

## **MEETING MINUTES**

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### **Attendees**

#### Alvord Unified School District Board of Trustees and Superintendent:

Carolyn Wilson, Board President  
Georgina Ramirez, Vice President  
Lizeth Vega, Board Clerk  
Julie Moreno, Board Member  
Dr. Allan Mucerino, Superintendent  
Robert Schwandt, Board Member – Absent

#### Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees and Chancellor:

Mr. Jose Alcala, Board President  
Ms. Virginia Blumenthal, Board Vice President  
Ms. Mary Figueroa, Secretary  
Dr. Keri Then, Board Member  
Mr. Bill Hedrick, Board Member  
Dr. Wolde-ab Isaac, Chancellor

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME- 6:00 p.m.**

Board President, Mrs. Carolyn M. Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **a. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those in attendance.

#### **b. Public Comment**

AUSD Board President, Mrs. Carolyn M. Wilson extended an invitation to the audience to present matters of concern to the Board.

Alvord Unified School District Parent, Mrs. Nhung Nguyen came forward and expressed concern regarding her daughter continually being bullied by her teacher at Norte Vista High School. Mrs. Nguyen stated that she came to address the Board two weeks prior to discuss the bullying that is happening at Norte Vista High School. Mrs. Nguyen also stated that she had a meeting scheduled the following week with Dr. Sims, Director of Secondary Leadership. Mrs. Nguyen requested that her daughter be changed to a different teacher or be placed on an independent study contract.

## **2. PRESENTATION - Collaboration for Student Success**

Adrienne Grayson, Ed.D., Associate Dean, Educational Partnerships, Riverside City College; Tyee Griffith, M.P.A., Associate Dean, Educational Partnerships, Norco College; Mark Sims, Ed.D., Director of Secondary Leadership, AUSD; and Ashley Etchinson, M.A., Dean of Instruction, Career and Technical Education, Norco College provided a presentation on Collaboration for Student Success.

In the presentation, some of the shared goals and topics covered were the following:

- Partnerships Leading to Student Success
- Building and Strengthening Student Pathways to Support Mutual Goals
- Reducing Barriers through Intentional Connections\
- Looking Forward to the Future

## **3. COMMENTS**

### **a. Comments from the Superintendent/Chancellor**

AUSD Superintendent, Dr. Mucerino thanked everyone for the information provided in the presentation. Dr. Mucerino stated that he would be remissive if he did not acknowledge AUSD Trustee Vega and RCCD President Alcalá for not giving up on the vision of the Stokoe Learning Center. He said that would like to recognize them in public. Dr. Mucerino also stated that the work being done in partnership with RCCD is an equity driven program and it encompasses the progressive elements of modern education. Dr. Mucerino expressed his gratitude to everyone present in the room.

RCCD Chancellor, Dr. Wolde-ab Isaac expressed his gratitude for a wonderful presentation. Dr. Isaac also shared the three principles to lasting relationships: the Principle of Equality, Mutual Respect, and Mutuality. Dr. Isaac stated that the partnership comes from social inspiration and strength. Dr. Isaac shared that many of us come from poverty and are living testimonies on how education can break the cycle of poverty. Dr. Isaac stated there is power in collaboration and in moving community members in our region from poverty to prosperity.

### **b. Comments from the Board**

RCCD Trustee, Dr. Keri Then complimented the staff and stated she was amazed on the work of this program. Dr. Then stated that lives are being changed. Dr. Then expressed her gratitude to all librarians. Dr. Then stated that when you are on an educational pathway the librarian is your friend. She also stated while Google is a valuable resource, she encouraged to make a friend with your librarian. Dr. Then stated that not every student's pathway is a college degree. She stated that she finds it encouraging that we are bringing college credits to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and above. Dr. Then stated that credits will help the students throughout their life.

AUSD Trustee, Julie Moreno congratulated everyone in the room for staying the course. Trustee Moreno stated that this is how we change community. Trustee Moreno expressed her gratitude on the good work being done and stated AUSD are blessed to be a part of it.

AUSD Trustee, Lizeth Vega expressed her gratitude for the presentation provided and stated she appreciated all the work being done on both sides. Trustee Vega stated she wished she would have taken dual enrollment classes when she was in high school. Trustee Vega stated she loved the idea of having student workers promote the programs available.

AUSD Trustee, Georgina Ramirez expressed her gratitude for the presentation. Trustee Ramirez stated that she and Dr. Grayson were new when they both started and would run ideas off each other. Trustee Ramirez stated she loved the collaboration between AUSD and RCCD and is happy to see how much the program has grown. Trustee Ramirez stated she is excited for the new Stokoe Learning Center Program.

RCCD Trustee, Bill Hedrick stated it was a pleasure to attend the meeting and it was good to see old friends. Trustee Hedrick stated that he appreciates all the work being done in partnership with AUSD. Trustee Hedrick stated he loves the idea about having student ambassadors, and that it is a great way to have students reach out to other students. Trustee Hedrick stated counselors are very important in making the partnership programs successful. Trustee Hedrick also stated some counselors are more receptive of sending students to community college than others. He stated from an economic standpoint, it could save students thousands of dollars. Trustee Hedrick shared that Chancellor Dr. Isaac has set goals and bring them forward to the Board. Trustee Hedrick stated that they are committed to programs that will lift families up.

RCCD Trustee, Mary Figueroa expressed her gratitude to President Carolyn Wilson for AUSD hosting the meeting. Trustee Figueroa stated that it is a great honor to be a part of the partnership. Trustee Figueroa shared that it is her 30<sup>th</sup> year being on the RCCD Board. Trustee Figueroa stated that the Grand Opening of the Stokoe Learning Center brings her great joy, and there were many individuals that said that it would never happen. Trustee Figueroa stated that the community is not aware of all the educational opportunities. Trustee Figueroa also stated that AUSD has a population that is 80 percent Latino and that AUSD is putting programs in place to serve their community. She expressed her gratitude to AUSD for all that they are doing.

RCCD Trustee, Virginia Blumenthal shared that she is a criminal defense attorney. Trustee Blumenthal stated she was the first female-owned law firm in Inland Southern California. Trustee Blumenthal also shared she was the first to graduate high school in her family and her parents were raised during the Great Depression. Trustee Blumenthal stated she received a better education at RCCD because she was in a smaller classroom. Trustee Blumenthal stated that not all students have to obtain a diploma or degree. Trustee Blumenthal stated she wanted to compliment AUSD for the Stokoe Learning Center and was excited to go to the Grand Opening. Trustee Blumenthal stated that once students can take early college classes they feel more prepared and see more success. Trustee Blumenthal stated she does not want to see the partnership with AUSD die.

RCCD President, Jose Alcala expressed his gratitude to RCCD's neighbors at Alford USD and to the team who put the report together. President Alcala stated the big takeaway from that evening's meeting is the resiliency. President Alcala expressed the admiration for the Nursing Assistant Pathway at La Sierra High School, and how the program has learned to pivot in order to improve student success.

President Alcalá stated that when he first started on the Board he was handed the Stokoe Learning Center Project. President Alcalá stated he wanted to thank everyone in the room who helped make the program come to fruition. President Alcalá stated that our students and community will benefit from the program. President Alcalá stated that it takes courage to do the challenging thing and to do what is best for our community. President Alcalá expressed his gratitude to President Wilson for hosting RCCD.

AUSD President, Carolyn Wilson stated that it has been an extraordinary evening and she is excited to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Stokoe Learning Center on March 8<sup>th</sup>. President Wilson stated AUSD had been waiting for this meeting to take place and is looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship. President Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President, Carolyn Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Allan J. Mucerino  
Superintendent

Official Minutes Approved on 03/19/2024

Certified By: Rachelle Anispe