

**MINUTES**  
**RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

January 15, 2025  
Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center  
182 East Walnut Avenue  
Rialto, California

**Board Members**

**Present:** Dr. Stephanie E. Lewis, President  
Joseph W. Martinez, Vice President  
Edgar Montes, Clerk  
Evelyn P. Dominguez, LVN, Member  
Dakira R. Williams, Member  
Ivan Manzo, Student Board Member

**Administrators**

**Present:** Edward D'Souza, Ph.D., Acting Superintendent  
Rhea McIver Gibbs, Ed.D., Lead Strategic Agent  
Patricia Chavez, Lead Innovation Agent  
Diane Romo, Lead Business Services Agent  
Rhonda Kramer, Lead Personnel Agent  
Armando Urteaga, Lead Personnel Agent  
Also present was Martha Degortari, Executive Administrative Agent and Jose Reyes, Interpreter/Translator

**A. OPENING**

**A.1 CALL TO ORDER 5:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**A.2 OPEN SESSION**

### A.3 CLOSED SESSION

#### COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to speak on any item on the Closed Session Agenda will be granted three minutes.

**Shalimar Horsley, a Former Rialto USD Employee**, shared that she attended a recent Jubilee pantry at her church, where she heard fellow parishioners discuss concerns about Acting Superintendent Dr. D'Souza. She shared about her past working connection with Dr. D'Souza and spoke highly of him. She commented that we need the leadership of love and fairness for all students.

**Michael Thompson, a Teacher at Rialto High School for the last 20-plus years over MESA and eSports**, spoke of Dr. D'Souza's guidance and impact at Rialto High School and shared multiple accolades of Dr. D'Souza and his support. He says that he has been an inspiration.

**Ofelia Fitzpatrick, a long-time educator in Rialto Unified School District**, shared that she was moved to come here after reading the agenda. She has known Dr. D'Souza since they were in their 20s. She said they were young educators learning their crafts together over the years, and she indicated that it was refreshing to see him always looking ahead to help students. She said that he has integrity and is a pillar of the community. She also commented that he is hands-on, and the Superintendent continues to do the same thing. She says that Dr. D'Souza has that culture.

**Tobin Brinker, Rialto Education Association (REA) President**, shared that on behalf of REA he urges the Board to take no action tonight on the position of Acting Superintendent. He commented that there is no educator on our Board and said that for the past 20 years, things have been left unresolved due to the lack of engagement with REA. He feels that as Acting Superintendent, his abilities are limited, and needs authority to make real changes. He spoke of the need to reorganize and move away from the staff hired by Dr. Avila., and if his investigation is not favorable, then the expectation is for the Board to take action. He questioned what goals were given to Dr. D'Souza by the Board.

**Dr. Marina Madrid, Agent of Multilingual Programs**, shared that she is the proud parent of Rialto USD graduates and currently has three grandchildren attending the District. She said that she sent an email to the Board on her approval of Dr. D'Souza, and feels that his leadership has brought much needed success. She shared many accolades of Dr.

D'Souza, and said that she appreciates that he leaves politics aside and contributes so much to the community.

**Michael Montano, Rialto High School Teacher**, started by requesting a few minutes with the Board during a closed session, then shared some envelopes that he had prepared for the Board. He questioned the item on the Closed Session agenda and said that although it looks like a decision has already been made, everyone would like to have input on this decision, such as teachers who often feel unheard. He commented that as an Acting Superintendent, one can only do so much, and also questioned whether the Board previously set parameters for Dr. D'Souza. He says that there is a lack of communication.

**DeeAnna Stewart-Storie, a Rialto USD Teacher for the past 29 years**, shared the impact that Dr. D'Souza has had in Rialto. She proudly indicated that there are three generations of her family in this District. She shared her experiences as a student of Dr. D'Souza and all the support he provided to her and other students. She elaborated on his passion for teaching and for the community.

**Ana Gonzalez, Milor High School Parent, and Community Member**, started by sharing her concern regarding public comments only being accepted in person. She feels this is something that needs to be looked into. She then commented on her main concern being the involvement of Member Williams in a potential investigation involving her husband, Mr. Joseph Williams. She said Member Williams needs to recuse herself from any investigations involving Mr. Williams. She also questioned whether there was an agreement with Acting Superintendent by the Board to set performance goals, which would contribute to an objective evaluation. In light of the ongoing investigation with Dr. Avila, she is requesting that the item on the appointment of the Acting Superintendent be tabled until the conclusion of the investigation.

**Moved By** Clerk Montes

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

As provided by law, the following are the items for discussion and consideration at the Closed Session of the Board Meeting:

- **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT / DISCIPLINE / DISMISSAL / RELEASE / REASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEES (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957)**

- **STUDENT EXPULSIONS / REINSTATEMENTS / EXPULSION ENROLLMENTS**
- **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

Agency designated representatives: Edward D'Souza, Ph.D., Acting Superintendent; Lead Personnel Agents: Rhonda Kramer, Roxanne Dominguez, and Armando Urteaga, Personnel Services.

Employee organizations: California School Employees Association, Chapter 203 (CSEA), Rialto Education Association (REA), Communications Workers of America (CWA)

- **PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d) and/or (d)(3). CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE LITIGATION - Number of Potential Claims: 1**
- **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957)**

Title: Acting Superintendent, Public Employee

- **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (Government Code Section 54957)**

Title: Acting Superintendent

**Vote by Board Members to move into Closed Session:**

Time: 5:59 p.m.

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

#### **A.4 ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**Moved By** Vice President Martinez

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

**Member Montes was absent during this vote. Vote by Board Members to adjourn Closed Session:**

Time: 7:32 p.m.

**Majority Vote**

**A.5 OPEN SESSION RECONVENED - 7:00 p.m.**

Open session reconvened at at 7:32 p.m.

**A.6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A.7 REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

No report at this time. Board will return to close session.

**A.8 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

**Vote by Board Members to adopt the agenda:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**B.1 HIGH SCHOOL - DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DSAC)**

The following DSAC students shared information and activities held at their school:

Eisenhower High School - Kyle Caleb Munoz

Rialto High School - Gabriela Rodriguez

Carter High School - Nadia Valladares

Milor High School - Jordan Acree

**B.2 FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT**

Presentation by Andrew Park, CPA, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP, regarding Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Audited Financial Report.

Andrew Park, CPA, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP, conducted a presentation regarding Measure A 2022 General Obligations Bonds Financial and Performance Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**B.3 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (G.O.), MEASURE A, FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Presentation by Andrew Park, CPA, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP, regarding Measure A 2022 General Obligations Bonds Financial and Performance Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Andrew Park, CPA, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP, conducted a presentation regarding Measure A 2022 General Obligations Bonds Financial and Performance Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**B.4 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (G.O.), MEASURE Y, FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Presentation by Andrew Park, CPA, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP, regarding Measure Y 2010 General Obligations Bonds Financial and Performance Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Andrew Park, CPA, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP, conducted a presentation regarding Measure Y 2010 General Obligations Bonds Financial and Performance Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**B.5 CELL PHONE POLICY AND SAFETY - FRISBIE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Presentation by Alejandro Vara, Principal; Dr. Robin McMillion, Lead Student Services Agent; and Bryan Harper, Safety Operations Supervisor

Alejandro Vara, Principal; Dr. Robin McMillion, Lead Student Services Agent; and Bryan Harper, Safety Operations Supervisor conducted a presentation on Cell Phone Policy and Safety at Frisbie Middle School. See attached copy.

**C. COMMENTS**

**C.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

At this time, any person wishing to speak on any item **not on** the Agenda will be granted three minutes.

**Olani LaBeaud of BLU Education Foundation** shared that she was here to streamline their black education agenda. She highlighted issues affecting black student success and shared that there were survey results that were previously shared. She is requesting a meeting with the Superintendent to report on their commitment and continue a partnership with the District. She said it is essential for students to continue receiving this support. She extended a cordial invitation to the 4th Annual Black Education Conference.

**Marcos Castro, a Kordyak Elementary School Parent**, shared his concerns about student safety at Kordyak Elementary. He shared that he has lost faith with the Principal who he feels has not provided support to his concerns. He elaborated on the concerns with the recent investigation of child abuse involving his daughter.

**K'Miles Davis, a former student of Rialto USD**, shared his positive experience with HBCU and the benefits received. He talked about his successes. He requested that the District continue to support HBCU and listed the many reasons why this is so important to students.

**Steven Figueroa, Community Member and Special Education Advocate**, first thanked the District for posting the special education audit but stated that there are still things that can be done. He commented that the District is still paying for two superintendents, and we cannot afford this. He indicated that this money could be spent on Special Education. He says there is still more cleanup that needs to be done and he would like to help the Board to succeed.

**Frank Montes, a Community Member**, echoed some of the comments made by Mr. Figueroa. He said he is excited for the new leadership but there is still a lot of house cleaning to do. He commented that the community put their trust in the Board to make the difficult decisions, and some of those decisions are coming. He asked the Board to make them and for those that cannot, he recommended they remove themselves from their seat. He continued by stating that students are not getting what they deserve.

**Devona Robertson, representing COPE and Ebony Triangle**, stated that she was before the Board on October 16, 2024, and requested a meeting with Acting Superintendent, Mr. Joe Martinez and Dr. Lewis. She was grateful for the attempts made to schedule the meeting and apologized for not being able to coordinate a date. She requested the opportunity to meet soon and suggested a joint meeting with Ms. Olani LaBeaud of BLU Foundation.

**Mirna Ruiz, Community Member**, thanked Dr. Souza for attending the PTA Superintendent Roundtable today. She said it was a great event, and the main topic was partnership with schools and principals, which is something that is lacking in this District. She asked that we work on that. She requested continued support of special education, and said there is a lot more that needs to be done.

**Michael Montano, Rialto High School Teacher**, began by wishing the Board a Happy New Year. He encouraged everyone to get involved with community schools. He then spoke of concerns received from Henry Elementary School as to the lack of copy paper. He requested that this be looked into. He then mentioned that at the last Board meeting, several comments were made regarding Mrs. Nancy O'Kelley and Dr. D'Souza. He again asked the Board to look at the pictures he handed out to them this evening in the envelope and they will find a common denominator. He indicated that he submitted a public records request for a listing of vendors used by the District.

## **C.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Any person wishing to speak on any item on the Agenda will be granted three minutes.

**Tobin Brinker, Rialto Education Association President**, commented on the budget presentation. He asked the Board to take a closer look at page 70, where he explained that the budget shows that the District spent much less than anticipated. He went over a few other items on the budget report and asked the Board to make reference to some errors and the money that was not spent as predicted. He explained that the money that the District receives each year, is to be spent that school year. He said students and staff are not receiving those monies.

**Michael Montano, Rialto High School Teacher**, spoke on the cell phone presentation. He commented on bringing the cell phone issue to the Board before the cell phone policy was approved. He said he was fortunate to be part of the cell phone committee. He shared that Mr. Vara recently invited him to Frisbie Middle School to see how the plan in place was working. He said that the benefits seemed to be more than what were expected. He shared that at the end of the school days, students were not running to get their phones and were actually engaging with each other.

## **C.3 COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

- Rialto Education Association (REA)



- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
- Communications Workers of America (CWA)
- Rialto School Managers Association (RSMA)

**Tobin Brinker, Rialto Education Association (REA) President**, started by sharing a quote. He spoke of fair compensation for teachers and requested that the Board address the teacher wages, and said teachers deserve competitive wages. He commented on the challenges that teachers face. He

Mr. Brinker then indicated that Dr. Avila has been on paid administrative leave for over half of a year. He recommends that Dr. D'Souza continue in his current role until the investigation is finalized.

**Christine Acosta, newly elected California School Employees Association (CSEA) President**, shared that it is an honor to speak before the Board in her new role. She shared her details on her 20 plus years with the District and over 30 years as a resident of Rialto. She said she now has grown children who work in the District. She is looking forward to serving as President, helping staff members thrive, and providing them with what they need for their success and the success of students. She pledges to ensure these goals are met.

**Heather Estruch, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Chief Steward**, shared that they sent their members a flyer for an upcoming meeting date, and they are looking forward to presenting their reopener soon.

**C.4 COMMENTS FROM THE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER**

**C.5 COMMENTS FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT**

**C.6 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**D. PUBLIC HEARING – None**

**E. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

All items on the Consent Calendar will be acted upon in one motion unless pulled by Board of Education members or the Superintendent for individual action.

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

**Item E.6.1 - APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2024, was pulled to vote on individually.**

**Vote by Board Members to approve all Consent Calendar Items, as amended:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.1 GENERAL FUNCTIONS CONSENT ITEMS**

**E.1.1 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF REVISED BYLAW OF THE BOARD 9270; CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.1.2 APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY BP 4161, 4261, AND 4361; LEAVES**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.2 INSTRUCTION CONSENT ITEMS**

**E.2.1 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT COLLEGE TRIP FOR AVID STUDENTS - RIALTO HIGH SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Approve registration fees, lodging, and transportation for 42 students (30 female, 12 male) and five chaperones (3 female, 2 male) from the Rialto High School AVID program to tour college campuses in the Central and Northern California area, effective March 17, 2025 through March 20, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$35,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I).

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.2.2 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO USA SPIRITS NATIONALS COMPETITION - RIALTO HIGH SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Approve registration fees, lodging, and transportation for 24 female student athletes and three (3) female chaperones to compete in the USA Spirit Nationals at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, effective February 13, 2025 through February 15, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$4,000.00, and to be paid from the ASB, Athletics, and General Fund.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.2.3 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP FOR ALPHA SCHOLARS - CARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Approve registration fees, lodging, and transportation for 28 students (20 girls, 8 boys) of the Wilmer Amina Carter High School Alpha Scholars program, three (3) chaperones (1 male, 2 female) to tour colleges in the Northern California area, effective March 12, 2025

through March 14, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$25,000.00, and to be paid from the A-G Grant Fund.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.2.4 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT COLLEGE TRIP FOR AVID STUDENTS - CARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Approve registration fees, lodging, and transportation for 60 junior students (35 girls, 25 boys) of the Wilmer Amina Carter High School AVID program and eight (8) chaperones (4 male, 4 female) to tour colleges in the Northern California area, effective March 17, 2025 through March 19, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$49,800.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I).

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.2.5 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO JAMZ NATIONAL COMPETITION - CARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Approve registration fees, lodging, and transportation for 26 female student athletes and six (6) female chaperones to compete in the JAMZ National Competition at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, NV, effective January 23, 2025 through January 26, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$17,500.00, and to be paid from the ASB and General Fund.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.3 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT ITEMS**

**E.3.1 APPROVE THE WARRANT LISTING AND PURCHASE ORDER LISTING**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

All funds from November 26, 2024 through December 16, 2024, (Sent under separate cover to Board Members). A copy for public review will be available on the District's website.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

### **E.3.2 DONATIONS**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Accept the listed donations from Friends of Nancy O'Kelley for Rialto School Board; PBK Architects; Hope Rodriguez; McDonald's; and Coffee Nutzz, and that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

### **E.3.3 SURPLUS OF EQUIPMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Declare the specified surplus equipment and miscellaneous items as obsolete and not serviceable for school use and authorize the Superintendent/designee to sell or dispose of these items as specified in the Education Code Sections 17545 and 17546.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

### **E.3.4 SCHOOL-CONNECTED ORGANIZATION**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Approve Dollahan Dalmations PTA as a School-Connected Organization for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.3.5 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH FRANKLIN COVEY - CASEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Implement the Leader in Me "Core 3" program at Casey Elementary School, effective January 16, 2025 through June 30, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$13,200.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I).

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.3.6 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ELEVO - BEMIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SEL)**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Provide two (2) staff members/coaches to conduct structured and engaging Social Emotional Learning and sports activities for Bemis Elementary School Grades K-5, effective January 17, 2025 through May 2, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$11,400.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Title I).

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.3.7 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ELEVO - BEMIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (VAPA)**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Provide two (2) VAPA Coaches that focus on topics of Arts, Theater, Dance, and Music for Bemis Elementary School students in grades K-5, effective January 21, 2025 through May 1, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$22,847.50, and to be paid from the General Fund (Prop 28 AMS).

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.3.8 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH STEP-BY-STEP FOLKLORICO - CURTIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Provide a presentation and after school sessions for eight (8) weeks servicing 40 students at Curtis Elementary School, effective January 30, 2025 through May 30, 2025, at a cost not-to-exceed \$17,014.08, and to be paid from the General Fund (PROP 28 AMS).

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.3.9 APPROVE A STUDENT EXTERNSHIP AGREEMENT WITH UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Assist current and future student Speech-Language Pathology Assistants with mentoring opportunities in their specialized field from January 16, 2025 through January 15, 2030 at no cost to the District.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.4 FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT ITEMS - None**

**E.5 PERSONNEL SERVICES CONSENT ITEMS**

**E.5.1 APPROVE PERSONNEL REPORT NO. 1329 FOR CLASSIFIED AND CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.5.2 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 24-25-32 FOR TEACHER SERVING AS STAFF DEVELOPER**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Authorize the Lead Personnel Agent, Personnel Services, to employ or assign the holder of a California teaching credential based on a baccalaureate degree and a teacher preparation program, including student teaching or the equivalent, may serve as school-site, school district, and or county staff developer in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults. A teacher serving as the staff developer for a specific subject must hold a credential in the subject or have his or her expertise in the subject verified and approved by the local governing board.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E.5.3 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 24-25-33 FOR PROVISIONAL INTERNSHIP PERMIT**



**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Authorize the Lead Personnel Agent, Personnel Services, to assign various teachers who are enrolled in a credential program, but have not yet completed the requirements to enter an internship program.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

## **E.6 MINUTES**

### **E.6.1 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

**Vote by Board Members:**

**(Ayes) President Dr. Lewis, Vice President Martinez, Clerk Montes, Member Dominguez**

**(Abstain) Member Williams**

**Majority Vote**

## **F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **F.1 RATIFY THE APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BRINK'S INCORPORATED**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Ratify the approval of a 3-year agreement with Brink's Incorporated to provide armored transportation services for five middle schools, three high schools, and the District office, effective September 1, 2024, through

September 1, 2027, at a cost not-to-exceed \$50,000.00 per year and to be paid from the General Fund.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.2 APPROVAL OF SY 2025-2026 ANNUAL RENEWAL OF SERVICES WITH SUPER CO-OP JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY LEAD AGENCY OF THE SUPER USDA FOODS LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Vice President Martinez

Approve the agreement with Lead Agency Lodi Unified School District. The costs of future items purchased using Super Co-op bids will be paid from Cafeteria Fund 13.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.3 ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

Accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Audited Financial Report completed by Eide Bailly LLP.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.4 ANNUAL AUDITED GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (G.O.), MEASURE A, FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Vice President Martinez

Accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual General Obligation (G.O.), Measure A, Financial and Performance Audit completed by Eide Bailly LLP.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.5 ANNUAL AUDITED GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (G.O.), MEASURE Y, FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**Moved By** Vice President Martinez

**Seconded By** President Dr. Lewis

Accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual General Obligation (G.O.), Measure Y, Financial and Performance Audit completed by Eide Bailly LLP.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.6 SUPPLEMENTAL EARLY RETIREMENT PLAN (SERP) OFFERING**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

Approve the District to proceed with the SERP offering to eligible District employees, including granting authority to the plan administrator to add eligible participants to the plan if in the best interest of the District. Approve the execution of any and all documents necessary or proper to obtain and maintain IRS approval of the form of the Plan. Administer and implement the SERP with Keenan Financial Services as the consultant, and enter into any other contract agreement necessary or proper to administer and/or fund the Plan to attain and maintain the income tax qualification of the Plan under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, effective January 16, 2025, through the duration of the Plan funded over a period of five (5) years.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.6.1 RETURN TO CLOSE SESSION**

**Moved By** Member Dominguez

**Seconded By** President Dr. Lewis

**Vote by Board Members to return into Closed Session:**

Time: 10:21 p.m.

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F.6.2 ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION**

**Moved By** Clerk Montes

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

**Vice President Martinez was absent during this vote. Vote by Board Members to adjourn Closed Session:**

Time: 11:11 p.m.

**Majority Vote**

**F.7 STIPULATED EXPULSIONS**

**Moved By** Member Dominguez

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Case Numbers:

24-25-32

24-25-33

24-25-24

**Vice President Martinez was absent during this vote. Vote by Board Members:**

**Majority Vote**

**F.8 REINSTATEMENT**

**Moved By** President Dr. Lewis

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Case Number:  
23-24-72

**Vice President Martinez was absent during this vote. Vote by Board  
Members: Majority Vote**

**F.9 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

**Moved By** Member Dominguez

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

Case Numbers:  
24-25-30

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**G. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**Moved By** Member Dominguez

**Seconded By** Vice President Martinez

The Board of Education approved the request for an unpaid leave of absence for classified employee #2931135, from February 8, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

**Vote by Board Members:**

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rialto Unified School District will be held on February 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dr. John Kazalunas Education Center, 182 East Walnut Ave, Rialto, California.

Materials distributed or presented to the Board of Education at the Board Meeting are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.

**Moved By** Vice President Martinez

**Seconded By** Member Dominguez

Prior to adjournment, Clerk Montes requested a moment of silence in memory of a close family friend by the name of Jessica Torres, who recently passed away. President Dr. Lewis also requested a moment of silence for all those affected by the current fires.

**Vote by Board Members to adjourn:**

Time: 11:15 p.m.

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

  
Clerk, Board of Education

  
Secretary, Board of Education



**RIALTO**

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BRIDGING FUTURES THROUGH INNOVATION

# Cell Phone Initiative and Safety

## Warren H. Frisbie Middle School

Presented by:

**Alejandro Vara**, Principal, Frisbie Middle School

**Bryan Harper**, Safety Operations Supervisor

**Dr. Robin McMillon**, Lead Agent, Student Services



## Current Rialto USD Board Policy

### Assembly Bill 272, 2019

- RUSD developed the Mobile Communication Devices Board Policy 5131.8 and Administrative Regulation in Spring 2021
- Created by a committee that consisted of teachers, students, parents, site/district administrators, and Safety
- Approved by the Board of Education in **August 2021**
- Implemented during the 2021-2022 academic school year

### Elementary and Middle School

- Students may use cell phones, smart watches, pagers, or other mobile communication devices before school begins and after the regular school day ends. Devices must be turned off and not visible during the school day which includes passing periods, recesses, and lunch

### High School

- Students may use cell phones, smart watches, pagers, or other mobile communication devices on campus during non-instructional time, such as before/after school, lunch and passing periods; as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law. Devices must be turned off and not visible during instructional time, which is designated by the school's bell schedule



NIMES Numbered Organizer  
Classroom Pocket Chart for Cell  
Phones Calculators Holders Blu...



# State Assembly Bill 3216

Approved by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 23, 2024

- **Section 1. Name of the Bill**
  - This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Phone-Free Schools Act.
- **Section 2. Summary from the Legislature**
  - Unrestricted smartphone use during the school day disrupts schools' educational mission, lowers academic performance among students needing additional support, promotes cyberbullying, and increases teenage anxiety, depression, and suicide.
  - Research states cell phone use during school hours distracts pupils and harms their academic performance and mental health.
- **Section 3. 48901.7 of the Education code is amended to read**
  - **48901.7.** (a) The governing body of a school district, a county office of education, or a charter school shall, no later than July 1, 2026, develop and adopt, and shall update every five years, **a policy to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a school site or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, county office of education, or charter school.**
  - The policy aims to promote evidence-based smartphone practices to enhance pupil learning and well-being, developed with stakeholder input to address community-specific needs and may include enforcement measures to limit smartphone access.



## State Policy Overview AB 272 & 3216

A student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances:

- In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger *(RUSD) phone pouch will be unlocked when it is safe to do so*
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator
- When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
- When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program or a 504 plan





# Frisbie Middle School Cell Phone Initiative

- 2021-2022 school year Stakeholder meetings regarding cell phone and school safety
- August 5, 2022, District Cell Phone Policy 5131.8
  - Students may use a device before school begins and after the school day ends
  - Students must turn off the device and store it in a bag or backpack during the school day, which includes the passing period and lunch
- September 2023, at the beginning of the school year, a school expectations assembly was held with students, along with a Back to School Night and Parent Information meetings on the impact of cell phones on students' emotional and psychological well-being.



# Frisbie Middle School Cell Phone Initiative

- March 2024, during open house, Principal Vara shared expectations regarding the use of technology and social media on academic performance
- September 2024, passage of Bill [AB 3216 Phone-Free Schools Act](#)
- December 2024, administration met with staff and numerous students to discuss the cell phone pouch implementation
- December 2024, communication video was developed and shared with families
- January 2025, pilot was initiated



# Frisbie at the Center of Success



- Cell phone usage has not impacted the elementary levels to the same extent as the secondary schools.
- The size of a comprehensive high school adds additional levels of complexity.
- Frisbie is centrally located within the District.
- Frisbie currently has just under 1,000 students in attendance.
- Frisbie's master schedule is team based (the same 144 students are shared among the same 4 core subject teachers) which streamlines the distribution and collection of the pouches.



# Positive Feedback from Staff

- Increased student socialization
- Greater class participation
- Higher levels of student engagement
- Increased instructional time as teachers face fewer class interruptions
- Reduced tardiness between class periods
- More students choosing to leave phones at home
- Decline in student excuses to leave the classroom



## School Safety Initiatives

- Implementation of morning announcements to notifying staff and students of any safety concerns on campus
- Reported safety concerns are addressed promptly and incentivised
- Pro-active investigations have decreased incidents
- Additional restroom monitoring support



## Safety Services Support

- Safety Services has provided supervision analysis to ensure optimal campus coverage
- Additional supervision support was assigned to Frisbie campus
- All site administrators have been invited to security meetings and presentations
- All safety intervention officers trained in Pro-Act with several trainer of trainers in Safety Services
- Video surveillance analysis was provided to ensure campus coverage
- Safety plan development support



**"Safety is a shared responsibility"**



# School Supervision Initiatives



- An additional Patrol Officer has been assigned to assist with supervision, patrolling the site perimeter, and assisting with home visits as necessary.
- Safety personnel has been assigned to support safety supervision in the physical education area outside the locker rooms, which allows teachers to focus on supervising inside the locker rooms.



## Timeline

### Communication

- Spring 2025 - Fall 2026

### School Pilots

- Spring 2025
- Fall 2025
- Spring 2026

### Committee Work

- Spring 2025 - Spring 2026

### Full Implementation

- Fall 2026





# Questions?

