



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 24, 2019
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, September 24, 2019, at 6:30 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, and Jill Oldson. Administrators present: Superintendent Rick Schulte, Deputy Superintendent Mike Hansen, Executive Director of Financial Services Rich Puryear, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Secondary Education Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Tony Howard, Executive Director of Support Services Richard Krasner, Public Information Officer Ty Beaver, Executive Director of Information Technology Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Special Education Mandy Cathey, and District Counsel Galt Pettett.

The Board returned to the regular meeting 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 10, 2019)

It was moved by Heather Cleary and seconded by Jill Oldson that –

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 2019.

Vote: Cleary, yes; Donahoe, yes; Oldson, yes; and Jansons, yes.

Motion was approved.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Presentations/Recognitions-Orchard Elementary

Alysia Arsanto, Orchard Elementary Principal, introduced Axel Harrington, a kindergarten student who was anxious about riding the bus at the beginning of the school year. Ms. Arsanto shared Orchard Elementary staff members have an attitude of “It takes a village” for helping all students. Axel’s teacher, Ms. Lipp, the transportation staff, other students, and his family all came together to help him overcome his fear.

2.2 Requests and Comments by Visitors (20 minute time limit)

Kristen Schlessler, 458 Satus Street, shared that she loved the new “Visit My Stop” app that lets parents know the location of buses as they arrive and depart each stop.

Hilary Wingert, Instructional Coach at Orchard Elementary, shared the sensory walk she created for Orchard. This is a pathway 72 feet long created to use with students who are having a difficult time in class and need a time out. She used this process with several students already with great success. This project has been researched and proven to be helpful in many cases.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Construction Projects

3.1.1 Badger Mountain Elementary-Schematic Design-Second Reading

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, reported at the August 27, 2019 meeting, Design West Architects shared the new Badger Mountain Elementary schematic design for first reading. Mr. Jansons explained a meeting was also held with neighboring property owners to discuss the location of fencing, walking path locations, and trees. Approximately eighteen families were represented and property owners were pleased they were notified and asked for their input.

Public Input: None

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE BADGER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR SECOND READING.

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

3.1.2 Badger Mountain Elementary-Value Engineering

Ms. Johnson explained Value Engineering is an approach to optimize both cost and performance in a facility and to identify items that add cost without contributing value and function to the facility. After reviewing the study, cost savings of approximately \$32,000 are expected. Board discussion followed.

Public Input: None

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

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACCEPT THE NEW BADGER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VALUE ENGINEERING REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

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

3.2 Board Agenda Planning Document

Dr. Schulte shared a planning document the District has been using for several years to plan topics for each Board meeting throughout the year. This is a very flexible schedule with frequent changes. He advised Board members can also suggest additional topics at any time. Potential Board workshops have not been included as these are usually better scheduled as needed during the year. Workshop topics might include budget, strategic planning, school or district improvement plans, superintendent selection, or Special Education Task Force.

The individual Board agendas are sent out two weeks ahead of time to remind Cabinet members of scheduled topics for each meeting. Board discussion followed.

Public Input-None

3.3 Website Post Launch Report

Ty Beaver, Public Information Officer, reported the primary goal of District communications during the 2018-2019 school year was the complete redesign of the District website and all school websites. A website redesign advisory committee provided input on a preferred vendor to assist with the project and feedback on homepage and interior design elements. Mr. Beaver advised many tweaks have taken place since launch and others will be considered and made as needed.

Designated webmasters and administrators at each school were trained on a one-to-one basis throughout last school year. Several additional trainings will be held in the upcoming months. Delta High School will soon be adopting our site design and organization for their own site. Mr. Beaver reported very positive responses from users of the new sites. One particular benefit is the universal website format throughout the District. Board discussion followed.

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, and Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Information Technology, shared they are working towards making the website more compatible for the variety of software programs used by the District. This brings its own set of cost issues and challenges. The end goal is to make the website as user friendly as possible.

Public Input-None

3.4 Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Schulte reviewed the work on the Strategic Plan started last year including a community survey. Superintendent Schulte stated there is reason to put this work on hold for the time being since a new superintendent will be hired next year. He proposed using the District motto “Educating Every Student for Success” as an organizing framework for five large goals during this transition. District administrators would then go to voluntary meetings at each school to ask for input on 1) the five large goals; 2) ideas for what programs, activities, or objectives the District should consider for each goal; and 3) ideas for what evidence, data, or measures the District should consider for evaluating goals and objectives. He also suggested several meetings for parents to gather feedback (requesting that principals ensure several parents from each school be involved in the process). He would like to complete this process by January. Board members liked the idea of keeping the document simple, using this as an interim set of goals, and meeting with each school and the public for input.

3.5 WA State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Policy Consultant Services

Mr. Pettett stated the Board has requested a comprehensive review of all District policies and procedures. Many policies are obsolete, need to be updated, or renumbered. He advised WSSDA provides a service to assist with this process and contact has been made regarding the timeline, cost, and services included. The estimated cost is in the neighborhood of \$20,000, a fee that is thought to be well worth the time saved and the service provided. According to correspondence, WSSDA services would not be available until the first of the year.

Board members felt it was critical to update District policies and procedures and were in favor of this process. Mr. Pettett will continue his contact with WSSDA to see what can be done in the mean time to prepare for this review.

Public Input:

Rebecca Petersen, 1337 Haupt Avenue, asked staff to make sure Board policies match employee negotiated contracts.

3.6 Valedictorian

Superintendent Schulte stated there is a desire to review the standard for selecting valedictorians and the valedictory speaker at graduation. Considerable feedback has been received that the many speeches (last year 28 students) are individually too short and collectively too long, with considerable redundancy. Due to the number of speakers and the duration of the speeches, other speakers have been eliminated. Some students, by their own admission, do not want to speak at graduation, and other students feel the pressure is too great to reach valedictorian status. The most recent change to the policy was in 2002, when the Board added the requirement for five AP classes, apparently in an effort to assure a level of rigor in the selection of a valedictorian. Board input included:

- speak with the student/superintendent advisory committee for their thoughts on the valedictorian process-who should speak? how many speakers?
- alternate experience for opportunity to speak at graduation
- all students who qualify for valedictorian status decide who will speak
- encourage meaningful speeches since District goal is to close the achievement gap
- any change to policy will take place next school year (2020-2021)

Public Input:

Kari Williams, 625 Southwell Street, suggested valedictorians wear different colored robes for recognition.

Brandy Hogg, 1859 Birch Avenue, suggested having a student who struggled tell their story.

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

It was moved by Rick Donahoe and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.8) INCLUDING UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Vote: Cleary, yes; Donahoe, yes; Oldson, yes; and Jansons, yes.

Motion was approved.

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR:

Robinette, Cynthia, 1.0 FTE, Assistant Finance Director, Administration (effective 9/23/19)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL:

INCREASED FTE FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR:

Meier, Julie, .2 FTE, Science Teacher, Carmichael Middle School (increasing to 1.0 FTE)

Marshall, Malini, .8 FTE, Science Teacher, Carmichael Middle School (increasing to 1.0 FTE)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:

NEW HIRES: FOR 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR:

Atkins, Doris, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 09/09/19

Aparicio, Michelle, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 09/16/19
Brooks, Christy, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary School, effective 08/26/19
Crevier, Rebekah, Bus Paraeducator, Transportation, effective 09/23/19
Dixon, Wendy, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 09/16/19
Espiritu, Paula, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 08/26/19
Gardner, April, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 08/26/19
LeCount, David, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 09/12/19
March, Bethany, Nutrition Services, Richland High School, effective 09/12/19
Martin, Jennifer, Nutrition Services, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 09/30/19
McClure, Hailey, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 09/16/19
McKinney, Nick, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 08/26/19
Meyer, Stacey, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 08/26/19
Musick, Cade, Paraeducator, River's Edge High School, effective 09/16/19
Pierini, Christine, Nutrition Services, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 09/16/19
Romero, Sonia, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 08/26/19
Sandifur, Kelly, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 09/16/19
Schrank, Gina, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 08/26/19
Soyars, Heather, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 09/11/19
Smothermon, Sarah, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 09/16/19
Speight, Charlotte, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 09/25/19
Sullivan, Colleen, Paraeducator, River's Edge High School, effective 09/03/19
Turner, Michelle, Nutrition Services, Richland High School, effective 09/09/19
Webber, Helen, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 09/09/16
Younes, Anne, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 09/23/19

RESIGNATIONS:

Hodges, Carla, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/17/19
King, Kay, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 9/30/19
Traeger, Michael, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 6/14/19
LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR:

Ware, Delene, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 9/17/19

4.2 Enrollment Monthly Report

4.3 Budget Monthly Report

4.4 Rules/Regulations No. 6213-Travel

4.5 Rules/Regulations No. 3413-Student Immunization

4.6 Isolation and Restraint Report

4.7 Resolution No. 894-Interlocal Agreements

4.8 Warrant Approval

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10069120 through 10069201 for \$424,526.06
Nos. 51000678 through 51000678 for \$393,591.13
Nos. 71001098 through 71001117 for \$51,724.79
Nos. 10069202 through 10069291 for \$766,336.10
Nos. 51000679 through 51000683 for \$189,771.29
Nos. 71001118 through 71001133 for \$17,308.92
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 52000122 for \$1,357.81
Nos. 20001302 through 20001307 for \$43,319.57
No. 52000123 for \$6,800.00
ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006310 through 40006316 for \$7,297.18

Nos. 54000244 through 54000245 for \$46,514.26
Nos. 40006317 through 40006339 for \$37,516.56
Nos. 74000082 through 74000083 for \$22,153.34
Self-Insurance Fund Warrants Nos. 70000106 through 70000108 for \$77,925.67

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Valedictorian will be added to several more agendas throughout the year.

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Rick Schulte reported Senator Patty Murray was responsible for a \$5.5M addition to the Department of Energy fund. This appropriations bill still requires action by the senate in the spring. Dr. Schulte also met with representatives from STCU Credit Union who are interested in sponsoring scoreboards or a reader board for the Richland High School Auditorium project. He reported Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, will be applying for grants from the Washington State Arts Commission for projects at the new school on Belmont, Tapteal Elementary and the new Teaching, Learning and Administration Center. The District has already received over \$500,000 for projects in our buildings. Dr. Schulte also set aside Friday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 P.M. as a time for individual Board members to stop by. Dr. Schulte reviewed the process for the “*Contact the School Board*” link on the District website and asked for Board input.

Jill Oldson reported meeting with Tory Christensen (Hanford High School) and Tim Praino (Richland High School). She also met with Ryan Beard, new CTE (Career and Technical Education) Director, who shared very exciting plans for the program. Ms. Oldson is also attending the Leadership WSSDA meeting this week.

Rick Donahoe attended several school Open House events and attended the first meeting of the Special Education Task Force. He was very encouraged by the meeting and reported the facilitator was excellent. Mr. Donahoe advised every third meeting there will be a public meeting to gather input from anyone interested in attending.

Rick Jansons reminded all to be looking for facility planning committee members. He will be attending the WSSDA Board meeting and will be speaking regarding opposition to the 24 credit graduation requirement.

Nicki Sintay, 368 Temple Meadow Lane, also stated opposition to the 24 credit requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS