



Board Summary

Construction Projects

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, presented to the Richland School Board, the value engineering report for a new Badger Mountain Elementary based on the project's construction documents. Board members indicated their interest to incorporate much of the reports cost savings, including modifications to the school's outside play area. The board unanimously approved a second reading of the project's schematic design and acceptance of the value engineering report.

Board Agenda Planning

Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte presented to the Board the tentative schedule of agenda topics for the Board's meetings for the 2019-20 school year. While other topics and issues may arise through the year and be added to the calendar, Dr. Schulte said the schedule will allow district administrators to plan and prepare for their reports to the Board, leading to better information and guidance.

Website Post-Launch Report

Ty Beaver, Public Information Officer, presented a report to the Board summing up the launch and immediate effects of the district's new website and those of its schools. The sites were launched on July 1 and have generally been well-received by staff, families and community members for their consistent approach, updated content and improved design. Adjustments will be made as needed to ensure they are best serving the community. Board members asked about possibly streamlining the various online registration and payment portals the district and schools use. Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Information Technology, said the district is regularly evaluating how to make services more efficient and will continue to look for ways to simplify those functions.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Schulte presented to the Board an updated plan to develop a strategic plan for the district. His review of last year's efforts into drafting a strategic plan indicated that there wasn't much buy-in by district and school staff nor by the community. Dr. Schulte says his plan is to meet with the staff at every school and conduct several public meetings for the community to provide their input around the district's current motto of "Educating Every Student For Success." Dates and times for the public meetings will be released as soon as they are scheduled.

Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Policy Consultant Services

Dr. Schulte and Galt Pettett, District Counsel, presented a proposal to the Board to have WSSDA perform a comprehensive review of all district policies and procedures. The review would assist the district in updating and simplifying policies, so they are consistent and meet district needs. WSSDA's review would cost about \$20,000 and likely be a multi-year effort. The association could potentially start the work in 2020. The Board unanimously approved the proposal.

Valedictorians

Dr. Schulte presented to the Board a report on possible changes to how student valedictorian speeches are determined for high school graduations. The district and high schools have received feedback that the current practice of having every valedictorian speak leads to speeches that are individually too short and collectively too long, with considerable redundancy. Due to the number of speakers and the duration of the speeches, other graduation speakers have been eliminated. District and school administrators are looking at ways to rank valedictorians based on GPA, number of AP courses completed and other factors that could determine a single valedictorian to give remarks at graduation. The possibility of having a school's valedictorians select a single speaker among themselves or evaluate who could deliver the best speech are also being considered. Board members also indicated their interest in having students other than valedictorians make remarks at graduation. No changes to how graduation speeches are determined are planned for the Class of 2021.