

Minutes of the RLA Regular Board Meeting

Due to COVID-19 meeting held via Zoom

Board Members met in Person at the RUSD Board Room

April 21, 2021 at 5:30pm

Present:

Liza Cotton

Rob Perez

Reina Negrete arrived at 5:34pm

Angie Timpone

Present: Non Voting

Vanessa Rojas

Lupe Velazquez (arrived later)

Absent: Michelle Guzman

I. Call to Order|Flag Salute

Meeting was called to order at 5:34pm

No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

1st motion: Rob Perez 2nd: Angie Timpone

Yays:3

Absent: Guzman and Negrete

*Mrs. Negrete arrived after the approval of the agenda

II. Public Comments

No public comments

III. Board Member Reports

Reina Negrete-I have just been trying to keep up with the county changes. The county is offering social emotional support and I applaud them for seeing that there is a need for that.

IV. Director's Report

A. Professional Development and Trainings-CCSA Conference, March 15-19, 2021

B. CDE Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan, April 15, 2021

C. Student Events-

I. Outdoor Education Excursion for 7th grade on March 25,2021

D. In Person Instruction-RLA welcomed 7th and 8th grade students and increased instructional days for 1st -6th grade students to four days. We hope to go five days a week soon and we are planning to hold an in person promotion ceremony for the 8th graders. This would be limited to students bringing only two members of their family.

E. State Testing-RLA started CAASPP assessments this week-While there is some flexibility in state testing, we are still doing it mostly for accountability measurements as a charter school.

- F. Upcoming Meetings and Events
- G. RUSD Board Meeting, May 4, 2021
- H. RUSD Board Meeting, May 18, 2021
- I. Organizational Meeting of the RLA Board, May 19,2021 at 5:30pm
- J. Regular Meeting of the RLA Board, May 19, 2021 at 5:45pm

V. Closed Session-The board moved into closed session at 6:55 pm

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel/Potential Litigation (Government Code 54956.9(b) Special Education
- B. Conference with Legal Counsel/Potential Litigation (Government Code 54956.9(b) RLA Employees
- C. The board reconvened to open session at 6:20pm with nothing to report.

VI. Presentation - RLA 2020-2021 COVID Relief Funds by Rob Perez

Mr. Rob Perez presented information regarding Covid Relief Funds and explained various amounts of relief dollars that RLA has and or will receive. Total Covid-19 dollars will be \$2.4million.

Mrs. Cotton-What is high on the priority list for RLA to spend these dollars.

Mrs. Rojas-We did send out a survey, early on, to parents and staff that asked where they think supports are needed. Staff reported that there is a major need in closing the achievement gap in math and

Mr. Perez-On behalf of the district, we would still continue with updating facilities.

Mrs. Rojas-A big priority will be to get ahead of preparations for the fall season to be sure to focus on health and safety. Air purifiers will be an important purchase.

VII. Consent Items

- A. Warrants for March 2021
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the RLA Board held on March 10, 2021
Approved Consent Items A and B
1st motion: Reina Negrete 2nd: Angie Timpone
Yays: Cotton, Negrete, Perez and Timpone
Abstained: Guzman

VIII. Information Discussion Items

- A. RLA Advisory Board Member Nominations 2021
Mr. Ricardo Jimenez was the only nominee for the parent seat for grades 4th -8th and no vote was required for him.
There were two nominations for the parent seat for Kindergarten-3rd grade and Mr. Mario Castrejon was the parent with the most votes. Mr. Castrejon is the father of a current 2nd grade student and has had other children go through RLA. Mrs.Rojas will notify him about his term starting July 1, 2021.
- B. RLA Staff Salary Increase

Mrs. Rojas explained that RLA employees had not taken the previous salary increase as RUSD had, and in addition took a 1.5% reduction in salary along with four furlough days for school year 2020-2021. The goal is to restore the 1.5% with an addition of 3.46% increase which is what RUSD took last.

Mrs. Cotton-Is there a way to use covid funds to give one time bonuses to teachers who are teaching in person?

Mr. Perez-With a grant this is would be possible but ESSR funds cannot be used for salaries, these need to be spent on Covid related items, it may be possible to have a one time stipend paid. RLA is also expecting to receive more Title 1 monies.

Mrs. Rojas-I will bring additional information at the next meeting.

IX. Information Possible Action Items

A. Approved RLA Academic Calendar for 2021-2022

B. Approved Two Furlough Days for RLA Staff 2021-2022

RLA staff would like to keep the week of in February and the proposed calendar reflects that. The proposed calendar shows August 4, 2021 as RLA's first day of school and May 27, 2022 with a total of 178 student days. RLA's first and last day would be different from RUSD's calendar and therefore there wouldn't be any transportation available on RLA's first and last day of school.

Members of the board approved items A and B together.

1st motion: Reina Negrete, motioned to approve items A and B together

2nd: Angie Timpone

Yays: Cotton, Timpone, Negrete and Perez

Absent: Guzman

C. Approved Reading Recovery Training Program for RLA Staff

Reading recovery program through St. Mary's College with a cost of \$30,240 paid by ESSR funds. Three RLA teachers and one administrator would do the training through Palo Alto School District. The fee for the training is \$5,000 plus \$2,000 for the cost of units through St. Mary's College, total approximate cost is \$7,560 per staff member. The first year is caseload practice and the certification is received after 1 full year. The program itself is student driven with a target of working once a week with 9-10 students. This program is widely used in resource programs for students struggling to read and write and it is designed for first and second grade. It is not developmentally appropriate for older students, the ideal target grades are 1st through 3rd.

Mrs. Negrete-Does the curriculum have an ESL approach?

Mrs. Rojas-Not from what I have seen, the Professor I spoke with said that there are other Dual Language schools who do use the program.

Mrs. Cotton-Is there going to be an ongoing expense?

Mrs. Rojas-Most of the cost after the training comes with the books, we already have a lot of books so the only expense would be to continue training and the goal would be to send one of the teachers for continued training to then train the rest of the team.

Mr. Perez-Would this be appropriate for older grades since 1st and 2nd grade is mostly in Spanish.

Mrs.Rojas-The goal is to have expert reading teachers, regardless of language. Initial training has to be in English but once the strategies are developed, those strategies can be used for Spanish.

1st motion:Angie Timpone

2nd: Reina Negrete

Yays: Cotton, Timpone, Negrete and Perez

Absent: Guzman

D. Approved Riverbank Language Academy Summer School Program 2021

RLA summer school program would run four days a week from June 3-July 1, 2021 with 20 students per grade level. This would be for students who are not meeting benchmarks and would be funded by the Low Performing Students Block Grant of \$23K and Learning Loss Mitigations Funds for \$69K.

1st motion: Angie Timpone

2nd: Rob Perez

Ayes: Cotton, Timpone, Negrete and Perez

Absent: Guzman

E. Approved language of the Temporary Contract for RLA Certificated Staff

This is to approve the language of a temporary contract for a certificated staff member. With the pandemic, a short term contract could be offered to a potential employee, which would be to only to fill temporary school needs and would be approved on a yearly or two year basis. This language is a legal contract informing such temporary employees that the position is just that, temporary, as needed.

1st motion: Reina Negrete

2nd: Angie Timpone

Ayes: Cotton, Timpone, Negrete and Perez

Absent: Guzman

X. Certificated Personnel

A. None to Report

XI. Classified Personnel

A. None to Report

XII. Adjournment the board adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm

A. Vote to Adjourn

1st motion: Angie Timpone 2nd: Reina Negrete

Yays: 5