



California School Employees Association
Chapter 477 – Rio Hondo College
MINUTES
Special Meeting
August 23, 2018

UNAPPROVED

1

2 **Call Meeting to Order:** Having a quorum present the Special Meeting was called to order by
3 President Rivera at **12:08 PM** with **35** members plus 8 members of the Board present, **43** total.

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

5 **Roll Call of Officers:** Sandra Rivera, Lisa Sandoval, Janice Garcia-Lopez, Angelica Bio,
6 Rowena Mendoza, Andrea Rivera Ringo, Steven Gonzalez and Yolanda Ramirez.

7 **Absent:** Albert Bretado.

8 **Approval of Minutes:** President Rivera asked for a motion to postpone the reading of the
9 Minutes for next meeting. Laura Verdugo motioned and Steven Rush second the motion. Motion
10 was approved.

11 **President Rivera stated this Special Meeting was called to order to present the**
12 **Recommendation/Vote for Endorsement by our Political Action Committee (PAC).**

13 PAC Members are: Janice Garcia, Jessica Perea, James Sass, Carolyn Gonzalez, Heng Lim,
14 and Sandra Rivera. The Committee interviewed two of the incumbent and three prospective
15 candidates who are running to become members of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees.
16 The election will be November 6, 2018. CSEA Ch. 477 is looking for candidates to represent the
17 following service areas: Area 1, currently represented by Norma Garcia; Area 3, currently
18 represented by Mary Ann Pacheco; and Area 5, currently represented by Madeline Shapiro.

19 On Monday, August, 13, 2018 from 5:30-10:00 PM the PAC scheduled the **Prospective**
20 **Candidates:** for Area 3, Rosaelva Lomeli; for Area 5, Dylan Logas; and Oscar Valladares. In
21 addition, Andre Martinez prospective Pico Rivera City Council came to request CSEA's support.

22 David Siegrist originally expressed interest, but then did not reply to our emails for an interview.
23 Sandra reminded us that Siegrist was a prospective candidate in previous elections 1993 and
24 2001. He was not approved then, but he is much older now.

25 Prospective candidates who accepted the invitation and showed up were asked the following
26 questions:

- 27 1. Why are you a candidate for the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees?
- 28 2. What are your qualifications?
- 29 3. What are your priorities if elected?
- 30 4. Who are your supporters so far? From whom will you be seeking support?
- 31 5. What planning/organizing have you done on your campaign to date?
- 32 6. What is your position on collective bargaining for school employees?
- 33 7. Do you support Binding Arbitration of grievances?
- 34 8. How do you feel about classified employees being members of important, decision-
- 35 making committees within the District?
- 36 9. Do you like input from employee organization?



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37 10. Currently Rio Hondo stands to lose \$5 million dollars under the new Community College
38 Funding Formula, what if any direction would you have the administration take in
39 response to this loss?

40 11. Please read the attached letter regarding a safety incident resulting in a resignation of an
41 Administrator. As a Board member, what would you have expected from your
42 Superintendent/President as an effective course of action?

43

44 On Monday, August 20, 2018 from 5:30-10:00 pm the PAC scheduled the **Incumbent**
45 **Candidates:** for Area 1, Norma Garcia; Area 3, Mary Ann Pacheco, (who was a No Show), and
46 for Area 5, Madeline Shapiro.

47 Incumbent candidates who accepted the invitation and showed up were asked the following
48 questions:

- 49 1. Please refer to the Campus Community letter dated July 3, 2018. Do you stand behind
50 this letter? If so, why?
- 51 2. Please refer to the Board statement issued by President Shapiro at the Board meeting
52 dated, July 11, 2018. Do you stand behind this statement? If so, why?
- 53 3. Currently Rio Hondo stands to lose \$5 million dollars under the new Community College
54 Funding Formula. It appears that the President/Superintendent's singular response has
55 concentrated on fighting the formula at the state level. What is the plan for Rio Hondo to
56 survive and thrive in this new fiscal environment? What would be your guiding principles
57 in the development of this plan?
- 58 4. What are your priorities if elected?
- 59 5. Who are your supporters so far? From whom will you be seeking support?
- 60 6. What planning/organizing have you done on your campaign to date? How many
61 volunteers do you have?
- 62 7. Do you support Binding Arbitration of grievances?
- 63 8. Do you like direct input from employee organization?
- 64 9. Should you be re-elected, what are you looking for in a new Superintendent/President?

65

66 There were questions regarding how much each candidate had invested in money and
67 resources to support their campaigns. What were the candidates asking from CSEA? Were
68 they financially able to conduct their campaigns? Will candidates need us to provide financial
69 support and manpower or just our endorsement?

70 One of the important questions the PAC focused on was if the candidates support Binding
71 Arbitration. Currently it is Advisory and the Board could overturn it.

72 The PAC asked the incumbents why they were running, what would be their priorities and their
73 action plan regarding the new Funding Formula, and their position on the CSEA letter sent to
74 the Administration regarding Campus Safety.

75 President Rivera presented some of the Incumbent responses.



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76 Norma Garcia reached out to the staff involved with the gun incident. Norma stated there is
77 room for growth and fixing the administrative procedures to improve how it was handled. She
78 said she was in Chicago when it happened. She was forthcoming by saying we need “to
79 hammer in” CSEA’s perspective. The PAC members felt she was sincere in her statements and
80 they recommended her endorsement.

81 Madeline Shapiro was in agreement with the administration and found no room for dissention.
82 Although, Madeline supports Binding Arbitration and she stated she wants to invest in people
83 infrastructure, she informed the PAC that she has about \$25,000 in campaign funds, has
84 enlisted paid walkers, mailings, and has plans for a strong campaign. Madeline will write letters,
85 be visible at events, but no action or work on our behalf. Appearances are great, but no
86 commitment or work to support CSEA. She is Board President now, and she has not acted with
87 Authority. When asked about the Funding Formula she concentrated on the state level not us.
88 The PAC did not recommend her endorsement.

89 There was some discussion as to which of the incumbents has made good on their promise to
90 CSEA. A member stated that Madeline and Mary Ann participate in her department and Norma
91 does not. President Rivera stated that both of them are retired school employees; however,
92 since Norma is still employed her participation during daytime events is less likely due to work.

93 President Rivera informed members that Ms. Lomeli is going against Mary Ann Pacheco, who
94 did not show to the scheduled interview. Ms. Lomeli is a teacher with the Montebello Unified
95 School District (MUSD). She believes in shared governance, supports CSEA. Due to the issues
96 at MUSD, she understands our request for transparency. She stated she would inform and
97 make decisions with our input. She would conduct study sessions on the budget. She would find
98 out what is helping and what is not, and involve all stakeholders in decision making. When
99 asked about the gun incident she considered it a crisis that should have a protocol and police
100 involvement. She discussed transparency to inform students, faculty and staff and their families.
101 She has a campaign manager, 30-40 volunteers including CSEA, family, teachers and local
102 business people. The PAC recommended her endorsement.

103 On Mary Ann Pacheco response on the Secretaries issue was that she told one of them to “Go
104 do the right thing.” She was texted on the gun incident and there was no reply. CSEA Staff
105 worked really hard to elect her but now we get no reply. She is close to the President not
106 CSEA. Although President Rivera has not talked to Jill Pfeiffer, she informed us that the Faculty
107 Association will endorse Mary Ann Pacheco.

108 Question on the retirement of President Dreyfuss and how the Board has kept a Status Quo. It
109 was mentioned that the Board of Trustees is the President/Superintendent’s boss not the other
110 way around. As it stands now, no Manager or Board member will ever say no to the President.

111 Dylan Logas, is a former Rio Hondo college student and he is on fire! He would be running
112 against Madeline Shapiro. He was active with the Academic Student Body and knows our
113 campus. He met with Library Dean to help extend Library hours, promoted the use of Lot B
114 after hours in the evenings to increase student safety, and met with DSP&S Director to suggest
115 solutions. He is President of Unite Group in Whittier, he is a classified employee but not CSEA.
116 An advocate for students, he has connections with the student body via Paris Youngblood the
117 former student representative and has a strong student base to help him. He mentioned



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118 accountability for the safety of the students. When he sees lines in Financial Aid maybe there's
119 not enough staff or when IT has issues we need more staff there too. He knows how underpaid
120 we are. He attended the Board meeting when Classified Staff spoke about the inequality in pay.
121 Since he is a recent graduate he knows what services we have and what services our student
122 Do Not get, because he didn't when he was a student. He has student support and help for his
123 campaign. The PAC recommended him for endorsement.

124 Heng provided a summary of the type of support we can apply for and receive from CSEA's
125 PACE (Political Action for Classified Employees) to support the candidates we recommend. As
126 we did before, we will probably need to support our candidates on the ground. The field office is
127 ready to provide voter registration data for phone banking, and walking.

128 After much deliberation, the Political Action Committee (PAC) presented three candidates for
129 endorsement to submit to the membership and to PACE of CSEA at the next AFL/CIO meeting.

130 President Rivera asked the members if we should submit a motion for each candidate or one
131 motion for all candidates as a group, the membership chose to accept the PAC's
132 recommendation and submit one motion for all candidates as a group.

133 President Rivera called for a motion.

134 With a quorum of 35 members present, a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the
135 Chapter's PAC recommendation to endorse:

- 136 • Norma Garcia for Area 1
- 137 • Rosaelva Lomeli for Area 3
- 138 • Dylan Logas for Area 5

139 Each candidate was voted on separately. President Rivera called for a Vote by raising hands
140 and Heng Lim, CSEA Representative counted more than 25 raised hands and assessed that a
141 majority of more than 51% approved the endorsement for each candidate.

142 President Rivera declared that CSEA Chapter 477 will submit the endorsement of candidates to
143 run for the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees at the November 6, 2018 Election.

144 **Good of the Order:** President Rivera thanked the PAC members for their time, diligence and
145 support.

146 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at **12:52 p.m.** by President Rivera.

Sandra Rivera, President

Yolanda Ramirez, Secretary