

MINUTES
RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 6, 2026
Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center
182 East Walnut Avenue
Rialto, California

Board Members

Present: Joseph W. Martinez, President
Edgar Montes, Vice President
Dakira R. Williams, Clerk
Evelyn P. Dominguez, LVN, Member

Board Members

Absent: Dr. Stephanie E. Lewis, Member

Administrators

Present: Alejandro Álvarez, Ed.D., Superintendent
Rhea McIver Gibbs, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Denise Ellis, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
Jon Black, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Diane Romo, Associate Superintendent, Business Services
Also present was Martha Degortari, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education and Jose Reyes, Interpreter/Translator

A. OPENING

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

A.2 OPEN SESSION

A.3 CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Vice President 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**
- **UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES**

Agency designated representatives: Alejandro Álvarez, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Denise Ellis, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Human Resources.

Employee organizations: California School Employees Association, Chapter 203 (CSEA), Rialto Education Association (REA), Teamsters Local 986, and 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

COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

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

None.

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to move into Closed Session:

Time: 5:33 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

A.4 ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Vice President Montes

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to adjourn Closed Session:

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

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

Open session reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

A.6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kolb Middle School Cougar Choir performed the *Star-Spangled Banner*, followed by 8th-grade student Samantha Gallegos, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A.7 PRESENTATION BY KOLB MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kolb Middle School choir performed "*Go the Distance/Defying Gravity*", accompanied by Music Teacher Mr. Ghent Range.

A.8 REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Clerk Williams

The Board of Education accepted the administrative appointment of Angel Arratia, Assistant Principal, Eisenhower High School, effective July 1, 2026.

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members:

(Ayes) President Martinez, Vice President Montes, Clerk Williams

(Noes) Member Dominguez

(Absent) Member Dr. Lewis

Majority Vote

Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Clerk Williams

The Board of Education denied the request for an unpaid leave of absence with continued paid benefits for classified employee #22772116, from May 19, 2026 through November 19, 2026.

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members:

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Clerk Williams

The Board of Education denied the request for a paid leave of absence with continued paid benefits for classified employee #28637116, from May 29, 2026 through November 29, 2026.

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members:

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

A.9 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Clerk Williams

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to adopt the agenda:

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

B. PRESENTATIONS

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

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

Jehue Middle School - Annalise Sanchez

Rialto Middle School - Baylei Rubin

Frisbie Middle School - Emily Perez

Kolb Middle School - Olivia Benavidez

Kucera Middle School - Ava Guilfoos

B.2 KEY TO THE DISTRICT

Presentation of the Key to the District by Board Member, Evelyn P. Dominguez, LVN, to Community Member, Mr. Darious Harris.

Board Member, Evelyn P. Dominguez, LVN, presented her Key to the District to Community Member, Mr. Darious Harris.

B.3 RECOGNITION OF DISTRICT CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

- Olga Guerrero, Paraprofessional–Mild/Moderate, Simpson Elementary School
- Diane Komiyama, Nutrition Services Worker III, Rialto M.S./Nutrition Services
- Wendy Moreno, Workability Transition Case Technician, Eisenhower High School/Special Services
- Edith Ortiz Torres, Communications & Media Technician, Communications/Media Services
- Raymond Palacios, Lead Custodian, Preston Elementary School
- Michael Slone, Wide Area Network Specialist, Technology Services
- Rachelle Warner, Safety Control Dispatcher, Safety Services

The Board of Education recognized the seven (7) Rialto USD Classified Employees of the Year.

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.

Sonia Morales, Casey Elementary School Parent, joined by several other mothers, expressed concerns regarding the principal at Casey Elementary School, citing inconsistent decision-making and lack of communication with parents, particularly regarding the last-minute cancellation of a schoolwide

theater field trip that parents learned about through social media. She also stated that the principal was unavailable during another school event, leaving parents without explanations or support.

Edna Almeria, Casey Elementary School Parent (School Site Council President), raised concerns about poor communication and negative attitudes from office staff, lack of timely parent notifications, delayed School Site Council meetings, and the cancellation of a field trip due to unpaid theater tickets. She stated that the principal blamed both the District and the theater for the issue, while students were left disappointed and crying. She also criticized the lack of planning for student supervision and meals after the cancellation and expressed concerns about student safety and comfort during extreme weather conditions.

Maria Ortiz, Casey Elementary School Parent, shared the principal's apology message regarding the canceled field trip and criticized the planning process, noting that students missed instructional time preparing for the event and that the cancellation occurred because payment had not been made to the theater. She expressed concern about accountability, communication, and preparedness, questioning how emergencies would be handled if a simple field trip was mismanaged.

Janeen Stubblefield, Teacher at Kucera Middle School, and representative from Kucera Middle School, criticized a recent principal survey that publicly shared school leadership ratings, arguing that it created public humiliation rather than constructive feedback. She expressed concern that two of the lowest-rated principals were African American and stated that the process may reinforce bias and disproportionately harm Black school leaders. She urged the Board to reevaluate the process and implement accountability systems rooted in equity and support rather than public comparison.

Chantelle Jackson, District Parent and former employee, expressed concerns about a Mother's Day event hosted by Alianza Latina in which she was told the event would be conducted entirely in Spanish without interpreter support for non-Spanish-speaking attendees. She stated that the voicemail and subsequent interaction she received were not welcoming or inclusive and did not align with the District's values of diversity, equity, and respect for all community members.

C.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

C.3 COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- Rialto Education Association (REA)
- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
- Teamsters Local 986
- Communications Workers of America (CWA)
- Rialto School Managers Association (RSMA)

Christina Acosta, California School Employees Association (CSEA) President, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and recognized the dedication and perseverance of classified staff as the school year comes to an end. She highlighted the physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion many employees are experiencing while continuing to support students, maintain campuses, and manage increasing workloads and staffing shortages. Mrs. Acosta encouraged employees to keep pushing through the final weeks of the year, emphasized the importance of staff morale and appreciation, wished teachers and classified staff well during their appreciation weeks, and thanked the District leadership for recognizing the important role classified professionals play in student success and school operations.

Heather Estruch, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Representative, shared that the union is also busy with end-of-year responsibilities, including assignments and renovations to their union office. She indicated that the office improvements are nearly complete, and expressed anticipation for upcoming meetings with the District, and wished everyone a good evening.

C.4 COMMENTS FROM THE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

C.5 COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

C.6 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

D. PUBLIC HEARING

D.1 OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

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

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Member Dominguez

FORM FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (AB1200) - RIALTO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to open Public Hearing:

Time: 9:42 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

D.1.1 FORM FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (AB1200) - RIALTO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to the requirements of Governmental Code and Board Policy, the Form for Public Disclosure of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement [AB1200 (Statutes of 1991, Chapter 1213) as revised by AB2756 (Statutes of 2004, Chapter 25), Government Code 3547.5] between the Rialto Unified School District Board of Education, and the Rialto Education Association (REA), is hereby posted in compliance with the legislative requirements for public notice.

D.2 CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Moved By Vice President Montes

Seconded By Clerk Williams

FORM FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (AB1200) - RIALTO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to close Public Hearing:

Time: 9:43 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

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 Vice President Montes

Seconded By Member Dominguez

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to approve all Consent Calendar Items in one motion:

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

E.1 GENERAL FUNCTIONS CONSENT ITEMS

E.1.1 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF REVISED BOARD BYLAW 9010; PUBLIC STATEMENTS

E.1.2 APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF REVISED BOARD BYLAW 9012; BOARD MEMBER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

E.1.3 APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY 3311; BIDS

E.1.4 APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY 3312; CONTRACTS

E.1.5 APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY 3515.4; RECOVERY FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR DAMAGE

E.1.6 APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICIES 4119.24, 4219.24, AND 4319.24; MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE ADULT-STUDENT INTERACTIONS

E.1.7 APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY 5131.8; MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

E.2 INSTRUCTION CONSENT ITEMS

E.2.1 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO THE 2026 YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - RIALTO HIGH SCHOOL

Approve airfare transportation, lodging and related costs for an overnight trip for 12 Rialto High School NJROTC students [six (6)

male and six (6) female] and two (2) chaperones [one (1) male and one (1) female] to participate in the 2026 Youth Physical Fitness National Championship at Mott Haven Educational Campus in Bronx, New York, effective May 15, 2026, through May 18, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.2.2 APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CAMP - CARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Approve registration fees, lodging, and transportation for 40 Carter High School male students from the Football team and four (4) male chaperones to participate at the Flagstaff, Arizona NAU football camp and 7 on 7 tournament at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, effective June 19, 2026, through June 21, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (Athletics and Site Booster).

E.3 BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSENT ITEMS

E.3.1 APPROVE THE WARRANT LISTING AND PURCHASE ORDER LISTING

Approve all funds from April 1, 2026 through April 14, 2026.

E.3.2 DONATIONS

Accept the donations and send a letter of appreciation to the following donors: AALRR Law Firm; Kroger Co.; America's Charities; Never Stop Grinding/Darious Harris; Fernando Lopez; Lakeshore; Riverside Hotel & Casino, Laughlin; Helios; and Sea World, San Diego.

E.3.3 APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH CHEMEKETA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Approve Amendment #1 for the Practicum Agreement Speech-Language Pathology Assisting Program contract #10676200 extending the term through September 30, 2028 at no cost to the District.

E.3.4 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS VENDORS FOR THE 2026 UMOJA SUMMER EXCELLENCE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Approve renewal agreements with multiple vendors for the Umoja Summer Excellence Enrichment Program, effective June 8, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$46,500.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.5 APPROVE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHY AND YEARBOOK VENDORS FOR ALL RIALTO USD SCHOOLS

Approve the listed Photography and Yearbook vendors for the 2026-2027 school year, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at no cost to the District.

E.3.6 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS VENDORS FOR THE DISTRICT'S DIVERGENT GAMES ATHLETIC EVENT

Provide supplies, equipment and student awards for Rialto's Divergent Games, effective June 12, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.7 APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH ZEN EDUCATE

Amend Agreement #C-26-001469 with Zen Educate and approve the cost increase of the original agreement of \$650,000.00 by an additional \$350,000.00, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund. All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

E.3.8 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH PURPLE EASEL - MORRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Provide after-school visual arts instruction through Purple Easel for students in grades TK–5 at Morris Elementary School, effective May 7, 2026, through June 30, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$7,000.00, and to be paid from the General Fund (PROP 28 AMS).

E.3.9 APPROVE THE 2026 STUDENT BOARD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

Authorize a scholarship check in the amount of \$3,000.00 for Student Board Member, Audrey Gonzalez, and to be paid from the General Fund.

E.3.10 APPROVE TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN RIALTO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

E.3.11 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-32 AUTHORIZE TEMPORARY BORROWING BETWEEN FUNDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

E.4 FACILITIES PLANNING CONSENT ITEMS - None

E.5 HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT ITEMS

E.5.1 APPROVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT NO. 1355 FOR CLASSIFIED AND CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

E.6 MINUTES

E.6.1 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING HELD APRIL 22, 2026

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

F.1 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-33 COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2019-1 ESTABLISHING ANNUAL SPECIAL TAX FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Clerk Williams

Authorize and provide for the levying of special taxes within Community Facilities District No. 2019-1, which are not otherwise exempt from taxation. Special taxes levied in accordance with the Rate and Method of Apportionment requires payment to the Treasurer/Tax Collector of the County of San Bernardino, California.

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members:

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote

F.2 ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 25-26-34 REMUNERATION

Moved By Clerk Williams

Seconded By Member Dominguez

Excuse the absence of Board President, Joseph W. Martinez, from the Wednesday, April 22, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Vote by Board Members:

(Ayes) Vice President Montes, Clerk Williams, Member Dominguez

(Abstain) President Martinez

(Absent) Member Dr. Lewis

Majority Vote

G. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rialto Unified School District will be held on May 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dr. John R. 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.

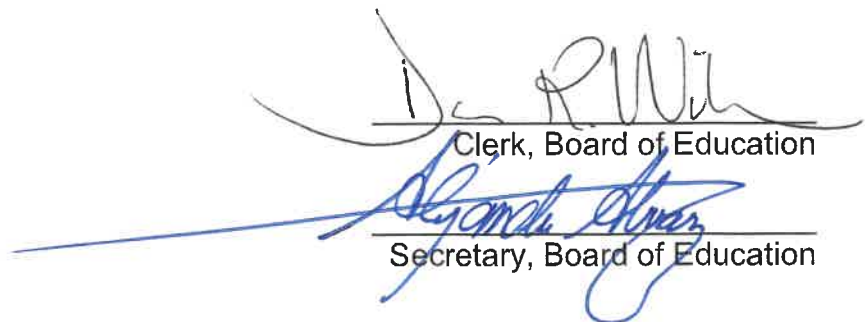
Moved By Member Dominguez

Seconded By Clerk Williams

Member Dr. Lewis was absent. Vote by Board Members to adjourn:

Time: 9:47 p.m.

Approved by a Unanimous 4 to 0 Vote



The image shows two handwritten signatures. The top signature is in black ink and appears to be 'C. Williams'. Below it is a signature in blue ink that appears to be 'Dominguez'. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines that serve as baselines for the titles 'Clerk, Board of Education' and 'Secretary, Board of Education' respectively.

Clerk, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education