



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 8, 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, October 8, 2019, 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, and Jill Oldson. Administrators present: Superintendent Rick Schulte, Deputy Superintendent Mike Hansen, Executive Director of Financial Services Rich Puryear, Assistant Superintendent K-5 and Assessment Brian Moore, Executive Director of Support Services Richard Krasner, Public Information Officer Ty Beaver, 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 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Legal)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 P.M. to review discussion with legal counsel, of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation, if public discussion might result in an adverse legal or financial consequence. (Does not permit an executive session solely because attorney is present.) 42.30.110 (1) (i). The executive session was projected to last thirty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:28 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 Approval of Minutes (September 24, 2019)

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

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2019.

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

Motion was approved.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Presentations/Recognitions

2.1.1 White Bluffs Elementary

Gail Ledbetter-Principal, honored Christan Connors-Art Teacher, and thanked her for her dedication to the mission at White Bluffs “*to educate the whole child in a safe and nurturing community*”. Ms. Connors, with the help of her students, wrote and published two books “*Houdini Was*” (2009) and the “*Big Can*” (2019). She is also involved in a DECA project with Hanford

High School students. Ms. Connors' students visited an assisted living facility in an effort to connect people across the ages. Ms. Connors thanked the Board and administrators for their continued support.

2.1.2 Finance Department-Assistant Director

Rich Puryear, Executive Director of Finance, introduced Cynthia Robinette, newly hired Assistant Director of Finance. Ms. Robinette will replace Clinton Sherman when he moves into the Executive Director of Finance position after Rich Puryear retires at the end of the year.

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

Scott McDonald, 404 Abbot, presented a "Parents Bill of Rights for Special Education" that outlined parent rights. He would like to see policies working towards these rights.

Mariam Bradshaw, 170 Hills West Way, questioned why special education changes were requested quickly last year, while the Board asked to move slowly on any changes to the Valedictorian topic at the last meeting.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Instructional Materials Update

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum (TLC), reported in 2014-2015, the District implemented a six-year plan to address the review and adoption of instructional materials for every content area. At that time, most of the instructional materials in the District were over ten years old. Ms. Blake advised a tremendous amount of curriculum has been updated since then and the District has stayed committed to the six-year plan. Professional development has been a priority with many offerings before the start of school. Updates will continue throughout the year.

Ms. Blake advised TLC and Special Education staff members are working collaboratively on a special education instructional materials review in the areas of Life Skills and Transition services. The committee will meet over the course of the school year to develop and make recommendations for adoption. The 6-12 Science Instructional Materials Committee kicked off work during the professional development days in August. The committee will continue to meet over the course of the school year to research best practices in science instruction.

Dr. Schulte and several Board members stated their preference for a seven-year cycle, considering the cost of materials and time for teachers to familiarize themselves with new materials. Erika Doyle, Assistant Director of TLC, advised it is considerably more expensive to extend or renew a license after the six years has ended. It is best to make that purchase upfront.

Dr. Schulte would also like to see a full year devoted to curriculum review for art, drama, music, and dance. A workshop will be scheduled in the spring devoted to instructional material adoptions.

Ryan Beard, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE), shared OSPI has a separate five-year program renewal cycle and program review process that is clearly defined. Mr. Beard shared CTE classes integrate academics with technical skill development to help prepare students for higher-level courses in college or careers. Mr. Jansons is working to eliminate the 24 credit

requirement as it limits the number of elective classes for students. Mr. Beard is looking at Health Science classes and other offerings that could provide equivalencies or dual credits for classes.

Public Comment:

Rebecca Peterson, 1337 Haupt Avenue, shared the need for updated social emotional curriculum, since curriculum it is not applicable to current behaviors.

3.2 K-12 Math Update

Ms. Blake shared teacher manuals were delivered to staff at the beginning of summer. She shared many teachers appreciated the opportunity to review materials before the start of school. Over 400 staff members attended the new math curriculum training in August. Elementary teachers attended the August *Investigations 3* training at the HAPO Center. Middle school teachers attended the *Ready Math* training and high school teachers attended the *enVision* training. Additionally, Nicki Blake and Dr. Amy Roth-McDuffie are working with principals and teachers to provide professional development and individual building support. Math committees will meet again in May and/or June 2020 to review recommendations and make revisions to the documents.

3.3 2019 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA)

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, advised students completed the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for the fifth year in both English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Testing occurs in grades 3-8 and grade 10. Last year was the first year high school students were required to take both the math and the ELA assessments as part of the graduation requirements. Mr. Hansen advised results vary by grade and are compared to overall state performance. Average ELA scores for the District show positive gains at all grade levels over the five-year window. Math results vary, and while the District outperforms the state at the elementary level, the percentage of students reaching proficiency generally declines as students move from 3rd through 8th grades. He also shared a breakdown of free/reduced lunch and non-free/reduced lunch students, as well as special education students. Mr. Hansen noted that each grade level comparison represents a different cohort of students which can cause swings in the percentage meeting standard in any given year.

Board members asked what improvements are being made. Mr. Hansen shared the recent curriculum adoptions, the iReady pilot last year, and the addition of the PSAT for 9th-11th graders. Brian Moore shared Professional Learning Community (PLC) focuses at several elementaries, especially at low-income schools, have shown positive results.

Public Comment:

Kristen Schlessor, 458 Satus Street, stated she appreciated the disaggregated data and suggested a presentation each fall for PTA/PTOs and parents to help understand the meaning of these test scores.

Mariam Bradshaw felt the iReady curriculum was excellent for her student. She also felt parents should be aware of the “*opt out*” option.

Dr. Schulte reported several efforts including the addition of full day kindergarten, the average class size reduced by five students, and the addition of Promise K to begin second semester, are positive additions but don't necessarily correlate to improved test scores.

3.4 Policy No. 3423-Parental Administration of Marijuana for Medical Purposes-First Reading

Galt Pettett, District Counsel, advised since 1998, Washington law has allowed qualifying patients to use limited amounts of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Mr. Pettett shared the requirements for becoming a qualifying patient. If the patient is under the age of 18 years, there are further requirements for becoming a qualifying patient.

Mr. Pettett stated *HB 1095* does not permit the administration of marijuana to a student by smoking. It does not include medical marijuana as a “medication” that the school nurse administers. It does not extend to employees. It does not restrict districts from taking punitive steps, including termination against employees who possess or use drugs. Neither does it restrict districts from responding to student possession or use of drugs in circumstances unrelated to parental administration to their child who is a qualified patient. Mr. Pettett stated there are parents at this time taking their students off campus to administer products for medical purposes.

Rama Devagupta, 417 Adair Drive, stated this should be done very discretely in a private place.

Kari Williams, 624 Southwell Street, asked if this could affect District funding. Mr. Pettett stated the State would revoke the policy if it caused funding problems.

Miriam Bradshaw asked if students have been returning to campus after medical marijuana is administered. Mr. Pettett stated since this is for medical purposes only, students have been allowed to return to campus.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3423-PARENTAL ADMINISTRATION OF MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES FOR FIRST READING.

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

3.5 Superintendent Search Firm Interviews

Dr. Schulte stated the deadline for proposals in response to our Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was Friday, October 4, 2019. Tony Howard sent copies of the three proposals to Board members for their review over the weekend. Board members are looking for a firm that will work with staff and the community. Board discussion followed.

Public Comment-None

There was consensus from Board members to interview all three firms. October 22, 2019 was chosen as the date for these interviews. Mr. Howard will contact each firm to set up interviews. Dr. Schulte suggested checking references and workloads of each firm in advance. Jill Oldson offered to begin reference checks.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA (approval by a single vote of the Board)
It was moved by Rick Donahoe and seconded by Heather Cleary –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1)
THROUGH (4.2) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:

NEW HIRES: FOR 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR:

Brown, Hans, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 9/25/19
Budge, Camea, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary effective 9/30/19
Farris, Patricia, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 9/20/19
Howard, Christine, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 10/4/19
Lara, Lorene, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/18/19
McCain, Michelle, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 10/10/19
Underwood, Chandra, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 9/23/19
Valdovinos, Diana, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/13/19

RESIGNATIONS (upcoming):

Todd, Elizabeth, Paraeducator, effective 12/20/2019
Heller, Loris, Bus Driver, effective 6/9/2020 (end of 2019-20 school year)
Heller, Paula, Paraeducator, effective 6/9/2020 (end of 2019-20 school year)

4.2 Payroll and Warrant Approval

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10069464 through 10069545 for \$1,801,517.18
Nos. 51000686 through 51000689 for \$9,956.09
Nos. 71001134 through 71001162 for \$89,697.48
Nos. 10069548 through 10069599 for \$256,448.88
Nos. 51000690 through 51000697 for \$151,386.04
Nos. 71001163 through 71001182 for \$158,718.07
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001308 through 20001310 for \$11,859.13
Nos. 20001311 through 20001315 for \$707,847.32
No. 72000011 for \$18,997.41
ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006340 through 40006353 for \$8,462.37
Nos. 74000084 through 74000085 for \$24,154.82
Nos. 40006354 through 40006365 for \$14,142.95
Nos. 54000246 through 54000247 for \$2,928.30
Self-Insurance Fund No. 70000109 for \$34.00
No. 70000110 through 70000112 for \$18,677.39
Transportation Vehicle Fund No. 90000122 for \$152,242.50
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10069046 through 10069053 for \$6,316.77
Nos. 10069292 through 10069410 for \$187,014.19
Nos. 10069411 through 10069463 for \$3,950,351.76
Voided Check for \$8,882.51
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$8,495,178.67
Total September Payroll approved in the amount of \$12,629,978.88

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Several Board members are unable to attend the November 26, 2019 Board meeting during Thanksgiving week. Ms. Cleary and Mr. Jansons will review agendas at the next Board Leadership meeting and decide if topics could be moved to an earlier or later agenda.

The special meeting with local legislators will take place on December 2, 2019. District priorities will be discussed at an earlier Board meeting.

A long term enrollment forecast has been requested from the Hovee Corporation to help with future facility planning.

A public meeting of the Special Education Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at Marcus Whitman Elementary. Board members are welcome to attend.

Mr. Jansons advised those running for school board positions that the Annual WSSDA Conference is in Bellevue beginning November 20, 2019. He asked candidates to mark their calendars to attend the conference if they are elected, as it is extremely valuable.

Mr. Donahoe reported, after speaking with counselors, behaviors are a large concern and would like to hear more about the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) curriculum.

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Dr. Schulte reported on the first of many draft strategic planning meetings at Badger Mountain Elementary. He reported the initial feedback was good. Input will be collected from all buildings over the next month, with several parent meetings in November. Superintendent Schulte advised although enrollment numbers are not published at this time, enrollment will most likely be under the budgeted amount by approximately 100 students (a loss of approximately \$800,000). At the same time, the assessed valuation increased by 12%, which will help offset the loss. Dr. Schulte feels the District will still be in very good financial shape.

Jill Oldson attended Leadership WSSDA and toured several innovative schools in the Spokane Valley and visited a high school in Vancouver with a CTE focus, allowing students to explore career opportunities. She also visited Orchard and Jefferson Elementaries and witnessed a large amount of time spent on behavior issues.

Rick Donahoe attended several Open Houses and encouraged all to read “The Teen Brain”.

Rick Jansons attended the WSSDA Assembly and shared several legislative priorities being discussed including: SEBB funding, eliminating the 24 credit requirement, and reinstating the salary model.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS