



California School Employees Association
Chapter 477 – Rio Hondo College
MINUTES
Special Meeting
June 13, 2018

UNAPPROVED

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

Call Meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Rivera at **12:07 PM** with 78+ members present

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Steven Gonzalez.

Introduction of Guest: CSEA President Sandra Rivera introduced Madeline Shapiro, President of the Board of Trustees. She was invited to hear concerns by Classified Staff regarding our Safety on campus. President Rivera acknowledged the presence of Gary Mendez Board Member representing Area 4 was in the audience.

Jim Sass gave a synopsis of the event and the untimely response the District gave to this safety issue. Discussion ensued about the gun on campus incident on May 31, 2018.

Classified Staff voiced their personal safety concerns, fears, distrust, and questions on whether or not Dean Kummerman should continue his employment at RHC. Staff feel threatened and they questioned Safety policies and procedures and how these were NOT followed appropriately by the District to inform Students, Faculty and Staff there was a gun on campus. They asked: Why is it taking so long to inform Students about this unprecedented issue? Staff asked if the gun was given back to Kummerman. Staff voiced their concern that if it had been a CSEA Staff member who had brought a gun to campus, the delayed and muddled process would NOT have happened. One of us would have been reported to the Sherriff's Department, would have had no meetings to question rationale. Due process or not, a CSEA member would have been charged with a felony that could have ended in our dismissal, and ultimately losing our pension. Staff asked why the District is taking so long to inform students. A long-time employee stated: "I have never heard of an accepted Policy permitting anyone to carry a gun on campus". Another assumed that if Kummerman was in fear for his life, then bringing a gun for his protection poses a threat to all of us and thus, he brought danger to the college community. Another member wondered if we can catalog this as a RED Alert situation, and if so, the Administration should have taken immediate action by sending an emergency announcement to inform all of us. Students are paying money and should be guaranteed a safe learning environment. Yet, as of today June 13, almost two weeks after the incident, Rio Hondo College Students have not been formally informed by the District. CSEA Staff questioned Madeline on the decision to be made at tonight's Board Meeting to decide what will happen next. Madeline stressed the point that this is a Personnel matter, and she agreed that the procedures can be improved and re-addressed. President Rivera thanked Madeline Shapiro for being the first and only member of the administration who responded and apologized. It was close to 1 PM and President Rivera asked Board Member Gary Mendez for a quick comment before we adjourned the meeting. He stated he found out about the incident on Monday and that he had not been officially informed there was a loaded gun on campus. He too wondered why it was not reported, and that this is cause for alarm about our safety and security. President Rivera interjected that CSEA would like Madeline and Gary to relay the message that We the Classified Staff would prefer an Independent Investigation, because we do not trust that the Administration should investigate itself. She asked members to attend the Board Meeting and speak publicly about their distrust, fears and concerns.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM