



Board of Directors, Special Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2020  
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400  
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a special meeting Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 4:30 P.M. at 615 Snow Avenue, Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members present: Heather Cleary, Rick Donahoe, Kari Williams and Jill Oldson.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Jansons called the special meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

### **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)**

The Board adjourned to executive session at 4:30 P.M. to discuss qualifications of an applicant for employment or review of performance of an employee (final actions must be taken in public and discussions affecting employees generally must be held in public) 42.30.110 (1) (g). The executive session was projected to last fifteen minutes, with action expected. Executive session ended at 4:45 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 4:46 P.M.

### **3. SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES**

Mr. Jansons advised the District received several dozen applicants for the superintendent posting. Initial interviews took place in executive session on Friday, March 6, 2020. Four candidates were selected to return for second interviews including:

- Lexi Cunningham, Salt Lake School District Superintendent
- Mark Davidson, Medicine Hat, AB, Superintendent
- Jon Holmen, Lake Washington School District Deputy Superintendent
- Carole Meyer, Moses Lake School District Deputy Superintendent

The days scheduled for candidates to be in District will be March 24-27, 2020 with day long interviews with Board members, staff, and a public forum each evening. More details will be available soon including times and how those meetings will take place. Site visits were planned to take place before these dates but may have to be completed via teleconference since several of the candidates' school districts have already been closed due to COVID-19. It is still the goal of the Board to make the superintendent decision on March 28, 2020.

### **2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Schulte reported meeting with representatives from Pasco and Kennewick School Districts, Washington State University, and Columbia Basin College regarding COVID-19 planning. He also

participated in several other meetings with the Benton County Health District, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and ESD 123. All meetings were to gather information on plans to deal with COVID-19 with more questions than answers at this point. Dr. Schulte shared the various ideas discussed, with the safety of District students and staff in the forefront. He reported this is a new challenge that the District has not had to face with many ramifications. Although no cases have been reported in Benton County, experts do believe cases will begin to appear as in other parts of the state and country. The closure of schools will have certain impacts on families needing childcare, meals, and continuing some sort of instruction for students. With the length of time away from school in question, Districts are waiting for direction from OSPI regarding waivers for days and instructional hours, funding, graduation credit requirements, WIAA regulations, etc.

Discussion started within the District several weeks ago with plans for delivering breakfast/lunch bags to students. Buses could then deliver these meals to bus stops where students could pick them up. Dr. Schulte canceled all after school activities and events beginning today.

Dr. Schulte stated it is typical to have an emergency resolution to allow the Superintendent authority to take measures when needed in times of emergency. He asked Mr. Pettett, District Counsel, to create this resolution. Mr. Jansons reported the information received so far stipulate the last day of school will be June 19, 2020 and the date for graduation will stay the same. A decision regarding credits will need to be made after the length of a closure is known. Board discussion followed with all stating the seriousness of their decision and the ramifications to families involved.

It was decided to call an emergency Board meeting at 3:30 Friday, March 13, 2020, to make a decision on school closure.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS