

**MINUTES**  
**RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education**

**February 12, 2025**  
**Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center**  
**182 East Walnut Avenue**  
**Rialto, California**

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

**Members Absent:**     **Ivan Manzo, Student Board Member**

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

**A.     OPENING**

**A.1    CALL TO ORDER 6:00 p.m.**

          The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A.2    OPEN SESSION**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President, Dr. Stephanie E. Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** Clerk Montes

**Seconded By** Vice President Martinez

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

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**D. CLOSED SESSION**

**Moved By** Member Williams

**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)**
- **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)

**COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**Mirna Ruiz, Community Member**, shared her concerns regarding staff members, like Mr. Montano and Mr. Quinones, who have harmed students and other adults. She requested that immediate action be taken to remove harmful staff, ensure transparent investigations, and prioritize the safety of children and support for educators.

**Anthony Noriega, a director for the LULAC Inland Empire,** spoke about the importance of public participation in meetings and the duty of elected officials to listen to their constituents. He criticized the suppression of public input and actions that undermine open government. He shared the need for focus on children's education rather than political infighting.

**Steve Figueroa, Community Member and Education Advocate,** shared his frustration about personal attacks from Mr. Edgar Montes. He accused Mr. Montes of spreading lies, particularly regarding a lawsuit involving certain individuals, and challenged the Board to focus on issues that affect children's education rather than personal matters.

**Ana Gonzalez, Community Member and District Parent,** first shared a letter from a victim by the name of Charisma Flores, who spoke of her experience of sexual exploitation by teachers Mr. Montano and Quinones. She then stressed the importance of holding those responsible accountable and urged the Board to prioritize students' safety.

**Leticia Chavez, Community Member and Alumna of Rialto Unified Schools** shared her personal experience of inappropriate behavior by a teacher while in high school. She criticized the District's practices of covering up misconduct and transferring problematic staff members, which she says only harms students. She indicated that she will continue advocating for accountability in the District.

**Tim Prince, a Trial Attorney and Community Member,** criticized the behavior of both Mr. Tobin Brinker and Mr. Edgar Montes. He emphasized the importance of character and integrity in leadership, especially when it comes to advocating for children. He urged both men to do better and shared his concern about their recent actions.

**Frank Montes, Community Member,** criticized Mr. Edgar Montes for misappropriating funds, hiring family members, and bullying community members. He accused Mr. Edgar Montes of prioritizing personal interests over the well-being of students and criticized the Board for its failure to address misconduct. He spoke in detail of being betrayed and backstabbed by Mr. Edgar Montes. He then shared concerns about potential issues at Rialto Middle School with Teacher, Mr. Quinones and warned parents to talk to their children.

**Tobin Brinker, Rialto Education Association (REA) President,** commented on the District's annual surplus and mismanagement of funds. He said that the District consistently overestimates expenses and underestimates revenue. He criticized administration for creating a false narrative about tight budgets, and he

suggested that the Board ask better questions when reviewing the budget and negotiating with employees.

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

Time: 6:28 p.m.

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**E. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**Moved By** Member Dominguez

**Seconded By** Vice President Martinez

**Vote by Board Members to adjourn Closed Session:**

Time: 9:19 p.m.

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

**F. OPEN SESSION RECONVENED**

Open session reconvened at 9:19 p.m.

**G. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

President Dr. Lewis reported that the Governing Board of the Rialto Unified School District took no action in closed session, and further, based on employees' privacy rights, the Board would have no comment on the personnel matters discussed.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Moved By** Member Dominguez

**Seconded By** Clerk Montes

**Vote by Board Members to adjourn:**

Time: 9:20 p.m.

**Approved by a Unanimous Vote**

  
Clerk, Board of Education

  
Secretary, Board of Education