

January 14, 2020



Board Summary

Board Member Oath Of Office & Officer Elections

Richland School Board member Rick Donahoe, who was re-elected to office in the November 2019 general election, was administered the oath of office by Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte. Board members voted on board officer positions. Rick Jansons will remain Board President, Jill Oldson will be Board Vice President and Kari Williams will be the Board's legislative representative.

Enrollment – Badger Mountain Elementary

Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte provided an update to the Board on the availability of state matching dollars to rebuild Badger Mountain Elementary. The new school and several other projects are part of the bond approved by voters in February 2017. The district will not qualify for state matching dollars for Badger Mountain Elementary nor for the planned Elementary #12 due to enrollment being below what was projected when the bond was passed. Dr. Schulte says the district can still proceed with rebuilding Badger Mountain Elementary during the 2020-21 school year as originally planned by using a combination of local funds to fill the gap from the loss of state matching dollars. He recommended the Board move forward with the project. Board members will vote on whether to move forward with rebuilding Badger Mountain Elementary on the original timeline at the Jan. 28 regular meeting.

Promise Kindergarten

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum, provided an update to the Board on the district's new Promise Kindergarten (Promise K) program. The program is aimed at helping students who have not had any formal early learning opportunities receive an expanded kindergarten experience. The district's two Promise K teachers have been meeting with parents of enrolled students ahead of the first day of class on Jan. 22. Each class has 16 students and there is a waiting list in case any enrolled students do not attend.

Communities In Schools Update

Mrs. Blake and representatives from Communities In Schools (CIS) Benton-Franklin provided an update to the Board on CIS services in RSD schools. The district contracts with CIS to provide students and families with services and resources that go beyond the classroom. The district has CIS site coordinators at 10 schools who help students and families with everything from winter coats and hygiene supplies to connecting them to mental health and social services. Staff shared stories of their successes and how CIS has helped students stay engaged in school.

Facility Planning Committee Update

Board members approved community and staff members who will be part of the Facility Planning Committee charged with making recommendations on future construction projects. Two board members will also be part of the committee. Its first meeting will be Jan. 23 and it will meet every three weeks after that, with its recommendation for a Long-Term Facility Plan being presented to the Board in June 2020.

Individual Education Program (IEP) Monitoring

Mandy Cathey, Executive Director of Special Education, presented a report to the Board on the implementation of a new IEP monitoring system. The system involves new software for staff to enter details of IEPs that tracks deadlines and ensures documents are compliant. Staff have received training on the software and guidance on self-monitoring tools and practices to use in conjunction with it. District-level staff also are monitoring IEPs and following up with building-level staff. Since the district has begun tracking IEPs following an implementation system, about 16 percent of IEPs have been found non-compliant, largely due to missing goal pages resulting from user error of the new system. District staff will continue to provide support to building-level staff so IEPs are compliant.

Outline Of Budget Preparation & Adoption Process

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Financial Services, presented a report to the Board on the initial work of drafting the district's budget for the 2020-21 school year. Last year the district began a more collaborative budget process, pulling departments together to outline their intent for the upcoming year. The district is beginning to forecast enrollment and revenue for the year which will be used to allocate funding, Mr. Sherman said, while administrators are beginning to build their spending proposals. A preliminary budget will be presented to the Board during a workshop meeting in April with plans to have the Board make a final vote on the budget by the end of June.

Superintendent Search Update

Board members received a report on attendance at focus group meetings for community and staff members to gather input on desired qualities and background on the district's next superintendent. More than 600 people have completed an online survey seeking similar feedback.

Tri-Cities Community Health Center

Dr. Schulte gave a report to the Board about efforts by Tri-Cities Community Health (TCCH) to bring a community health center onto the campus at Jefferson Elementary and Early Learning Center. A Community Health Center is designed to serve the needs of typically underserved areas such as those with lower incomes, young children, and limited access to health care. The district set aside space for such a facility to be built at the ELC. TCCH recently informed the district that it has acquired the funds to build and open a health center at the school as early as August 2020. The health center would be operated independently of the district and would place no costs on the district. Several board members voiced support for the project but also raised questions about liability and services that will be provided. The Board will vote on a contract with TCCH for the health center at a later regular meeting.

Next Regular Meeting: Jan. 28 @ 6:30 p.m.

Richland School District

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