



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOUNDATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Riverside County Office of Education

Virtual – Online

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and displayed on YouTube. Only authenticated users will have access to participate in the Zoom proceedings. Public comments must be emailed to dmsmith@rcoe.us to be read into the record. Live Streaming Link via YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/EQtDb1h0hI>

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Riverside County Office of Education Foundation Board of Directors

Mr. Jack Clarke

Mr. Eric Eckstrom

Mrs. Ana Farfan

Mr. Keith Figgins

Dr. Edwin Gomez

Mr. Paul Jessup

Ms. Diana Kot

Mr. Lou Monville, Chair

Dr. Ruth Pérez

Mr. Lucio Perez Jr.

Mr. Kevin Sherrell, Secretary

Mr. Pete Serbantes

Mr. Andrew Thompson

Mrs. Suzanne Trowbridge, Vice Chair

Mr. Fred Wolf

Foundation Treasurer

Mr. Eugene Villa

Foundation Director

Mr. Ed Lewis

1.0 PROCEDURAL

1.1 Call to Order

Director Monville called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Monville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Establishment of a Quorum

Directors Jack Clarke, Paul Jessup, Lou Monville, Lucio Perez Jr., Dr. Ruth Pérez, Kevin Sherrell, Andrew Thompson, Suzanne Trowbridge, and Fred Wolf were present.

Directors Eric Eckstrom, Ana Farfan, Keith Figgins, Dr. Edwin Gomez, Diana Kot, and Pete Serbantes were absent.

A quorum was established for this meeting.

1.4 Action: Approval of the Agenda

Subject: Request approval of the May 18, 2023, meeting agenda.

Motion: It was moved by Director Wolf and seconded by Director Jessup that the agenda be approved as presented.

Vote: 9 ayes, 6 absent. Motion passed.

1.5 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2.0 CONSENT

2.1 Action: Approval of Minutes

Subject: Request approval of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the Riverside County Office of Education Foundation (RCOEF) Board held on March 16, 2023.

Document(s): Draft minutes from the March 16, 2023, meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Director Trowbridge and seconded by Director Thompson that the minutes be approved as presented.

Vote: 9 ayes, 6 absent. Motion passed.

3.0 ACTION

3.1 Action: Approval to open up a Wells Fargo Interest Bearing Checking Account for \$100,000 and Certificate of Deposit (CD) for \$150,000

Subject: RCOE Foundation Treasurer Villa recommends that the Board open a “Navigate (Small) Business Checking Account.” The account is interest bearing, and avoids fees with a minimum balance of \$15,000. In addition, the recommendation is that the Board open a \$150,000 CD (in the same ‘account’) with a rolling 6-month maturity. The CD can be assessed in 6 months (on whether to increase or decrease). Request approval of the RCOE Foundation Board Members to open the new checking account and CD.

Document(s): None

Director Monville shared that at our last meeting the Board wanted to address our concerns about the instability in the banking world. The Board asked Foundation Director Lewis and Treasurer Villa to look into and make a recommendation so we could be good stewards of the Foundation resources.

Treasurer Villa informed the Board that RCOE has an established relationship with Wells Fargo and would recommend that the Board authorize us to open a Navigate Small Business checking account with Wells Fargo. The account will need to maintain a balance of at least \$15,000, which we will, to avoid any fees. In addition to that account, asking the Board to approve opening a CD in the amount of \$150,000. The Foundation’s current cash balance is about \$600k. Treasurer Villa stated we are wanting to not maintain balances that are significantly above the \$250k just to be prudent. There is really no additional cost to the new accounts, except for some additional staff

time to reconcile the account. Recommending a CD with a six-month maturity and then reassess in six months and see how CDs are doing.

Director Monville asked if there were any questions from the Board. Thank you to Treasurer Villa and the team for the recommendation.

Director Sherrell asked what is the rate on the CD? Treasurer Villa shared we don't know what the rate is until we open the account. Currently the six-month CDs are at 4.75–5%.

Director Thompson asked what bank is the Foundation's money in currently? Treasurer Villa shared it is with Bank of America and the balance is hovering around \$600k.

Motion: It was motioned by Director Trowbridge and seconded by Director Clarke that the request for a new checking account and Certificated of Deposit (CD) at Wells Fargo be approved and accepted as presented.

Vote: 9 ayes, 6 absent.

4.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 RCOE Alternative Education Come Back Kids (CBK) Program Presentation by Janice Delagrammatikas, Principal, CBK and Theresa Swickla, Principal, CBK

Foundation Director Lewis introduced Janice Delagrammatikas, Principal, CBK and Theresa Swickla, Principal, CBK. Foundation Director Lewis thought it would be timely to have an update on the program. The Foundation is very fond of this program and works diligently with both principals and some counselors and teachers. The Foundation normally funds between 20-25 CBK scholarships annually.

Janice Delagrammatikas shared that they really appreciate working with the Foundation and all it does for the students. Having the scholarships is huge for our students and gives them the confidence to take those next steps and opens doors for them. We have also been gifted Chromebooks to give out to the top students as they move on to college and the Foundation has funded fieldtrips in the past.

Janice shared a PowerPoint presentation about the Come Back Kids (CBK) program. She reviewed the Vision (*Preparing every student for success in college, career, and the community.*) and Mission Statement (*Creating personalized learning opportunities for all students to prepare them to be future ready through rigorous academics, post-secondary opportunities, and safe and supportive learning environments.*) of CBK. The mission is heartfelt by all of us and every year we focus on improving academic opportunities for students.

The team asked ourselves, what should a CBK graduate look like, and came up with GRADS (Growth-minded, Resourceful, Actively Engaged, Determined, and Socially Responsible). Students are actively taught these attributes.

The CBK is an independent study program that serves students 9-12 grade and ages 13-99. In the past CBK had been primarily a dropout prevention/recovery program and that has changed since

the pandemic. We have transitioned to more of a choice for parents and students, now 64% of students are under the age of eighteen. This has been a big change over the last two years.

The mission and focus of CBK is directly aligned with the Superintendent's Initiatives. Some highlights are assessments to monitor student growth, provide interventions, mental health support, financial literacy, etc. We are really excited about the financial literacy program with College of the Desert for parents and students to concurrently enroll together.

CBK has concurrent enrollment and partnerships with College of the Desert, Mt Jacinto Community College, and Riverside Community College. In addition, a highlight is the Youth Build Grant that provides construction training for students, and they are paid while they are learning and going to school on a daily basis.

Janice shared a list of the 23 CBK school sites and mentioned she knew that Paul would like CBK to be on every corner, but not yet. The CBK website is <https://www.cbktoday.org/> and please feel free to refer students our way. Director Jessup shared he is glad to see the growth and was hopeful CBK would be like Starbucks, everywhere you turn you would see one, but the expansion is remarkable. Janice said they have expanded the services that are being offered to students over the last few years, e.g., concurrent enrollment, CTE Pathways, etc.

The CBK graduation requirements, school engagement opportunities, and partnerships were shared.

The name is changing from Come Back Kids to the Courage to Build Knowledge (CBK). We have grown, we are not just a dropout prevention/recovery program. We are a program that provides opportunities for students to be academically proficient and ready to do anything with their lives. We are a real choice for all students.

During COVID enrollment went down by about a third. CBK is back to where it was and now growing. Next year expect to have greater enrollment.

Foundation Director Lewis mentioned that the College of the Desert is a business partner now. Their Foundation received \$18M in unrestricted money. They might be able to help the CBK program. Janice shared that CBK is in the process of asking for a classroom on the College of the Desert (COD) campus. COD is very easy to work with, they are really good partners.

Director Monville stated I see a thumbs up from Paul and are there any other questions. Director Trowbridge shared a thank you for all the work helping the kids and adults that may have had something that might have prevented them from getting through high school and getting a diploma or GED, so thank you for all the work you do and helping our at-risk youth.

Director Clarke stated he echoes those comments and statements. This is a tremendous program. Just a suggestion, this should be trumpeted-off the mountain tops. These programs are done effectively and yet many people in the community are not aware of them. I really encourage you to get the word out about these types of educational programs.

Janice said we appreciate that. We take every opportunity we can find to tell the community about the program. Theresa Swickla stated we also drive around in brightly wrapped vans advertising the CBK program.

Director Monville stated I really applaud the focus on the dual enrollment in college courses and showing them the door is open for the next step of college and career.

Director Monville asked if there are any other questions, not seeing any. Thank you to Janice and Theresa and the team. Please let Foundation Director Lewis know when we can be helpful, and we look forward to doing so. Director Monville gave the floor to Foundation Director Lewis for his report.

Foundation Director Lewis stated just so you know, the CBK program continued the Live Theatre Tech training program at the Fox Theatre that we started. CBK had thirty students attend the program in March.

4.2 Foundation Director's Report

Partner Sponsorship Program Update

- To date we have received \$78,500 in revenue. I continue to work closely with the RCOE staff to assure that sponsors receive the benefits for the fee they are paying. The approved budget this year for Partner Sponsorships is \$80,000, so we are almost there. Foundation Director Lewis is hoping to expand this program next year and include more businesses.

Business Partners Program Update

- We have 73 members in the program that are producing \$71,000 in annual membership dues. So far this year \$68,000 as come in against the budget of \$60,000 we forecasted. As you know the Business Partners Program is an ongoing annual process and any assistance board members can give me in pursuing qualified leads is very much appreciated.

Grants/Sponsorships Update

- Foundation Director Lewis shared he is happy to report that with Keith Figgins assistance we will be receiving a \$5,000 grant from Stater Bros. Keith had a good contact with one of the members of the Charitable Giving Committee at Stater Bros. Foundation Director Lewis had a very good conversation yesterday with Thor the plant manager at 3M Company in Corona. He is recommending a \$20,000 grant for us for our STEM scholarship students. His local recommendation is the only way we can be considered for funding by the 3M Foundation.

Foundation Director Lewis reported at the last meeting we invited high school seniors in the Beaumont, Coachella Valley, Desert Sands and Palm Springs USD to apply for the \$25,000 in the Student Success Fund. We concluded the program and awarded 66 students a total of \$23,900 and 20 of those students were RCOE Come Back Kids Students. Foundation Director Lewis shared a photo of one of the students and her purchase of the MacBook Pro and shared a thank you message from another student.

In March we began the outreach process for the Student Scholarship Program and invited six school districts to participate. The deadline for application submissions is June 30th. These six districts represent 27 high schools. The districts invited this year are Alvord, Banning, Corona-Norco, Hemet, Palo Verde and Val Verde. We have \$125,000 in the approved budget for distribution to qualifying scholars. Next year we want to increase the Student Scholarship Program to \$150k and the Student Success Program to \$30k.

Also, many of the board members are familiar that Foundation Director Lewis has been reaching out to some high-net worth individuals that are in Riverside County, while he hasn't confirmed any yet, he still keeps trying. Foundation Director Lewis recently did some online research and reached out to Jack and Laura Dangermond at ESRI Company in Redlands to consider a STEM Scholarship program bearing their names. They invented the computer mapping software that over 350,000 companies currently utilize for landscaping and urban development. Foundation Director Lewis was advised by Jack's assistant that he has the proposal and is reviewing it.

Foundation Budget Update

- To date we have received \$398,632 in revenue. Our overall revenue budget for 2022-2023 is \$377,500. We exceeded our approved budget. I am hoping that we will come in at around \$405,000 or so for the year. Our total net cash assets are now \$652,581 in the Bank of America account. The monthly interest received on the account continues to be more than the monthly service charge.

Director Monville asked if there were any questions.

Director Clarke said congratulations to Foundation Director Lewis on your vision and willingness to knock on doors and hear no, over and over again. It is to be complemented, thank you for what you are doing and keep knocking on those doors. We really appreciate it. Foundation Director Lewis said thank you, I appreciate that Jack, as you know I was not able to get the scholarship from Dusty Baker, but got a really nice, autographed World Series Baseball for the auction at the Golf Tournament.

Director Monville provided a reminder about the projected revenue for the budget and the Golf Tournament plays a major role in that, as you talk with friends and colleagues get them the invitation for the October 2nd Golf Tournament and encourage their participation. Foundation Director Lewis said everybody will get the Golf Tournament information the second week in June.

Director Monville checking for any concluding comments and seeing none. The meeting is concluded.

ADJOURNMENT – 3:23 pm