

Sept. 10, 2019



Board Summary

Enrollment Update

Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte presented to the Richland School board an update on enrollment for the 2019-20 school year. Actual full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 13,486 as of Sept. 5. This is just above the budgeted FTE of 13,479 and is 229 FTE students above enrollment a year ago. The district is still awaiting enrollment figures for high school students participating in the Running Start programs at Columbia Basin College and Washington State University (WSU) Tri-Cities.

Facilities Planning Committee

Dr. Schulte presented to the Board a proposal to form a Facilities Planning Committee to begin planning the next construction projects needed in the district, specifically a third high school. He also shared a draft Request For Qualifications (RFQ) to recruit potential architects and builders for the projects. The committee would be responsible for developing a multi-year Long-Term Facility Plan that will help the Board determine when, where and how to build schools in the future. Board members approved the committee charge to form the committee and the RFQ document. Those interested in applying for the committee can submit an online application until Oct. 11.

School Security Planning

Dr. Schulte presented to the Board a report on potential school security improvement projects for the main entrances at some older school buildings. He suggested approaching an architect about assessing the scope and cost of upgrading those entrances. Board members approved seeking an initial assessment of potential improvements. The Board also discussed the possibility of pursuing a Capital Projects Levy to fund the improvements.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Schulte presented to the Board possible next steps in developing and finalizing the district's strategic plan that began last fall. Dr. Schulte proposed developing an interim plan that could be finished by mid-January and be in place until the next superintendent is hired. Board members expressed a desire for simple set of goals and objectives developed with community input. Dr. Schulte said he would schedule meetings with staff and community groups at all schools through the fall with either he or other district administrators and board members seeking input on the strategic plan.

Superintendent Search Process

Board members discussed taking the first steps in searching for the district's next superintendent as Dr. Schulte will retire on June 30, 2020. The Board approved a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultants interested in assisting in the search for Dr. Schulte's successor. Board members plan to form a Community Search Committee made up of parents, community members, staff and students to assist in the superintendent search. There will also be further opportunities for the community at large to engage with and provide input on superintendent candidates. Details about how individuals may apply to be on the search committee and participate in the process will be released at a later date.

Next Regular Meeting: Sept. 24 @ 6:30 p.m.