RIO HONDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

The Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Independent School District met in a Regular Session on Monday, December 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 O. Lopez, Annette Jaramillo
			Fidel Garza, Jr. (Absent)
			Deyanira M. Garcia (Absent)
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 Prayer.

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 stated that Administration would like to recognize the winners of this year's Fire Prevention Poster Contest that was held during the week of October 6 through 12, for which he was privileged to be one of the judges. The purpose of this program is to educate students on fire prevention. This contest is open to students from Pre-K to the 12th grade. Participating this year were the Elementary, Intermediate and Jr. High campuses. First, second, and third place trophies are awarded to each grade level. Only 1st place posters will compete at the regional level. Any poster placing at the regional level will compete at the state level, explained Mr. Garcia.

Elementary School Principal Annette Jaramillo introduced Officer Esequiel Rios and thanked him for being in charge of the Fire Prevention Poster Contest event. This year's theme was "Kitchen Fire Safety" and a total of twenty-eight students, grades PK - 8 (this being the first year that the Junior High School participated) earned first, second, and third place in the competition. Mrs. Jaramillo asked students to introduce themselves and announce what place they earned. One third grade girl was recognized for placing first place four years in a row.

Board Member Villalobos stated that since this is not a mandated activity, she was very happy to see so many students participating. She stated that students will represent Rio Hondo not only on the regional level but on the national level as well, and that is something to be very proud of. She said she hopes to see high school students participate next year. She thanked the students for bringing their posters and also thanked the parents for their support. Ms. Villalobos also thanked Officer Rios for bringing Fire Prevention to Rio Hondo ISD.

Item 7 Board President Thomas E. Wiesman stated that according to Board Policy BBD(LEGAL), annually, at the last regular meeting of the Board held during a calendar year, the Baord President shall announce, and the minutes must reflect, the name of each Board Member who has completed the required training, who has exceeded the required hours of training, and who is deficient in the required training as of the date of the meeting. The President shall cause the minutes to reflect the information and shall make this information available to the local media.

Mr. Wiesman stated he was pleased to announce that Board Members Noe Alaniz Jr., Manuel Flores, Jr., Tomas Gomez, Jessica A. Gonzales, Arnold Martinez, Jr., Claudia Villalobos, and Thomas E. Wiesman, have met the required hours in Tier 1, and have met and exceeded the required training hours in Tier 2, and Tier 3.

Item 8 Approval of Consent Agenda Items 9, 10, and 11.

Board Member Villalobos asked a question regarding Item 11, "Donations from Businesses and Parents for Rio Hondo High School Robotics Program." Ms. Villalobos asked if the Robotics Team was budgeted into our school budget. Superintendent Garcia stated yes and also read the names of the businesses and parents who had made the donations and thanked everyone for contributing to the Robotics Program.

A motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to approve consent agenda items 9, 10, and 11. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9 *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m., approved.

Item 10 *GEAR UP Program Grant Amendment, accepted.

Item 11 *Donations from Businesses and Parents for Rio Hondo High School Robotics Program, accepted.

Item 12 Superintendent Garcia stated that as per Board Policy CE(LOCAL), budget planning shall be an integral part of overall program planning so that the budget effectively reflects the District's programs and activities and provides the resources to implement them. In an effort to plan appropriately for the 2014-2015 school year, Administration has contracted with the Texas Association of School Board (TASB) to conduct a comprehensive staffing review. This staffing review project was completed during the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year. The analysis involved a combination of interviews with key staff members along with the collection and review of several data sets. The work was completed by Richard Lane, a contract consultant with TASB HR Services. Superintendent Garcia introduced Mr. Lane.

Mr. Richard Lane, Contract Consultant with TASB HR Services, stated he has been retired from public schools since November 2004 after 38 years. He was a chemistry teacher/coach, served 4 years as assistant principal, 12 years as principal, 14 years as personnel officer with the last 10 years as Associate Superintendent for Human Resources at Clear Creek ISD. In 2004 he started working for TASB doing these type of analysis. Mr. Lane stated he has worked with 350 districts, almost every district with more than 20,000 students. He said he has worked with most of the districts in the Valley and now he is pleased to work with Rio Hondo ISD.

Mr. Lane explained that the layout or actual operation or process for this Staffing Review Study consists of interviews with Rio Hondo ISD staff and data searches. He further noted that the benchmarks he used are a combination of two types of things. One comes directly from PEIMS or AEIS data. For example, he stated, he knows how many instructional aides and how many students there are across the state. By doing division you come up with the fact that there are 12.8 instructional aides on an average across the state for every 1,000 students. Rio Hondo ISD has 2,000 students, this gives him an idea of how many instructional aides the District needs to have to meet that particular benchmark.

Mr. Lane further explained that another type of benchmark that is used is what he calls, "Common Practice in Texas." As mentioned, he stated, he has done 350 studies across the state and almost every district that has more than 20,000 students so he has data bases that are much more detailed than PEIMS. This comes from data he pulls out from Districts all across the state, so he can get more detailed, he said.

Mr. Lane stated that what he hopes he has done for Rio Hondo ISD is to generate a set of options; he does not call them recommendations, he said. The District will need to work through the options and decide which fit best for the instructional plan and number of dollars needed to balance District's budget.

Mr. Lane reviewed pages 4 and 5 of the Staffing Review Booklet. Page 4 lists information regarding "Summary Findings-Benchmark Related" and page 5 consists of "Other Savings and Operational Findings". Pages 6 - 17 lists a specific breakout on every single option that is talked about in the report. These pages include information on Instructional and Administrative Support Staff, Elementary School Teachers, Junior High School Teachers, High School Teachers, Special Education Staffing, Student Nutrition Staffing, Operations and Facilities Staffing, and Human Resources. Mr. Lane also explained that pages 18-50 of the report contain spreadsheets that reflect data structures with benchmarks on Staffing, Class Sizes, Special Education, Support Staff, and Peer District Comparisons. He said this information will help the District to see how Rio Hondo ISD's staffing compares with the benchmarks in each of the areas.

In terms of benchmark related savings, Mr. Lane referred to page 4 of the report showing the total potential savings related to benchmarks being just under 1.5 million. The option states that you can absorb some positions by attrition. By providing a small stipend to encourage employees to submit their resignations early, if they are going to resign at the end of the school year, principals are able to decide if the position will be filled or not, and if the position is to be filled, they can fill it when the "applicant pool" is very rich, Mr. Lane suggested.

Mr. Lane spoke on the "Cost Avoidance" category dealing with the number of folks that are in athletic periods at the high school. There are a few more than what he sees normally around the state. Two coaches that have multiple athletic period assignments could be dropped to one athletic period rather than two, Mr. Lane commented. By doing this, there would be a cost avoidance of roughly $13,000, and District would get more core classes taught which would help with core class averages. Mr. Lane also mentioned that total potential savings from New Service Models listed on page 5 would be about $44,000 in reference to changes that could be done in libraries and nursing areas.

Mr. Lane gave an example of how a spreadsheet is used and referred to page 26, "Professional and Administrative Support Positions, Comparison of AEIS Data for 2013-14." The positions listed, professional support, campus administration, central administration totaled to 39.1 administrative/professional support positions which gives Rio Hondo 18.0 per 1,000 students, compared to a state-wide benchmark of 16.8 per 1,000

students. The difference is 2.5 positions over the benchmark. Possible Option: Absorb up to two (2) surplus professional support vacancies, Mr. Lane explained.

Mr. Lane referred back to page 4 under Instructional and Administrative Support Staff. He pointed out that by absorbing by attrition up to 21 instructional aide vacancies, there would be a cost savings of $368,000. In addition, up to two professional support vacancies absorbed by attrition, would be a savings of $132,000. At the Elementary, Junior High, and High School Campuses, class sizes could be increased to 20.1 in grades PK-5, 20.2 in grades 6-8, and 20.1 in grades 9-12. Absorb by attrition up to three teachers at the Elementary, two teachers at the Junior High, and up to three positions at the High School, Mr. Lane pointed out. The current format at the Elementary campus uses multiple certified teachers for P.E. positions. Most places around the state are using a single certified teacher, and if more supervision is needed, P.E. aides are used. Option at the Elementary: Replace, through attrition, three P.E. teachers with three P.E. aides, producing a savings of $81,000, Mr. Lane stated.

Regarding School Nutrition, Mr. Lane continued, breakfast in the classroom is a fantastic idea, doing a great job in students getting both meals. In this department, he explained, ten positions could be absorbed, but by doing that, that lowers the salary cost in food service and it will not help Mrs. Landry's M & O budget because it is in the food service fund. If district decides to absorb positions, district would have to bill food service department for something that they are not getting billed right now and use those dollars that were recovered and place into the M & O budget in that format. This would mean charging the food service department for electricity, water, gas, property and casualty insurance, he explained.

On Page 5, Mr. Lane continued. There is an efficient, effective library staffing right now. The District is using two librarians and three aides. There are many districts the size of Rio Hondo across the state that are only using one librarian and one library aide at all four campuses. There would be a little savings there if that is an option district wishes to consider.

Mr. Lane stated that he met with the Director of Technology. He reviewed the staffing compared to the number of pieces of equipment. The district is in really good shape in terms of positions there compared to the number of pieces of equipment. There is a technician for every 350 pieces of equipment. The number across the state is 700-750 units per technician, so district does not need to do much in technology over the next 2-3 years unless something on the instructional side is needed.

Mr. Lane stated the District has a great Police Department, wonderful staffing within the department. Who can say what is enough or what is too much, it is a very delicate issue when you begin to talk about police and security. In comparison with what goes on around most of the rest of the state, the district probably has about two officers more than most districts Rio Hondo's size. Does it mean that what the district is doing is wrong? Going back to the number of instructional aides and having a few extra teachers, those were choices the district was able to make at a time when the district had lots of dollars. The

dollars are a little tighter, trying to keep from going into fund balance; cannot do this over a long term basis, Mr. Lane commented. This is an area where the district can do something. This would mean officers covering multiple schools rather than being at one particular campus.

Mr. Lane again mentioned that he has done these type of studies 350 times in the last ten years and at least two thirds of the time it has been like pulling teeth to get the data he needs from the districts to cross check. He stated that the administrative staff had done a great job of pulling this together in a very short time and the data cross checked. Principals and Central Office Administrators did a great job; it was a pleasure working through this, Mr. Lane stated. Mr. Lane also stated that he will not be finished until the district adopts the budget. Mr. Lane also mentioned that the district has a "solid young man" who has come in to the maintenance department. He is wanting to make some changes and get those changes implemented so he will evaluate the maintenance department in April 2014.

Board Member Villalobos stated that this report reaffirms that the District's financial problems faced in 2011-2012 School Year, are still the same problems District is facing in 2013-2014 School Year. It also better defines and breaks down the letter sent by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) dated October 23, 2013. Ms. Villalobos also asked how much money the District has borrowed in the last two years. In addition, she asked Mr. Garcia if this study would be used as the tool to create a staffing action plan or will he just improve the options that he presented at the November board meeting. She asked how long it will take to raise the $600,000 using the different options.

Board Member Martinez stated that with the overspending and if we don't bring kids back to Rio Hondo ISD, it is going to be very difficult to have money. Instead of the option of reducing staff we can look at other options like saving on electricity and looking at any other programs that are not working efficiently. Mr. Martinez also told Mr. Garcia, "I know that you are working on every avenue and have diligently been looking for options; I know that the staff has been working hard, I know the effort is there, and I have total confidence that you will come up with solutions without the Board micromanaging or telling you this staff here or that staff there, I don't want to get involved in that because I have total confidence that you will do what you need to do."

Board Member Gonzales asked if there were any grants at this time. She also asked how the Improvement Plan that Mr. Garcia turned in to TEA is working out.

Superintendent Garcia shared a graph showing student/staff ratios and enrollment comparisons from 2004-2005 through 2012-2013. Mr. Garcia stated that one of the problems is the decline of student enrollment and the staffing patterns remaining the same. Mr. Garcia also explained the different possible solutions including early resignation incentives to come up with $600,000 worth of savings the district needs. Mr. Garcia reviewed some of the options mentioned by Mr. Lane in his presentation. Mr. Garcia used the police department as an example. He said, as Mr. Lane mentioned, who knows what

enough security is in the community, maybe this community wants more police officers, but he also stated the fact that the district's police department when compared to state-wide data, the district is two police officers over. The study that Mr. Lane did does not tie our hands and it is not taking anything off the table, and "don't get excited with what I am going to say", Mr. Garcia continued, "it might be that I might come back and recommend, after getting input from different stake holders, it is better if we do away with the entire police department and hire contracted services." All the options are there, Mr. Garcia said, this is just a tool, it is the beginning of the process that we are going to have to work hand in hand with the support of the community, teachers, and stake holders to make this thing work. The alternative is borrowing money from fund balance and the bank. Mr. Garcia explained that the plan he is working on will be as fair and as balanced as it possibility can.

Mr. Lane stated that his favorite example to use when talking about the fund balance is place the stopper in your sink, fill it up with water, turn off the water, pull out the stopper, this is what is happening to our fund balance. If no more water is added to the sink, pretty soon one will see the spiral pattern form where the sink is running out of water. So it is with the fund balance, eventually you will get to the point where you are borrowing money even for payroll, and then interest would need to be paid on the funds borrowed.

Mr. Garcia stated that we will get to that scenario by May 2014 if nothing is done. He also stated that if we can save money and invest in technology and if we can offer to the parents the best technology for their children, he is sure we can get students back. Students have gone to neighboring, private, and charter schools because there is a misconception that at Rio Hondo we cannot take care of business and we need to change that. Mr. Garcia stated that the next step is to present the plan he is working on to the board at a workshop.

Ms. Villalobos stated that she believes that Rio Hondo ISD does produce 21st Century citizens. "I think it is hard when you walk into those classrooms and we lack the technology in our school district and it's heart breaking, but how do we get our community to invest and to buy in to our mission and get the students back into our school?"

Mr. Garcia stated that if we can show concrete examples like the District becoming a "College for All" district. That if they send their children here they will graduate with an associate's degree, but we cannot work on that if we need to borrow money for payroll.

Board Member Martinez stated that when he first got elected, he knows one of the community concerns was the safety of students. Another concern parents had was that they wanted to be heard, this you have already changed, he told Mr. Garcia. Mr. Martinez stated that he thinks people will come back to a caring community/district. As long as children are safe, as long as teachers have confidence in our administrators, the parents have confidence that when they have problems, the administrators will come to you, he told Mr. Garcia, and you will get things done. All parents are asking is for their children to be educated and kept safe and I think we will start doing that better now, Mr. Martinez said.

The community needs to see a friendlier environment for the kids to come back. Opening the gyms again, doing all these things, we are going in the right direction, Mr. Martinez stated.

Item 13 Mr. Roy Ortiz, Attorney with the Law Office of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP introduced himself and addressed the Board concerning the six properties from a Tax Resale conducted on November 5, 2013, on properties that have been struck off to Cameron County, for itself and other taxing jurisdictions. Mr. Ortiz stated that of the bids they had received on the six properties, there are two properties, Lots 2 and 3 of the Brotzman Estates Subdivision, that after looking at them more closely, he did not believe that they are right for presentation and asked the Board that these two properties be tabled. Mr. Ortiz reviewed the bids received on the other four properties.

Board Member Martinez asked if the two properties in question did not come out in the resale list of November 5, 2013, if this was the reason he wanted the Board to table the two properties. Mr. Ortiz stated he was not sure but that their goal is to receive the most money for the properties. Mr. Martinez stated that he had the document from the courthouse and the two properties are not listed and voiced his concern that maybe the properties were sold some other time, whatever the case may be, this is not very efficient, Mr. Martinez commented. Mr. Ortiz stated that these two properties came up under the radar even beside the issue mentioned, there was a concern that the attorneys discussed and decided it was a better idea to address at a later date, but obviously if there is a problem on the listing, that is definitely something that needs to be discussed and remedied and brought back to the Board, Mr. Ortiz said.

Board Member Villalobos asked if the two properties previously tabled have been sold. Also asked if the District should try to put properties on the list to get the maximum amount of money.

Mr. Martinez stated that to him, there are several red flags on how business is being conducted. If we get together and communicate on what is really going on, things will happen alot faster. One of the things is advertising for the public to see; feels that we are not getting the amount of people needed to be interested in our properties. Properties are staying there for years and are not being taxed. We all need to get a program together to allow the public to know how to find these properties; if public does not know about them, they will not invest. Mr. Martinez made reference to a property dated 1989 and stated that it seems that nothing is being done on a timely manner.

Mr. Ortiz explained that on properties that do not have a high property value, and taxes are not being paid, basically those taxes are accruing over a lengthy period of time at a nominal rate, it might not be cost effective to incur the filing, citation, abstractor's and sale fees. Mr. Martinez stated his concern is that the process to sell the properties is too long.

Superintendent Garcia recommended that the Board approve the sale of the four properties as discussed and table the two properties: Two Properties to be Tabled: TRACT 2: LOT 2, BROTZMAN ESTATES and TRACT 1: LOT 3, BROTZMAN ESTATES. Four Properties approved for the Sale: TRACT 3 LOT 4, BROTZMAN ESTATES SUBDIVISION; 0.1478 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF BLOCK, 39, RIO HONDO PARK SUBDIVISION; TRACT 3: ABST 2 S B I CO BLK 458; The West 42.00 feet of Lot 15, Block 8, Original Townsite Addition.

A motion was made by Mr. Martinez to approve the Sale of the four properties and to table the two properties as recommended and as described by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. Votes in favor: Mr. Wiesman, Mr. Flores, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Villalobos. Mrs. Gonzales abstained. The motion carried.

Item 14 Superintendent Garcia recommended that the Board approve the Resolution authorizing the Sale of the four properties and to table the two properties: Two Properties to be Tabled: TRACT 2: LOT 2, BROTZMAN ESTATES and TRACT 1: LOT 3, BROTZMAN ESTATES. Four Properties approved for the Sale: TRACT 3 LOT 4, BROTZMAN ESTATES SUBDIVISION; 0.1478 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, OUT OF BLOCK, 39, RIO HONDO PARK SUBDIVISION; TRACT 3: ABST 2 S B I CO BLK 458; The West 42.00 feet of Lot 15, Block 8, Original Townsite Addition.

A motion was made by Mr. Martinez to approve the Resolution authorizing the Sale of the four properties and to table the two properties as recommended and described by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. Votes in favor: Mr. Wiesman, Mr. Flores, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Villalobos. Mrs. Gonzales abstained. The motion carried.

Item 15 Superintendent Garcia stated that the Cameron County 4-H Organization is requesting the approval of a Resolution by the Board of Trustees recognizing the Cameron County 4-H Organization as approved and eligible for extracurricular status consideration in accordance with TAC 76.01 and 129.21. Approval by the Board would allow students attending off-campus 4-H functions to be counted as in attendance at school for funding purposes.

Roxanna Salinas, Extension Agent - Cameron County 4-H Cooperative Extension Program, explained that the 4-H Organization goes by UIL rules, No Pass, No Play. She stated that the Organization is recognized the Texas Education Agency as an extra-curricular activity but they must be recognized by the District as an extra-curricular activity organization.

Board Member Martinez asked if this was a new organization this year.

Board Member Villalobos asked how the District's ADA (Average Daily Attendance) was affected in previous years when the students would go with the 4-H Organization.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to approve the request of Cameron County 4-H Organization for approval of Resolution regarding Extracurricular Status of 4-H Organization. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. Votes in favor: Mr. Wiesman, Ms. Gonzales, Mr. Flores, and Mr. Martinez. Ms. Villalobos abstained. The motion carried.

Item 16 Ms. Roxanna Salinas explained the purpose of Adjunct Faculty Agreement stating that Rio Hondo students participating in 4-H activities would be supervised by the individuals listed on the Agreement.

Board Member Villalobos asked that if something were to happen to students while under their supervision, who would be liable.

Omar Gonzales, County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources, Willacy County and Stephanie Rhyner, 4-H Cameron County Parent with students that attend Rio Hondo ISD, answered Ms. Villalobos' questions explaining that parents would be responsible, faculty is just there to supervise but students travel with parents.

Board Member Flores commented that this would work the same as students participating in FFA activities.

Ms. Villalobos pointed out that the Agreement contains contradicting information. First, it reads, "This appointment shall commence on the 1st day of October 2013 and end on the 30th day of May being the end of the 2013-2014 academic year." But then, it follows with, "This contract will automatically renew each academic year unless terminated by the board or superintendent in writing with a thirty (30) day notice."

Ms. Salinas stated that she failed to take the section out regarding automatic renewal.

Ms. Villalobos asked if the District would have to take the financial responsibility if Texas A &M did not fund the Organization.

Board Member Gonzales asked if Superintendent would be informed if there is a change in staff.

Ms. Salinas stated that she would provide a corrected copy of the Adjunct Faculty Agreement. Attorney Morado pointed out a typo in the last paragraph as well.

Board Member Villalobos thanked the presenters for their patience.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to approve the Adjunct Faculty Agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for Appointment of Adjunct Faculty Members, with the mentioned corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 17 Superintendent Garcia informed the Board that the Financial, Cafeteria, Tax Collection, Investment, and Property Tax Refund Reports were provided for the Board's review.

No Comments.

Item 18 Superintendent Garcia stated that the Board Operating Procedures contained in the guide would be a set of, and agreed upon, steps and statements that define how the team, Board and Superintendent, are to handle and respond to school matters associated with the fulfillment of the role as board members. By having these procedures in a written form and having them eventually approved by the board, we hope to clarify public and staff expectations, minimize confusion, and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness as school board members, Mr. Garcia explained.

Board Member Gonzales asked if this item could be discussed at a workshop. It will also provide an opportunity for absent Board Members Alaniz and Gomez to participate if the item is tabled for another date, she stated.

A motion to table this item was made by Ms. Gonzales. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 19 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 98 represents the first of two post-legislative updates and encompasses changes in law from the 83rd Legislative Session that have an immediate effect on the governance and management of the District. Please bear in mind that the (LEGAL) policies should not be adopted but, rather, should inform local decision making, and Board action is needed to Adopt, Revise, or Repeal, local policies, Mr. Garcia explained.

Board Member Villalobos commented her concerns regarding "Loss of Class Time" as listed in Board Policy EC(LOCAL).

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to approve TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 98 affecting (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 98. Seconded by Mr. Martinez, the motion carried unanimously.

Item 20 Superintendent Garcia informed the Board that TASB Board Policies GKD(LEGAL) and GKD(LOCAL) deal with the Non-School Use of School Facilities. In addition, Administration has included sample GKD(LOCAL) policies from Harlingen CISD, San Benito CISD, and Los Fresnos CISD. In addition, a policy from Hidalgo ISD is also being provided, Mr. Garcia stated.

Mr. Garcia stated that there are three points he would like to discuss and receive input on:

First, who should be authorized to approve the Non-School Use of School Facilities, specifically athletic facilities connected to the buildings? Secondly, will be talking about the facilities that are currently not available to the public, for example the Junior High and High School gymnasiums, and thirdly, Mr. Garcia continued, discuss whether or not to charge fees for the facilities and if so, how much.

Board Member Martinez commented that the legal policy allows for community to use facilities. He stated that we are not welcoming as a District like other Districts and believes improvements can be made by opening the Junior High and High School gyms to the community. Mr. Martinez mentioned that he likes the policy that allows the principal to approve the requests and believes the Superintendent should be involved in the approval of these requests. He also stated that he is not opposed to the District charging fees but not for nonprofit organizations using facilities for the kids, as long as they use them for what it is intended. He understands that it is important that facilities not be abused. Athletic Director Rocky James stated that whatever is decided is fine with him but did need to mention that even though people say that they will take care of the facilities, custodians always find a mess after the use of gyms. In addition, Coach James stated, a lot of electricity is required for the use of the gyms and at a time when the District is trying to save money, this would be an extra expense. When the new floors and bleachers were installed at the Jr. High and High School Campuses, Coach James says he was given the responsibility of approving the use of these facilities when before it was the principals. In previous years when the Junior High gym was used, there would be writing on the bleachers, water on the floor, bad wear and tear, and no proper supervision. This is the reason it has become necessary to limit the use of the gyms to the Elementary and Intermediate Campuses. It would be very expensive to make repairs to the floors at the Jr. High and High School Campuses if damage occurs, he stated. Board Member Martinez mentioned that he has not seen any abuse from the different groups that are currently using the Elementary and Intermediate gyms. He stated, parents can take their kids and use the gym at San Benito. Ms. Villalobos stated there is also a big fee. Mr. Martinez said not if group gets a coach as a sponsor and takes responsibility for the group. He said we need to be a better district for our community. Board Member Flores stated that he sees both sides. He said he has been at the gym and has seen things spilled, kids left unattended, trash on the floor and no one is accountable. Mr. Flores stated it would cost alot of money to repair floors if things are spilled. Principal Annette Jaramillo stated that lack of supervision is a problem. She said people have even urinated in the corner of the gym; Ms. Jaramillo stated that the right supervision is the key.

Board Member Villalobos pointed out that our GKD Policy does not include the statement "Release of Liability". Board Member Gonzales mentioned that in the past gym has been used for parties and a water slide was placed in the gym. Rio Hondo has grown and we need to work with the nonprofit organizations out there because they are helping the kids, Ms. Gonzales stated. There is no boys and girls clubs here, where can the kids go, Ms. Gonzales, said. What is needed are rules and good supervision in place, Ms. Gonzales stated. Ms. Gonzales said it was unfair that mention is being made of water bottles and nothing is said about the water slide in the gym. Ms. Villalobos also inquired if the District had "an open gym". Coach James stated that there is "open gym" but that is different from opening the gym to the different groups. Mr. Flores also pointed out that the Jr. High and High School gyms are busy most of the time with the different practice schedules. Coach James commented that there are alot of groups that are wanting to use the facilities. Mr. Martinez stated all he asks is that Jr. High and High School gyms be opened to relieve the pressure. Ms. Villalobos asked how priority is determined on the requests. Mr. Martinez commented that the principals should handle the facilities the way they see fit with policies in place and rules, with sponsors in place and the superintendent makes sure everything is checked off. Ms. Villalobos asked Principal Jaramillo as a stakeholder, how did she feel about she being responsible for the facility. Mr. Martinez stated that it is contradictory for athletic director to make decisions about the use of the gyms because he is a football coach and he has heard from members of the community that Coach James does not like basketball and this creates anger between the two programs. Coach James stated this was not the case and mentioned a school district in the valley that does not allow the gyms to be used at all, stated Mr. Martinez. Said that kids are being drawn away from Rio Hondo because it is not a friendly atmosphere. Mr. Flores stated he does not see that because there are more teams than ever. Ms. Gonzales asked why the principals do not have a say so. Ms. Veronica Puente commented that when she was a principal the community was allowed to use the High School gym and she encountered problems with facility being used very late and recalled one incident when the gym doors had been left wide open. Mr. Martinez asked Ms. Jaramillo if there is a problem with doors to gym being left open. Ms. Jaramillo stated that her concern is that there is free reign to the school once people are in the gym. Ms. Gonzales stated that she understands the concern about people leaving a mess but at the same time kids that do pick up after themselves should not be punished. Ms. Villalobos stated the statement "Release of Liability" needs to be added to the agreement. She also stated the District is in a financial crisis and would not have the money to make repairs if people, like the group that placed a water slide inside the gym, are careless. Mr. Martinez stated he cannot agree that facilities not be made available. Principal Jaramillo stated that the Elementary and Intermediate gyms are good facilities to use. The use can be maximized by giving groups a time limit and having them use half court so that two teams can use the gym at the same time. Mr. Martinez stated that was a good common ground. Ms. Gonzales stated that her team has shared the gym before. Ms. Jaramillo asked how "nonprofit" is defined. Attorney Morado stated that what should be avoided is groups using school facilities to make a profit.

A motion was made by Mr. Flores to table revising TASB Board Policy GKD(LOCAL), Community Relations, Nonschool Use of School Facilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 21 Mr. Wiesman closed the regular session at 9:55 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The regular session resumed at 11:03 p.m. Personnel items were as follows:

Personnel:

a. Consider Accepting Resignation(s)

A motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to accept the Resignation, as recommended by the Superintendent, of:

Garza, Carlos	High School Vocational Agriculture Teacher

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Martinez 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. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Social Studies Teacher C.C.

No Action.

d. Superintendent

No Action.

Item 22 There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Wiesman adjourned the meeting at 11:05 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 December 9, 2013

1. CLIFFORD F. MORIARTY
2. Rogelio Ortiz Jr.
3. E Martinez
4. Jerardo Martinez
5. [illegible]
6. Raquel Gonzalez
7. [illegible]
8. Laura Rodriguez
9. David Alfaro Jr.
10. [illegible]
11. [illegible]
12. Leoncio A. Espinoza JR
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