopez, Fidel Garza, Jr., Guadalupe Garza, Annette Jaramillo, Deyanira M. Garcia
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 ROTC Color Guard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4 Moment of Silence.

Item 5 Welcome/Open Forum:

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

Item 6 A motion was made by Mr. Flores to approve consent agenda items 7and 8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. Votes in favor: Mr. Wiesman, Ms. Gonzales, Mr. Flores, and Mr. Martinez. Ms. Villalobos was in favor of Item 8 and abstained from Item 7 due to her absence at the July 15, 2013, board meeting. The motion carried.

Item 7 *Minutes of the Called Board Meeting of July 15, 2013, and Called Meeting of August 21, 2013, approved.

Item 8 *Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) SAS #: PERKAA14, Carl D. Perkins Basic Formula Grant, accepted.

Item 9 *Funds from Region One Education Service Center Gear Up Program, 2013-2014.

Board Member Martinez asked if there are students targeted for this program, if students travel in county only or out to other universities, if these funds are enough or does District need to contribute to this fund, and does District have a program focused with GEAR UP. Mr. Martinez commented that this is a great program and asked if there was some way to let the Board know how program is doing.

Board Member Villalobos asked if this group of students are the same as 8th and 9th grade students or if more students can be added, are there set funds per child allotment or is it just general funds, and who is in charge of allocating these funds. Ms. Villalobos also asked about the Upward Bound Program.

Board Member Gonzales commented that there is a reporting system done through GEAR UP and Region One in regards to the funds.

After Superintendent Garcia and Assistant Superintendent Elda Garza answered the Board's questions, a motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to accept the Funds from Region One Education Service Center GEAR UP Program, 2013-2014. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gonzales. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10 Presentation on Grant Development Service Plans by PHD Vision.

Superintendent Garcia stated that as financial resources become scarce, school districts throughout the state of Texas are searching for grant opportunities that can enhance revenue streams for the district. PHD Vision is a consulting firm that can provide grant writing assistance and opportunities to Rio Hondo ISD. The intent of PHD Vision is to help school districts like Rio Hondo with administrating federal, state and county grants that will add substantial new resources and strategies in order to empower families into a more prosperous life through successful college and workforce readiness. Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Edwin Barrera, President and Founder of PHD Vision. Mr. Barrera stated he has been with PHD Vision for twenty three years. PHD stands for "Public Education from the Home to the Doctorate", he stated. Mr. Barrera explained in detail his vast experience as a grant writer, the different plans available, and what he can do for Rio Hondo ISD.

Board Member Villalobos asked Mr. Barrera: What is the success rate for rural, underprivileged schools such as Rio Hondo? You have listed Rio Hondo as a client you have served? Only one?

Board Member Martinez asked Mr. Barrera: Having Rio Hondo's grants, we are competing with other schools, how far on the bottom of the list would Rio Hondo be; are you willing to have another grant writer; been writing for twenty three years and for Rio Hondo only one; are grant writers actively seeking grants; who does needs assessments, does Superintendent get report on status of grants; can you bring 2 million dollars to Rio Hondo and how soon can you get it here; after school programs, what is the process and timeline for after school grants; will be accountable goals and objectives if met performance goals; who maintains paperwork; what grants are available today; what are the guarantees; is there a time limit to get guaranteed amount?

Board Member Gonzales asked Mr. Barrera: How is retainer paid? On your fund allocation history, it shows TIPS funds received for 2010-2013, have you received anything recently? On the six million TIPS grant you got for another school district, what happens after that, can they reapply again?

Board Member Wiesman commented on the down side of getting "matching funds" grants.

Superintendent Garcia stated it was important to understand the options, how the guarantee funding works, which is: For the amount of money that we hire, grant writer will continue writing until grant amount is received, and hopefully that will be within the time period specified. Mr. Garcia also wanted to make clear that if Mr. Barrera is hired as a grant writer, and if we see other grants and want to work with a "grant specific" writer, it is allowable, if it benefits the District.

Item 11 Superintendent Garcia stated that as per CCG(LEGAL), Rio Hondo ISD contracts with the Law Office of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for the collection of delinquent advalorem taxes. Mr. Garcia introduced Attorney Roy Ortiz who gave a report on the delinquent tax collections for Rio Hondo Independent School District for the period September 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013. Mr. Ortiz spoke on the Pre-Litigation Effort, Property Inspections, Mailings, and Litigation. Mr. Ortiz also provided a Collection Comparison, Tax Sales, and the Work Plan.

Board Member Gonzales asked who pays legal fees on litigation filed.

Board Member Villalobos asked Mr. Ortiz to explain "Struck-Off" properties.

Superintendent Garcia asked what happens if one of the entities does not approve the bid on "struck-off" properties.

Board Member Martinez stated that there is a disconnect on private offers; what does a buyer have to do? It appears that only people/investors from Brownsville are the only ones bidding on these property resales. Mr. Martinez suggested some information be initiated for Rio Hondo people to be informed of the properties available and the process so that the Rio Hondo public become familiar with the process; need to do a better job informing

Rio Hondo residents, Mr. Martinez stated. Mr. Martinez also asked on the amount of time that a buyer needs to wait to use the property after the purchase and what happens to mail returns on notices sent to property owners being sued.

Item 12 Superintendent Garcia once again introduced Attorney Roy Ortiz from the Law Office of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP regarding the bids received on two properties struck-off to Cameron County, for itself and other taxing jurisdictions from a Tax Resale conducted on July 2, 2013.

Board Member Martinez commented that according to the Analysis of Bid Received for Tax Resale Property report, it appears that the percentage received is 74% of $4,112 but is is really 74% of $2,300.00. Mr. Martinez also asked if this is not accepted today, how long before sale can be done again; concerned that percentage the District is receiving is not enough. Mr. Martinez also pointed out that he noticed the sign on one of the properties he saw is not the same as in the picture provided. Mr. Martinez stated he wanted to make sure he understood the process: first, if there is a sale and there are no bids, then there is a resale, if not sold at resale, then it goes to private bids.

Ms. Villalobos asked if once the properties are purchased if they are placed back on the tax roll and if the value increases. Ms. Villalobos also asked how often are there properties advertised and how long do they need to be advertised.

Board Member Flores commented that he would like to give people from the area an opportunity to bid.

Item 13 Superintendent Garcia informed the Board that they could approve the Resolution approving the two bids received on the Tax Resale Conducted on July 2, 2013, they approve only one bid, or bids submitted for both not be accepted.

Board Member Martinez asked Mr. Ortiz what he could provide for Rio Hondo as far as advertising.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to reject the Resolution approving the two bids received on the Tax Resale conducted on July, 2, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. Votes in favor: Mr. Wiesman, Mr. Flores, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Villalobos. Ms. Gonzales abstained. The motion carried.

Item 14 As per Board Policy FM(LEGAL), districts may identify additional honors courses in the subject areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Economics, or a Language other than English for the purposes of extracurricular eligibility, but must identify such courses before the semester in which any exemptions related to extracurricular activities occur.

Assistant Superintendent Rita Lopez reviewed the Honors or Advanced Classes to the No Pass, No Play Exemption Rule for the 2013-2014 School Year. Board Member Villalobos asked how many waivers are allowed per six weeks and if there is a limit on number of courses to file a waiver.

Board Member Martinez asked if there was a local policy for FM.

Item 15 Pursuant to Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 6.03(g), each taxing unit entitled to vote may nominate by resolution adopted by its governing body one candidate to the Cameron County Appraisal District Board of Directors. The seven (7) school districts represented by this director shall have the opportunity to nominate and vote for the representative of its choice for the period commencing January 2014. The seven school districts are: La Feria, Los Fresnos, Lyford, Rio Hondo, Santa Maria, Santa Rosa, and South Texas. The current representative is Mr. Jose N. Diaz, Sr.

Board Member Villalobos asked what the roles and responsibilities are for the person serving.

Board Member Flores asked if anyone else besides Mr. Diaz is running.

Board Member Martinez asked how the public knows that this position is available; can it be advertised on website?

Ms. Gonzales asked if any of the board members were interested in being nominated.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to table approving the Resolution naming nominee to hold position Eight (8) of the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Villalobos. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 16 As per EHBE(LEGAL): Each district that is required to offer bilingual and special language programs shall, by local Board policy, establish an LPAC (Language Proficiency Assessment Committee).

Assistant Superintendent Rita Lopez informed the Board that the request is to add Pedro Zuniga as transitional teacher at the high school. Mrs. Lopez also explained the purpose of the Committee which serves LEP (Limited English Proficient) students.

Board Member Villalobos asked about the process for selecting individuals for this committee.

Board Member Gonzales stated she noticed special education teachers are used from the intermediate campus and not other campuses. Ms. Gonzales also asked if alternate members attend at the same time.

A motion was made by Mr. Martinez to approve the Campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee Members (LPAC), with the addition of Pedro Zuniga, Transitional Teacher, for the 2013-2014 School Year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 17 As per Board Policy DBA(LEGAL), the basic document in support of the number of years of professional service claimed for salary increment purposes and both the state's sick and personal leave program data for all personnel is the service record (form (FIN-115) or a similar form containing the same information. The service record must be validated by a person designated by the District to sign service records.

Board Member Gonzales asked if name of former Human Resources Director needed to be taken off.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to add Veronica Puente, Human Resources Director, as an Authorized Designee of the Rio Hondo Independent School District in signing personnel records on behalf of the School District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 18 At the July 8, 2013, Board Meeting, the Board approved the names of the 2013-2014 District's Primary and Alternate Appraisers. As per DNA(LEGAL), a campus administrator who is certified PDAS Appraiser and approved by the Board, shall conduct a teacher's appraisal. As per DNA(LOCAL), the list of qualified appraisers who may appraise a teacher in place of the teacher's supervisor shall be approved by the Board. The name of the High School Principal is being added to the list of approved Appraisers and the name of the Human Resources Director is being added to the list of approved Alternate Appraisers.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to add the High School Principal to the District Appraisers list and the Human Resources Director to the List of Alternate Appraisers for the 2013-2014 School Year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 19 As per Board Policy CH(LOCAL), any single, budgeted purchase of goods or services that costs $25,000 or more, regardless of whether the goods or srvices are competitively purchased, shall require Board approval before a transaction may take place. As presented and approved during the budget process, the CATE program will be purchasing a 2014 Ford F-250 Diesel 4 x 4 XLT truck through the Buyboard approved vendor Chastang Ford in Houston, Texas per contract #358-10.

Board Member Villalobos asked if current vehicle used by this department that had broken down was repaired. Ms. Villalobos also asked if old and new vehicles would be used to students as well as animals to the different events. She asked if amount of purchase had already been set aside. Also asked if any CATE member will be able to use new truck.

Board Member Gonzales asked if delivery fee is included and is it part of the total fee. Ms. Gonzales asked if purchase price is coming out of the $73,000.00 set aside for CATE. Ms. Gonzales also asked if vehicle was originally $52,105 but the purchase price for the District is $38,987.00. Ms. Gonzales asked if vehicle was a two or four door and where will vehicle be stationed.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to approve the purchase of a 2014 Ford F-250 Diesel 4 x 4 XLT Truck for the CATE Vocational Agricultural Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 20 Mr. Wiesman closed the regular session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The regular session resumed at 9:14 p.m. Personnel items were as follows:

Personnel:

- Consider Approving Addendum to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2013-2014 school year

A motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to approve the Addendum to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2013-2014 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 21 There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Wiesman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 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 SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

1. Ronald DeLa Garza
2. Cliff Moriarty
3. M. L
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.
50.