

Minutes
Joint Meeting of the
Corona-Norco Unified School District Board of Education
and the
Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees

November 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.
CNUSD Board/Council Chambers
2820 Clark Avenue
Norco, CA 92860

CNUSD:

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, writings that are public records that relate to an open session agenda item and that are distributed to a majority of Board members less than 24 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection. The agenda and attachments may be found at www.cnusd.k12.ca.us.

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Upon request by a student's parent/guardian, or by the student if age 18 or older, the Board Meeting Minutes shall not include the student's or parent/guardian's address, telephone number, date of birth, or email address, or the student's name or other directory information as defined in Education Code 49061. The request to exclude such information shall be made in writing to the secretary or clerk of the Board. (Education Code 49073.2)

RCCD:

Anyone who wishes to make a presentation to the Board on an agenda item in person is requested to complete a "REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES" card, available from the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chancellor/Board of Trustees. Please make sure that the correct spelling of your name and address to maintain proper records. Comments should be limited to five (5) minutes or less. (This time limit will be doubled for members of the public utilizing a translator to ensure the non-English speaker receives the same opportunity to directly address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used.) Written public comments may be sent to WrittenPublicComments@rccd.edu, which will be read during the public comment portion of the meeting. Submissions by email must be received prior to 4:00 pm the day of the meeting to be included.

Anyone who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in any meeting should contact the Chancellor's Office at (951) 222-8800 as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

Any public records relating to an open session agenda item that is distributed within 24 hours prior to the meeting is available for public inspection at the Riverside Community College District Chancellor's Office, 3rd Floor, 3801 Market Street, Riverside, California, 92501 during regular business hours or [online](#).

Attendance:

CNUSD Board of Education

Mary Helen Ybarra, President
Bill Pollock, Vice President
Dr. Jose Lalas, Clerk
Stacy Nicola, Member
Chris Raahauge, Member

RCCD Board of Trustees

Bill Hedrick, President
Jose Alcala, Vice President
Virginia Blumenthal, Secretary
Mary Figueroa, Member
Keri Then, Member

1. OPENING CEREMONY

a. Call to Order

Minutes

Mrs. Ybarra called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and welcomed trustees from RCCD.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

Mr. Hedrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Hearing Session - Recognition of anyone wishing to address the Corona- Norco Board of Education and/or the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees

The Boards invite comments from the public regarding any matters listed on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Board of Education and the Board of Trustees.

Minutes

Mrs. Ybarra announced the Hearing session of the meeting and asked if there were any members in the audience wishing to address the Board. There were no speakers.

2. PRESENTATION

a. Riverside Community College District and Corona-Norco Unified School District Partnership for Student Success

By Tye Griffith, Associate Dean, Educational Partnerships, Norco College
Jennifer Montgomery, Coordinator – Educational Services, CNUSD
Carol Farrar, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs, Norco College
Dr. Petria Gonzales, Principal – Kennedy Middle College High School, CNUSD

Minutes

Dr. Buenrostro thanked RCCD for the powerful alliance formed in order to bring additional programs to our CNUSD students. He said Mr. Hedrick is a former CNUSD Board member and was instrumental in the development of some of these programs. He thanked the trustees for their continued support.

Ms. Griffith said she has been in her current position for six months and it has been a joy working with CNUSD. She introduced presenters.

Ms. Griffith said that CNUSD and RCCD share a common goal: to increase student access and success. The partnership supports three types of early college credit – dual enrollment which allows high schools students to take free college courses at their respective sites; JFK Middle College High School which allows their students to attend classes at Norco College and have direct access to college counselor; and articulation which reduces the need for students to repeat coursework in college and facilitates a smooth transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

Ms. Griffith said Norco College's Upward Bound Program provides students with academic guidance, personal development, and fundamental support that prepares students for college entrance and is currently being offered at Centennial and Corona High Schools.

Dr. Gonzalez said JFK is being recognized as a national Blue Ribbon School, making it the first time our District receives said recognition.

Dr. Gonzalez shared the partnership history along with current student demographics. She said JFK has 100% graduation rate, 98% attend a 2 or 4-year college, 68% graduate with 30 or more college credits, 39% complete one or more degrees and they have a 93% A-G rate. She added that because of Norco College's support, their AA degree recipients have grown substantially.

Dr. Gonzalez introduced student Alex Gonzalez, who shared his experience at JFK and the impact college courses have had on his future career.

Dr. Gonzalez said JFK has been highlighted in the news. She said JFK is looking for grants to provide additional opportunities for our CNUUSD students.

Ms. Montgomery continued the presentation on Dual Enrollment. She shared the vision and purpose of dual enrollment, and how it aligns with our strategic plan. Most importantly, Ms. Montgomery shared that research shows that if a student is exposed to at least one college course during high school, they are significantly more likely to attend college.

Ms. Montgomery shared the timeline of Norco College and CNUUSD dual enrollment partnership along with the financial impact of enrolling in dual enrollment classes. She added that Norco College is the preferred college of choice for students in our area and that 1 in 4 CNUUSD students enroll in RCCD directly after high school annually. She shared breakdown data by school.

Ms. Griffith shared dual enrollment data for 2021-2023 to include unduplicated student enrollment, enrollments in college level math and English, ethnicity, and student participation in dual enrollment.

Ms. Montgomery said as we look into the future, we are working on reimagining how to transform the lives of our students and close the equity divide by removing barriers and increasing wrap around services.

In conclusion, Ms. Montgomery shared several student stories which depicted the positive impact that dual enrollment has had on their education. She welcome questions and comments from the Boards.

3. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Minutes

Mrs. Ybarra said in looking at ethnicity data, the enrollment rate of the Hispanic population is alarming being that Hispanics make the largest composition of our student population. Dr. Gonzalez explained that the reason for the low enrollment could be attributed to the new lottery process and perhaps the pandemic. Mrs. Ybarra said JFK is a success story and we need to ensure that everyone, including the Hispanic population, is aware of their innovative programs. She said other districts often complement CNUUSD and RCCD for their successful partnership which is not widely seen in our area.

Ms. Then thanked the presenters for their purposeful work. She said producing graduates and college completion students raises the equity, wages, and career paths in the Inland Empire. She asked what the most popular areas of interest are for high school students enrolled at Norco College. Ms. Griffith said primarily courses in guidance, followed by college transfer courses as well as math courses.

Ms. Then said she is a retired military and looks forward to seeing Alex in uniform, should he choose that path.

Ms. Blumenthal commented how incredible it is to expose our high school students to college courses. From her experience, education is of much better quality at a community college than a university. She thanked Alex for being here tonight and sharing his story.

Mr. Alcala also thanked Alex for his personal narrative. He expressed concerns about our lottery process as he wants our selection process to be more intentional in order to make the most positive impact in our community. Mr. Alcala said he teaches at an alternative school and would appreciate us being more intentional in targeting students at Orange Grove and Pollard High Schools.

Mr. Hedrick said our partnership is a success due to visionary leaders and strong teams. He added that JFK was a CNUSD initiative, with CNUSD providing the financial investment. Although JFK offers a comprehensive experience, the enrollment has shifted to those “in the know” rather than those in the “middle” for which the school was intended for. He is proud of the successful partnerships which has saved parents millions of dollars in tuition. He added that sometimes counselors do not see the value of a community college and push their students to attend universities. He hopes that we can shift this practice so that counselors and students can recognize the value a community college can bring.

Ms. Nicola thanked the presents and Alex for his sharing his story. She said she has taught at Norco College and has had JFK students, which are the best students in the class. She said it is a fantastic program. Ms. Nicola asked how many students applied and how many were accepted through the lottery process. Dr. Gonzalez explained that they received roughly 400 applications and approximately 175 were admitted through the lottery process. We expect these numbers to increase this year.

Mr. Raahauge loves the collaboration. He wishes Alex success in all his futures endeavors. Mr. Raahauge asked of those students that did not get accepted to JFK through the lottery process, how many enrolled in dual enrollment at their home school. Dr. Gonzalez said we are currently not tracking this information.

Dr. Lalas said to be proud of the success of the partnership. He said the program started as an idea to meet the needs of the students in the “middle.” However, parents understand the benefits of the program, shifting the focus to advanced students. He hopes we can regain focus to remedy the achievement gap. He added that JFK students are a true testimony that hard work pays off.

Ms. Nicola asked if Norco college would be willing to make a financial contribution to expand the program in order to serve more students.

Mr. Pollock congratulated Alex for his success thus far. He asked what the minimum requirements are for our teachers to teach dual enrollment courses. Ms. Montgomery explained a masters in content is required. He asked when classes began for CNUSD and Norco College. Ms. Morgan responded that classes typically start in August, with CNUSD starting 2-3 weeks before Norco College. Mr. Pollock asked how the programs are publicized to our students. Ms. Montgomery said as soon as students arrive to high school, they are exposed to college fairs, workshops, office hours and CTE expo where they learn about these opportunities. Mr. Pollock agreed that we should prioritize Orange Grove and Pollard High Schools and asked that we expand our publicizing efforts to students in Temescal Valley.

Ms. Nicola asked if transportation for Orange Grove and Pollard High Schools to Norco College would be an option. Dr. Buenrostro said we will be more intentional about targeting these students and will explore transportation options.

Mrs. Ybarra thanked all the presenters and congratulated Alex for all his accomplishments.

Mr. Hedrick said RCCD shares interest in expanding the programs but can't do it without a bond. He hopes they can continue the conversation to explore future expansion opportunities.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Minutes

There were no other business to address.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm

Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

Mary Helen Ybarra, President

Dr. Jose W. Lalas, Clerk

Mirna Romero
Recording Secretary

RCCD Official Minutes
Approved on 12/12/2023

Certified by: *Rachelle Anispe*