

**IMPERIAL VALLEY REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Adopted Minutes

Meeting of October 15, 2020
Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program Main Office

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Armenta called the virtual meeting to order at 6:33 a.m. The following persons were present:

Ms. Alicia Armenta, Board President, Imperial County Office of Education
Mr. Lorenzo Calderon, Jr., Board Member, Calexico Unified School District
Mr. Matt Hester, Board Member, Holtville Unified School District
Mr. Victor Lopez, Board Member, Imperial Unified School District
Mr. Raul Navarro, Board Member, Calipatria Unified School District
Ms. Carol Sassie, Board Member, Brawley Union High School District
Mr. Juan Campos, Project Coordinator, Imperial Valley ROP
Mr. Luis De La Torre, Director of Business & Human Services, Imperial Valley ROP
Mr. Edwin P. Obergfell, Superintendent, Imperial Valley ROP
Ms. Maria Pantoja, Project Coordinator, Imperial Valley ROP
Ms. Wendy Ramirez, Office Manager, Imperial Valley ROP

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Armenta led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Armenta asked Ms. Ramirez if there were any public comments. Ms. Ramirez confirmed no public comments were provided.

**INTRODUCTIONS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Hester and seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve the items on Consent Agenda as presented. The consent agenda was approved with the following roll call vote: AYES: AYES: President Armenta, Trustee Matt Hester, Clerk of the Board Jimenez, Trustee Lopez, Trustee Navarro, and Trustee Sassie. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Calderon. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

- Minutes of September 17, 2020, Regular Meeting;
- September '20 Warrant Order #'s: 21107034-21107069; 21107595-21107620; 21108341-21108410; 21109255-21109313.

PERSONNEL:

APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL. A motion was made by Ms. Sassie and seconded by Mr. Calderon to approve the resignation of Mr. Douglas Keenan. The appointment of personnel was approved with the following roll call vote: AYES: President Armenta, Trustee Calderon, Trustee Matt Hester, Trustee Lopez, Trustee Navarro, and Trustee Sassie. NAYES: None. Absent: Clerk of the Board Jimenez. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VARIABLE TERM WAIVER. A motion was made by Mr. Calderon and seconded by Ms. Sassie to approve to employ Mr. Christopher Albert Salgado on the basis of a Variable Term Waiver (English Learner) for the 2020-2021 school year as part of the IVROP CTE MOA Addendums for supplemental services. The Variable Term Waiver was approved with the following roll call vote: AYES: President Armenta, Trustee Calderon, Trustee Matt Hester, Trustee Lopez, Trustee Navarro, and Trustee Sassie. NAYES: None. Absent: Clerk of the Board Jimenez. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACCEPTING THE CONTINUATION OF. Mr. Obergfell introduced Ms. Yessenia Partida, Project ACE Program Manager. A motion was made by Mr. Lopez and seconded by Mr. Hester to accept the funding for Project ACE (\$215,000). The funding for Project ACE (\$215,000) was accepted with the following roll call vote: AYES: President Armenta, Trustee Matt Hester, Clerk of the Board Jimenez, Trustee Lopez, Trustee Navarro, and Trustee Sassie. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Calderon. **Motion carried unanimously.**

BOARD POLICY UPDATE Mr. De La Torre provided the board with information regarding AB-2018. Mr. Obergfell informed Mr. De La Torre there is a typo in the Board Policy Update for BP 4119.24, BP 4219.24, and BP 4319.24. Mr. Obergfell stated there were some repetitive statements in the Board Policy Updates. Mr. De La Torre explained it was pretty much cut and paste. He said he would review the second reading. Mr. Obergfell pointed out some corrections that needed to apply to the Board Policy Update. A motion was made by Mr. Hester and seconded by Mr. Lopez to approve the first reading of the Board Policy Updates BS 4119.24 Personnel (Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student/Participant Interactions), BP 4219.24 Personnel (Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student/Participant Interactions), and BP 4319.24 Personnel (Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student/Participant Interactions) approved with the following roll call vote: AYES: President Armenta, Trustee Matt Hester, Clerk of the Board Jimenez, Trustee Lopez, Trustee Navarro, and Trustee Sassie. NAYES: None. Absent: Trustee Calderon. **Motion carried unanimously.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

MONTHLY BUDGET UPDATE. Mr. De La Torre informed the Board that Project ACE had already been included in the Monthly Budget Update. He explained that sometimes it takes a while to receive the final approved contract because it must go through the approval process. The Strong Workforce Program High School Round 2 is a thirty-month grant which IVROP will receive a total of \$237,000. The anticipated expenditures for the Strong Workforce Program High School Round 2 for this year are \$51,679. IVROP is the fiscal agent for Strong Workforce Program High School Round 2. Ready4Life funding from Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance \$1.1 million grant. The team anticipates expenditures for Ready4Life for this year to be \$548,121. Ready4Life is a five-year grant. Mr. De La Torre included Project Impact (\$25,000). IVROP continues to invest in safety and infrastructure. We are investing \$20,000 in a new Firewall.

IVROP COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. Mr. Obergfell announced Ready4Life was submitted through the IVROPCF. He shared IVROP submitted three applications to the Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance. Ready4Life will be able to enhance the services that are being

provided through the Memorandum of Agreements. Mr. Obergfell commended Mr. Campos, Mr. De La Torre, Ms. Isabel Barraza, and Ms. Ramirez for assisting with the involvement of Ready4Life. Mr. Campos said Mr. Obergfell had the vision for Ready4Life.

CTE UPDATE. Mr. Campos spoke about the Regional CTE Advisory Meeting. Mr. Campos shared Mr. Obergfell had a vision to expand and connect to advisors and experts outside of our region to develop a more robust experience for attendees and to better situate IVROP with districts during COVID-19, and innovate during this time by connecting CTE programs with a variety of experts beyond the County and even the State. COVID-19 has expanded our opportunity and connections virtually, and organization and other experts are more accessible and have been trained to interact virtually during this time. The General Session will be held on October 21, 2020. Mr. Campos shared Ms. Tina Ngo Bartel, Director of the Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research and Bob Lanter, Executive Director – California Workforce Association will be Keynote Speakers. He provided the Board with an Industry Breakout Sessions handout. Mr. Campos shared the CTEAC website. Ms. Hernandez and the rest of the CTE team is wearing multiple hats by directing and facilitating the advisory meetings. Mr. Obergfell commended the Educational Services Team for their work. Mr. Campos said he would be emailing the board the information for the General Session and the Breakout Sessions. Mr. Campos suggested for Board Members to attend the CTE Advisory Meeting to assist with planning for the future. Mr. Navarro commended Mr. Campos and Mr. Obergfell for the vision. Mr. Obergfell shared all the schools have been provided with the information for the Regional CTE Advisory Meeting.

Mr. Campos stated the Strong Workforce Round 2 program is called Imperial Valley CTE STEM Pathway Improvement Project. The consortium will be receiving \$1,995,710 for three years, IVROP will serve as the LEA. The focus is on STEM focused CTE pathways, and Agriculture and Natural Resources, Information and Communication Technologies, Health Science and Medical Technology, and Engineering and Architecture.

The application for Strong Workforce Round 3 is due tomorrow, Friday, October 16th. It is a \$2,000,000 grant for three years. The focus is on Career Exploration, Work-based learning, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Engineering and Architecture, and Education, Child Development, and Family Services.

WASC is currently on hold.

PRESENTATION. Ms. Pantoja, Project STAR Project Coordinator and Project STAR Staff presented on Project STAR services during these COVID-19 times. Mr. Ricardo Padilla, Development Specialist began by introducing the Arts & Craft Workshops. Before COVID-19 Arts & Craft workshops were held at the El Centro & Brawley Wellness Centers. Currently these workshops are held virtually through Zoom. Consumers are provided with instructions and can share towards the end of the session. Consumers have been provided with supplies to participate during all virtual sessions. The Arts and Crafts session benefits consumers with the ongoing recovery of their mental health illness by improving their well-being, reduces anxiety and stress, increases self-esteem and helps reduce depression and helps consumers improve their social skills, sessions can be therapeutic. Ms. Stacey Pacheco, Development Specialist introduced a second portion of the Social Skills Workshops such as fitness and photography. Consumers are offered modified exercise routines and special photography instruction to be able to use the cameras consumers own. Mr. Guillermo Macias, Development Specialist described the current Self-Esteem workshops and the importance of this type of support to consumers for their recovery. Ms. Vanessa Mascareño, Development Specialist described the Life Skills workshop, and the general topics that are offered: communication, critical thinking, time management problem

resolution, personal goals. During COVID-19 additional topics were added: responsibility, decision making, how to cope with changes and health guidelines.

Mr. Adrian Ramirez, Development Specialist is currently in charge of the Youth portion of Project STAR, he explained that the difference is the Employment/Shadowing experience to 5 youth consumers who complete the participation requirements such as 75% or higher in the Employability Assessment and 24 hours of Employability training to obtain 40 hours of work experience, Project STAR provides additional support for consumers ready for the work experience such as; work shoes, clothing and hygiene supplies. Similarly, consumers participate in social skills and life skills workshops.

Mr. Miguel Gutierrez, Project Specialist shared current participation trends; a total of 75 consumers, 66 of which come from the central Wellness Center, and another nine that come from the Brawley Wellness Center. For reference, last year Project STAR served a total of 263 consumers from both El Centro and Brawley Wellness Centers combined. Most of Project STAR participants come from either El Centro or Calexico, each representing just over 35% of our total participants. The remaining 25% is divided between participants that come from Brawley, Holtville, Imperial, Seeley, Heber, Westmorland and Bombay Beach. Workshops are divided into either social skills, life skills, basic skills, or BEST (Basic Employment Skills Training). From July to September they have had a total of 48 consumers that have attended at least one of our workshops, compared to last year when we served a total of 188 consumers in that same timeframe. Historically, the most popular workshops, have been the social and life skills. Workshops with lower attendance are Basic and BEST in which this year they have had 15, and six participants compared to last year, 24 and 54 participants.

Mr. Obergfell thanked Ms. Pantoja and her Staff.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from Mr. J. Todd Finnell, Imperial County Office of Education, County of Superintendent of Schools was received. Mr. Obergfell thanked Mr. De La Torre and his team for a job well done.

LEGISLATION: None.

OTHER: **ARTICLES.** None.

EVENTS. None.

**BOARD AND
SUPERINTENDENT
COMMENTS:**

Ms. Armenta congratulated the team that wrote Ready4Life and all those that support the submission of the grant. She congratulated Ms. Pantoja on her first virtual presentation. Ms. Armenta asked Ms. Pantoja to thank her team for the presentation.

Mr. Calderon wished Mr. Jay Jimenez and Mr. Lopez the best of luck with their campaign. He shared Calexico will be having a virtual Calexico Grand Opening on October 27th. at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Calderon asked Mr. Obergfell regarding to the Mobile Career Lab for Calexico. Mr. Obergfell said he would contact Mr. Calderon regarding this question.

Mr. Hester said Mr. Campos and the team are doing a great job. He shared he is registered for the CTE Regional Advisory. He thanked Ms. Pantoja and the team for a great presentation and great work. Mr. Hester shared he did not have to campaign because nobody ran against him.

Mr. Lopez thanked everyone for their support. He is hoping to be back as a board member.

Mr. Navarro thanked Mr. Campos and Ms. Pantoja for their presentation. He said he thinks it is awesome that they move from live presentations to recorded presentation to be able to share with others.

Ms. Sassie congratulated Mr. Hester because he did not have to campaign. She wished Mr. Lopez and Mr. Jimenez luck with their campaign. Ms. Sassie informed the board that she will be attending the November IVROP Board Meeting in person. She said cake will be provided at the November IVROP Board Meeting to share and thank Staff and the Board. She told Mr. Campos his presentation was phenomenal. She congratulated Ms. Pantoja and her team for recording their presentation. Ms. Sassie said it seems Ms. Karin Morgan will be representing Brawley Union High School District. She said all the work Staff do is phenomenal. She told Mr. Obergfell that she is pleased with the direction he has taken IVROP and that it is further than where we were about seven years ago. She thanked all Staff.

Mr. Obergfell announced on October 6th the Imperial County Board of Supervisors approved the Project Rising Stars. Project Rising Stars is a three-year grant. Ms. Yessenia Partida will be overlooking Project Rising Stars. She will be working the vulnerable populations. Project Rising Stars is funded through the Imperial County Behavioral Health. She also works with Project ACE. Ready4Life will allows us to enhance the services that are already being provided. Three grants were submitted to Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance. The Responsible Fatherhood grant that was written by Mr. Gabriel Aguirre was not reviewed because it was the first grant that was submitted. It did not specify on the Request for Proposal that only one grant could be submitted by each submitting organization. The Healthy Marriage grant was not awarded because we did not provide information regarding the grant experience in the past two years. Mr. Obergfell has been the Family Stabilization Coordinator. Now, with the new Ready4Life grant we will be able to fill the Family Stabilization Coordinator position. He said that position would be added to organizational chart and be brought to the board for approval. Mr. Obergfell also mentioned the goals would be reviewed by the organization. He will also be asking the board for their input with the goals. He congratulated Mr. Hester for an additional four years as a board member. He wished Mr. Jay Jimenez and Mr. Lopez good luck with their campaign. He said he is looking forward to seeing Ms. Sassie next year. He thanked Ms. Sassie for her support.

NEXT MEETING: The next IVROP Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6:30 a.m., at Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP) Main Office.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:51 a.m.