

Dec. 10, 2019



Board Summary

Board Member Oath Of Office & Officer Elections

Board members Kari Williams & Jill Oldson, who were elected to office in the November 2019 general election, were administered the oath of office by Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte. Rick Donahoe, who was re-elected and participated in the meeting via telephone, will be administered the oath at a future meeting. Board members also voted to delay the election of board officers until all board members could be physically present.

Facility Planning Committee Update

Dr. Schulte gave an update to the Board regarding the formation of a Facility Planning Committee to give recommendations for the future construction of facilities for the district. Seven people submitted applications for the committee, with a total of 10 to 12 members needed. Dr. Schulte asked the Board to consider how it would like to select committee members and to nominate other candidates. The Board also discussed when a future bond could be put on the ballot to finance future construction projects and how changes or additions to programs could affect that timeline.

Washington Integrated System Of Monitoring (WISM)

Mandy Cathey, Executive Director of Special Education, presented to the Board a report on the district's participation in the Washington Integrated System of Monitoring (WISM) review and Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Project. The WISM review monitors educational results and outcomes for students with disabilities, with the aim of promoting special education program effectiveness and ensuring the district is meeting state and federal requirements. Parents of students receiving services will be surveyed by the state while the district will complete a self-assessment and develop a plan to implement any recommendations. The Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Project is part of new state legislation to support educators in using more inclusionary practices in the classroom. Specifically, Tapteal Elementary, Carmichael Middle School and Richland High School will participate, with all three schools developing their own plans in coordination with the recommendations from the WISM review.

Twenty-Four Credit Update

Assistant Superintendent Todd Baddley provided an update on the district's efforts to implement the state's 24-credit graduation requirement. Those efforts include increasing dual credit, 'two-for-one' courses and summer school options. High schools also are providing more support for students who have fallen behind through credit retrieval, after school tutoring and regular outreach to students identified as needing help. By the end of the 2018-10 school year, 81 percent of high school freshman were on track to graduate in four years, compared to the state average of 73 percent.

Mr. Baddley added that the district will also be updating policies in the coming months based on recent changes by state lawmakers. One policy will automatically apply all high school coursework completed in middle school to high school transcripts unless it is explicitly waived by a student's parents. The other change modifies a two-credit waiver from a student's 'unusual circumstances' to a student's 'circumstances', though no state mandatory credits may be waived. That will allow students to graduate with 22 credits.

Board members discussed the importance of building flexibility into graduation requirements to allow students to explore passions and take full sequences in specific course areas or trades. They requested district staff to review the possibility of modifying the value of course credits in response to districts on a trimester system offering full credits though their courses do not last as long as RSD's semester-level courses.

Superintendent Search Update

The Board finalized the calendar for conducting the search for the district's next superintendent, including determining opportunities for public participation in the process. [Learn more about the Superintendent Search Focus Groups.](#) The Board also discussed how the position will be advertised, preliminary details of how candidates will be screened and essay questions for candidates.

Next Regular Meeting: Jan. 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Richland School District

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