



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 10, 2017
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a regular meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at the Administrative Service Center, 615 Snow Avenue, Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members present: Heather Cleary, Rick Donahoe, Gordon Comfort, and Brett Amidan. Administrators present: Superintendent Rick Schulte, Deputy Superintendent Nicole MacTavish, Executive Director of Financial Services Rich Puryear, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Secondary Education Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent K-5 and Assessment Mike Hansen, Executive Director of Support Services Richard Krasner, Communications Manager Steve Aagaard, Executive Director of Information Technology Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Special Education Mandy Cathey, and District Counsel Galt Pettett.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 Approval of Minutes (September 26, 2017)

It was moved by Rick Donahoe and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2017.

Vote: Amidan, yes; Cleary, yes; Donahoe, yes; Comfort, yes; and Jansons, yes.

Motion was approved.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Presentations/Recognitions-Sacajawea Elementary

Jim Bruce, Principal, introduced Ruby Palencia and Haley Knutson, Secretaries at Sacajawea Elementary. Mr. Bruce described both as compassionate, patient, welcoming, and always with a can do/will do attitude.

2.2 Requests and Comments by Visitors (time limit)-None

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Construction Projects

3.1.1 Design Development-Belmont Elementary No. 11-First Reading

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, reported the Belmont No. 11 Elementary School is in the Design Development stage. Ms. Johnson introduced Brandon Wilm, Design West Architects, who explained details of the project. Mr. Wilm stated the project will go out to bid in March and construction will begin immediately after the bid award. The building will be similar to Jefferson

Elementary (currently under construction), with opening projected for the fall of 2019. Board discussion followed.

It was moved by Rick Donahoe and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT-BELMONT ELEMENTARY NO. 11-FOR FIRST READING.

Vote: Amidan, yes; Cleary, yes; Donahoe, yes; Comfort, yes; and Jansons, yes.
Motion was approved.

3.2 Internet Safety

Dr. Schulte advised this is follow up to an issue that was raised by a number of visitors at the last meeting. Superintendent Schulte explained the District has a robust, proven, technological filter for any device that accesses the District internet servers while at school, at home, and in between. The District has been filtering internet access since 1998, with the most recent upgrade in 2014. Content Keeper was chosen specifically for its capability of filtering Chromebooks wherever they are used. This product is used by many districts, including Kennewick School District. This filtering service is far stronger and more effective than those home-based consumer filters readily available on the retail market and is updated regularly.

With the passage of ESSB 5449 dealing with digital citizenship, school districts are directed to establish a committee during the 2017-2018 school year to develop appropriate policies, procedures, resources, and curriculum to teach students digital citizenship. This District has initiated steps to form this committee with the results of the committee's work presented to the Board. The District is also committed to working with parents to make student use of technology appropriate and successful. Parents can view a history of their student's access to various searches and web sites on Chromebooks. Another option for parents is to have their children leave their Chromebooks at school. The student may drop off their Chromebook in a charging station at the end of the school day and pick it up the next morning. Students who need to access online material at home may do so using personal home computers. When these home computers access District online applications and materials, District filters will be operable. Finally, a parent who wants to explore additional options may meet with District technology staff to consider the feasibility of other customized or individualized solutions.

Superintendent Schulte spoke regarding the concern expressed for student Personal Learning Time (PLT) and was assured there is extensive teacher interaction with a varying group of students throughout those days, with personalized applications and programs supporting, but not supplanting student interaction with teachers.

Dr. MacTavish, Deputy Superintendent, shared her experience using the Summit Schools platform used by all sixth graders at Libby Middle School. This program will be evaluated for use with seventh and eighth graders next year. Andre Hargunani, Libby Middle School Principal, reported each sixth grader has a mentor.

After discussion, Board members agreed more communication and parent training needs to be facilitated. The new committee needs to address access to Google images and You-Tube.

Suggestions included parent instructional training videos, Apps for parents, forums for parents, use of School Messenger, and information on all school and social media sites. Applications for the Digital Citizen Committee will be accepted until Friday, October 13, 2017.

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported students are highly engaged with weekly goal setting and self-assessments.

Public Comment:

Julie Robertson, Davison Avenue, shared her concern regarding student PLTs.

Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Information Technology, advised filters have changed as the District has grown and embraced *Bring Your Own Device* (BYOD). Since the last meeting, administration has reviewed several other products, neither being as complete as the filter currently used by the District. He advised there should be no expectation of privacy when using student computers or student accounts.

3.3 Policy/RR No. 4330-Community Use of School Facilities

Galt Pettett, District Counsel, reported after first review at the September 26, 2017 meeting, Board members requested input from principals regarding changes to the Rules and Regulations (RR) guidelines of this policy. Mr. Pettett advised meeting with each principal to review changes to the policy. These new policy changes will begin in January, 2018.

Public Comment:

Boyd Burdet, 414 Snyder Street, representing the Mid-Columbia Symphony, stated he appreciated the ability to schedule a year in advance and asked to be informed of the remodeling schedule as soon as this information is available.

Deb Donahoe, 240 Wallace, representing Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre, also is pleased with the ability to schedule in advance and asked for clarification on several topics.

Josh Darby, 1900 Stevens, representing the Academy of Children's Theatre, thanked the Board for the scheduling changes and reported on the recent presentation for area elementary students.

Debbie Robertson, Davison Avenue, stated the new policy is great for community groups, but it may be hard for schools to plan far in advance.

Cheryl Antonio asked for clear communication with schools and school groups such as PTA/PTOs regarding the new policy.

It was moved by Brett Amidan and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE RR No. 4330-COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR FIRST READING.

Vote: Amidan, yes; Cleary, yes; Donahoe, yes; Comfort, yes; and Jansons, yes.
Motion was approved.

3.4 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Scores

Mike Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and Assessment, reviewed results of the 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math in grades 3-8, along with the two-year trends by school and grade. Mr. Hansen explained access to all data is available on the OSPI State Report Card site. Users can select a school district and/or a specific school as well as the year the testing took place to see results and compare schools. Mr. Hansen stated it is important to note that each grade level comparison represents a different cohort of students which can cause swings in the percentage meeting standard in any given year. In addition, students that opted out of testing are included as zeros in the test data.

Achievement gap data indicates significant performance variations between students from low income environments versus students from non-low income environments. Mr. Hansen reported, due to inconsistencies in the OSPI data for the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 test years, the District will be creating the achievement gap data sets from our own resources. This data is part of what is shared with each building and is used to establish goals for the District and building improvement plans. Resources are allocated to provide greater supports for low income schools. Board discussion followed including:

- continue work to close the achievement gap
- 40 percent of students not making standards
- more training for principals, goals need to reflect accountability
- rigorous writing component
- evaluate Personal Learning Communities (PLCs)-resource and structure, possible day change
- teachers need to own each student at all levels-in and out of the classroom
- focus on the actual act of teaching and assessment
- change is needed

3.5 Levy Options

Dr. Schulte reviewed Proposition 1 – Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy, and Proposition 2 – Levy for Instructional Technology Improvements. Final Board approval is not needed until November, as there is some uncertainty regarding the exact wording required by the new legislation. Key features of the two levy propositions are these:

Proposition 1

Levy Rate	\$1.50, constant for four years (<i>\$1.83 less than 2018 RSD levy rate</i>)
Levy Collection	\$12,000,000 in 2019, increasing to \$15,600,000 in 2022
State Match	\$8,250,000 in 2019, varying through 2022
Total Collection	\$20,250,000 in 2019, up to \$22,500,000 in 2022 (<i>\$13,000,000 less than under current rules in 2019</i>)
Uses	All extracurricular activities Special Education excess costs Additional Staff Professional Development Extra time Course Offerings

Proposition 2

Levy Rate	\$0.50, decreasing slightly over four years <i>(Total of 2 Propositions = \$2.00, \$1.33 less than 2018 rate)</i> <i>(With new state school tax, \$0.50 less than 2018 school rate)</i>
Levy Collection	\$3,900,000, increasing slightly over four years <i>Total of 2 Propositions = \$24,150,000, \$8,850,000 less than under current rules for 2019)</i>
Uses	Replacement cycle for district technology equipment Training for staff in use of instructional technology

Dr. Schulte reported the good news from these propositions is, with approval, District taxpayers will have a net tax decrease of 59 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

There was consensus from Board members supporting the two proposals. All agreed good communication is the key and the use of technology to promote these levies will be an important factor.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Update: Rollout of New K-5 Elementary English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum, reported this year marks “year one” of implementation of the newly adopted Benchmark Literacy instructional materials for grades K-2 and Pearson ReadyGEN instructional materials for grades 3-5. All buildings received the new materials in August and teachers who wanted to explore materials prior to formal training could do so. 278 teachers, instructional specialists, and special education teachers participated in initial training in effectively utilizing the new instructional materials. Feedback from teachers has been very positive.

Kristina Tucker, ELA Coordinator, explained teachers are getting excited about teaching and more training is to follow. This curriculum rollout is a three year process. Ongoing training for teachers will be provided through a “train the trainer model.” Four teachers from each building representing K-2 and 3-5 will receive four full days of training with the curriculum trainers. Classroom support teachers have also been a great resource to support new teachers.

4.2 Curriculum Audit

Nicki Blake reported the District has contracted with Curriculum Management Audit Center at Phi Delta Kappa to conduct a comprehensive audit of the District’s existing educational program. This audit will evaluate existing management, processes, and programs to determine the District’s success in delivering quality instruction that ensures student achievement. While in the District, audit team members will visit every school and conduct observations in every classroom. Additionally, audit team members will interview a wide range of District stakeholders including Board members, administrative team, principals, teachers, support staff, community members and parents.

Dr. Nicole MacTavish, Deputy Superintendent, advised the audit process involves an extensive review of data provided by the District a month in advance. This comprehensive audit will result in recommendations for all areas organized by priority. A draft of the complete audit will be delivered to the District within 90 days of the visit. Information gathered from the comprehensive audit will

provide baseline data that will be essential in drafting a strategic plan to close the academic achievement gap.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA (approval by a single vote of the Board)

It was moved by Heather Cleary and seconded by Rick Donahoe –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.5).

Vote: Amidan, yes; Cleary, yes; Donahoe, yes; Comfort, yes; and Jansons, yes.

Motion was approved.

5.1 Personnel Actions

5.2 Cash Grant-The Columbus Foundation-Libby Middle School-Smart Lab

5.3 Cash Grant-Inspirus-Chief Joseph Middle School-ATP Backpack Program

5.4 Cash Grant-Walmart-Badger Mountain Elementary-School Grant

5.5 Payroll and Warrant Approval

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10056210 through 10056282 for \$296,369.87

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20000986 through 20000989 for \$466,936.26

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40005291 through 40005309 for \$17,523.23

Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000122 for \$1,647.13

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10055998 through 10056148 for \$233,112.79

Nos. 10056149 through 10056209 for \$3,448,643.98

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$6,691,878.03

Total August Payroll approved in the amount of \$10,373,634.80

6.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Special Board Meeting-October 13, 2017-Transition Training
- School Improvement Plans-Presentations by elementary and secondary principals at the next meeting.

7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Rick Schulte was a speaker at Columbia Center Rotary, attended the Delta Superintendent's Council, touch base meetings, visited classrooms, and will be attending the Connect-Tri-Cities event tomorrow.

Brett Amidan attended Libby Middle School Open House and a high school football game.

Rick Donahoe will be attending a poverty training at ESD 123.

Heather Cleary attended the Libby Middle School Open House.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS