RIO HONDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 West Colorado Street
Rio Hondo, Texas 78583
November 9, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Independent School District met in a Regular Session on Monday, November 9, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, 215 W. Colorado Street, Rio Hondo, Texas, with Ms. Gonzales, President, presiding.

TRUSTEES:	**PRESENT -**	**President**	**Jessica A. Gonzales**
		Vice President	**Manuel Flores, Jr.** (Left at 9:00 p.m.)
		Secretary	**Claudia Villalobos**
			Noe Alaniz, Jr.
			Arnold Martinez, Jr.
			Alonzo Garza
	ABSENT -		**Rene Alfaro**
SUPERINTENDENT:			**Ismael Garcia**
RECORDER:			**Isabel Rios**
ADMINISTRATION:			**Rita O. Lopez, Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson, Veronica Puente, Annette Jaramillo, Adriana Lippa, Raul J. Trevino, Deyanira Garcia**
SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTORNEY:			**Leandra Ortiz**
VISITORS:			**See Attached List**

Items 1 & 2 Ms. Gonzales 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 Ms. Gonzales led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4 Invocation

Item 5 **Welcome/Open Forum:**

Ms. Gonzales welcomed everyone and asked if anyone had signed up to speak under the Open Forum. There were none.

Item 6 **Student/Staff/Community Member Recognition**

Superintendent Garcia stated that Administration would like to recognize a 9th grade student for being selected as one of ten girls that received the Rio Grande Valley Girls of Merit Award. The award is presented to ten different girls throughout the region that have proven themselves exceptional members of the community through their actions, activities, leadership, and positive influence on others. Mr. Garcia also introduced the student's parents. The student shared with the Board her experience in the event.

Mr. Garcia also stated that Administration would like to recognize the high school art students that placed at the 2015 Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival Art and Creative Writing contest. This year's Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival was held November 6, 7, and 8th in Harlingen. Thousands of people from around the country attend this event each year and our students' work was on display throughout that weekend with an awards program on Sunday, November 8th, Mr. Garcia stated.

Mr. Garcia introduced High School Art Teacher Ms. Julia Olson. Ms. Olson commented on the results for the 2015 Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival and congratulated the art students who participated and placed in the Art and Creative Writing contest sections. The students earned one First Place, three Second Place, two Third Place, and three Honorable Mention.

Ms. Villalobos congratulated the 9th grade student and all the Art students for their hard work and for being student role models. She also thanked Ms. Olson for bringing art back to the students.

Item 20 **Superintendent Garcia requested that Item 20:**

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Adopt Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Policy Update 103, Affecting (LOCAL) Policies. (See Attached List of Codes), be pulled from this Agenda and placed at the December 2015 board meeting.

A motion to pull Item 20 from the Agenda and be placed at the December 2015 board meeting was made by Mr. Flores. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 Ms. Gonzales closed the regular session at 7:09 p.m. to discuss personnel and other matters. The regular session resumed at 7:29 p.m. Personnel and other items were as follows:

At the close of the Executive Session the Board will reconvene in Open Session and take such action as deliberated in Executive Session.

- Discussion regarding Civil Action No. 1:15-cv-00049, Robyn Lynn Ruiz v. Rio Hondo Independent School District; in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division.

- Report on Resignation/Retirement:

  Ms. Rita O. Lopez, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs

Item 8 Approval of Consent Agenda Items.

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9 and 10 was made by Mr. Flores. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9 *Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of September 8, 2014, Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2015, and Special Board Meeting of August 24, 2015, approved.

Item 10 *Notice of Grant award (NOGA), SAS # A190-15, 2015-2016 TCHR PD PARTNERSHIPS ADVANCED MATH/SCIENCE, accepted.

Item 11 Superintendent Garcia stated that at the March 9, 2015, Regular Board Meeting, the Board approved the 2015-2016 District School Calendar which designated June 3, 2016, as the High School Graduation date. High School Administration is requesting that the Board consider changing the Graduation date from June 3, 2016, to June 4, 2016.

Mr. Flores commented that what if the next senior class wants to do this on Sunday; what kind of precedent are we setting?" Ms. Villalobos asked if there were any legal issues if date was changed. School Attorney Ortiz stated that Board Policy EB(LOCAL) authorizes the Superintendent to make changes. Superintendent Garcia explained that the staff needed to work on Saturday would need to be compensated. High School teacher Sandy Aguilar explained the reasons for the request included staff being able to attend the annual awards ceremony instead of being busy with the planning for graduation ceremony and the counseling department having the time for verification of grades. In addition, Ms. Aguilar explained, a fireworks display is being planned as part of the graduation event and Saturday is the only day they can have the display. Assistant Superintendent Atkinson stated that she worked with the high school principal and Ms. Aguilar and agrees that there is a benefit with the one day cushion. Mr. Alfaro asked if Junior High Graduation would still be held on Thursday. Ms. Villalobos asked if invitations have been printed and if students voted, and if so, are students o.k. with it. Mr. Martinez asked if this was going

to become an issue in the coming years. School Attorney Ortiz stated that the Board needs to consider that there may be additional requests. Mr. Martinez stated that parents have not been brought into the equation and that is very hard for him; what does local policy state, he asked. Ms. Villalobos asked Mr. Garcia that if there were no fiscal implications, what would his answer to this request be.

A motion to change the date for Rio Hondo High School Graduation from June 3, 2016, to June 4, 2016, was made by Ms. Villalobos. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alaniz. The motion carried unanimously.

A clarification motion ws made by Ms. Villalobos to change the date for Rio Hondo High School Graduation from June 3, 2016, to June 4, 2016, and that teachers who will not be on contract for this day be compensated at their daily rate and that Administration develop guidelines and procedures to ensure that a similar situation does not happen again. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flores. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 12 Presentation of Parental Involvement Program

Mrs. Guadalupe Garza, Parental Involvement Program Coordinator gave a powerpoint presentation informing the Board of the services students and families are receiving through this program. Currently, there are thirty-six families being served Ms. Garza stated. Ms. Garza's presentation included information on Reviewing and Identifying District Barriers, Identifying and Implementing Parents' and Students' Needs, and Information on Parent Meetings. Ms. Garza also reported on the success of the 2nd Annual Parental Involvement and Community Conference held on November 7, 2015, at the High School, with over fifty families attending.

Ms. Villalobos asked how many families are identified as homeless. Mr. Flores asked why not utilize our own police department in certain situations where they can assist, such as with transportation. Ms. Gonzales asked at what campus was the meeting held where bullying was addressed. Ms. Villalobos asked if there were parent volunteers. Mr. Martinez asked if a survey was taken at the end of the November 7th conference. Ms. Villalobos thanked Ms. Garza for their hard work and stated that people seemed to be having a good time. Mr. Flores commented that Mrs. Flores enjoyed the conference. Mrs. Garza thanked everyone for their support.

Item 13 Presentation of Emergency and Safety Protocol Procedures

Superindent Garcia stated that the information being presented include School Emergencies Quick Reference Guide, the Parents Guide for School Emergencies, and a DRAFT on General Procedures.

Ms. Villalobos asked when did parents receive the Parents Guide for School Emergencies flyer. Mr. Flores asked if Guide was posted on the web. Ms. Gonzales asked if school practices with the City on lockdowns. Ms. Villalobos asked Rio Hondo ISD Police Chief

Nick Garza what they learned from the last lockdown drill. Chief Garza commented on equipment that did not work during the drill. Ms. Villalobos asked Chief Garza if he has created an improvement plan and an estimated budget to get what is needed for the department. Ms. Gonzales asked if City Police and Fire Department, and Sheriff's Department have the school buildings floor plan. She also asked if District Police Department has a recovery plan. Ms. Villalobos asked how often the practice drills are and how often is staff, including substitute teachers, trained regarding emergencies. Ms. Gonzales suggested using tabs for easier reference on the documents. Ms. Villalobos suggested creating a one-page guide for quick reference. Human Resources Director Veronica Puente commented on a guide she had previously created using those ideas. Ms. Villalobos stated that even though Rio Hondo is a small school and we think that nothing will happen here, we need to be alert to students that may be asking for help through a bomb threat or any other event. We need to have a plan in place that we can execute efficiently, she stated. Ms. Villalobos thanked everyone for collaborating and working together for the safety of our schools and our students. She expressed the importance of the Board being well informed regarding safety to better serve the community. Ms. Villalobos stated that we need to support and provide what is needed to ensure the safety of our campuses. Ms. Gonzales stated that she agreed with Ms. Villalobos and that is why she asked Mr. Garcia to place this item on the agenda. Mr. Alaniz asked if classroom doors are automatically locked or do the teachers have to lock them. Mr. Flores asked if the door going out of the high school should be locked. Mr. Martinez asked if the secretaries are trained in case they receive a bomb threat.

Item 14 Presentation on the Student Dress Code for all Grade Levels

Superintendent Garcia asked if the Board had any questions.

Ms. Gonzales asked why Elementary does not allow cargo pants. Mr. Garcia stated that the reason is that students might use the pockets to hide knives, contraband, or anything that should not be on school grounds. Mr. Garcia confirmed that it was the same reason cargo pants are not allowed at the Intermediate and the Junior High Campuses when asked by Ms. Gonzales. Ms. Gonzales stated that District is not being consistent because cargo pants are allowed at the High School and wouldn't it be more probable for the older students to use the pockets for the reasons mentioned, Ms. Gonzales asked. She stated that the reason she brings this issue up is because there are some parents that have a hard time finding pants for students that are overweight and sometimes cargo pants are the best fit for them. Mr. Flores also commented that cargo pants and shorts are less expensive than the regular shorts and parents complain because they cannot purchase cargo pants for their children. Ms. Gonzales also asked if students at the High School are being allowed to wear sandals. High School Principal Garcia explained that some students wear them briefly only for specific situations such as going from athletics practice to rallies.

Item 15 **Superintendent Garcia stated that the Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS) is a part of the Performance-Based Monitoring (PBM) system, which is a comprehensive district-level accountability system designed to improve student performance and program effectiveness. Districts, which include charter schools, are evaluated in each program area and assigned a stage of intervention based on PBMAS data. Beginning with the 2015-2016 year, staging for special education will incorporate four federally-required indicators with PBMAS indicators to determine a district's stage of intervention and determination status. Intervention activities for all program areas at any stage will include engaging in the TAIS process (i.e., analyzing data, evaluating needs, developing a targeted improvement plan, and implementing and monitoring the plan). Our district received a Stage 2 in the area of Special Education and Bilingual Education and a Stage 3 in the area of No Child Left Behind thus requiring the development of a targeted improvement plan, Mr. Garcia stated.**

Superintendent Garcia invited questions from the Board for Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs, Ms. Rita O. Lopez. Ms. Villalobos asked if this was an In-District Audit or was it a TEA communication. Ms. Lopez gave details on the process to address indicators and explained how the committee is selected. Mr. Martinez asked if District had this system in place last year and expressed his concern that there has been no improvement. He also stated that perhaps review of status should be every month and not quarterly. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Atkinson stated that at the District level, they look at data every three weeks. Ms. Villalobos commented that we are great data collectors but how do we ensure that we are improving? What feedback do we give our teachers and principals reviewing data and providing the resources needed. Our Junior High is very limited to enrichment activities, she continued. Ms. Villalobos expressed the following concerns: The need to have a team to develop the master schedule; family and community engagement activities are lacking; Who is doing the home visits; How are we helping parents help their kids when teachers and staff are not there; How effective is what we are implementing; School climate, we provide surveys but they are not meaningful; What interventions are we doing to keep our students in the classroom; Professional Development, Capturing Kids Hearts – What are they doing with that; When we make a plan, it looks good on paper but actions are better than words; How are we monitoring that we are progressing; Are we providing teachers with constructive criticism to help them improve the lesson plans? Are we working collaboratively to create benchmarks? Are we horizontally and vertically aligning our District to become a more academic District, or are we all still in different places? Dr. Atkinson stated that staff is being given more flexibility to meet goals; staff is committed to meeting the goals, she stated. Ms. Villalobos stated that we need to close achievement gap, working as a team to align our curriculum so that all our students can excel in academic excellence.

Principal Annette Jaramillo confirmed that at her campus, they are still utilizing what the staff learned at the Capturing Kids Hearts training.

Item 16 **Presentation of Monthly Financial Report, Cafeteria Report, and Tax Collection Report**

Ms. Villalobos stated that there is a substantial increase in Food Service and asked if amount allocated cover additional expenses. She also asked where the additional money would come from for additional services being suggested by the Parental Involvement Coordinator. Ms. Gonzales asked if the stipends for the teachers that worked at the November 7, 2015, Conference would come from this account. Security and Monitoring, account, does that belong to police department, Ms. Villalobos asked.

Item 17 **Superintendent explained that two High School student representatives and two Junior High School student representatives are being added to the SHAC list.**

A motion to approve the Revised School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Members for 2015-2016 School Year, was made by Ms. Villalobos. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garza. Votes in favor: Ms. Villalobos, Mr. Alaniz, and Mr. Garza. Ms. Gonzales abstained. The motion carried.

Item 18 **A motion to postpone action to approve the Board's participation in the City of Rio Hondo Parade scheduled for December 5, 2015, and address the item at the November 16, 2015, board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.**

Item 19 **Superintendent Garcia stated that Pursuant to Texas Property Tax Code Sec 6.03(g), each taxing unit is entitled to vote by resolution adopted by its governing body for one candidate to the Cameron County Appraisal District Board of Directors. The eights (8) taxing units represented by this director are: La Feria ISD, Los Fresnos CISD, Lyford CISD, Rio Hondo ISD, Santa Maria ISD, Santa Rosa ISD, South Texas ISD, and Texas Southmost College. There is one candidate for Position 8 and each jurisdiction is allowed one vote, he said. The ballot must be retruned to the Cameron Appraisal District before December 15, 2015, Mr. Garcia stated.**

A motion to vote for Jose Noe Diaz for Position 8 on the Cameron Appraisal District Board of Directors was made by Mr. Alaniz. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 20 **Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Adopt Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Policy Update 103, Affecting (LOCAL) Policies.**
(This Item was addressed after Item 6)

Item 21 **There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made by Ms. Villalobos to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously and Ms. Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.**

Jessica A. Gonzales, President | Claudia Villalobos, Secretary | 12-14-15 Date Approved

VISITORS/GUESTS

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

VISITANTES/INVITADOS

Las personas que deseen presentar 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 November 9, 2015.

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