



Board of Directors, Special Meeting Minutes, March 18, 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 Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 3:30 P.M. at 615 Snow Avenue, Richland, WA, 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 3:30.

2. COVID-19 PLANNING

Dr. Schulte reported an “Incident Management” type team has been meeting daily for two hours to discuss COVID-19 planning. He recognized staff for their dedication and stated he feels fortunate to have this team of employees willing to work together for the benefit of students and staff.

Superintendent Schulte shared beginning plans for online learning. Chromebooks are being distributed to all students in grades 2-5. Teachers have been doing great work communicating with families and students to help them navigate online learning. Equity is important moving forward. Charter is offering free internet installation, with many other online resources being offered at no cost as well. The District is planning on delivering paper materials to students in the near future. Plans are also being developed to support English Language Learners (ELL) and our special education population.

Dr. Schulte stated daycare is a challenge. Boys/Girls Clubs are providing care for medical and emergency personnel with 62 students being served in five locations. Questions regarding graduation, transcripts, etc. are being discussed, but these decisions will depend on when students are able to return to class. Spring sports will be cancelled for the time being, as well as all activities. Running Start, Graduation Alliance, etc., will continue. The Special Education Task Force (SETF) has three areas of recommendations that still can be brought to the Superintendent and Board by the end of the school year. He explained a soft suspension of hiring has been put in place. All field trips have been cancelled and refunds will be processed.

Dr. Schulte reported over 4,000 meals have been provided with many volunteers assisting with this process, as well as bus drivers delivering the meals to schools and other locations. Maintenance and grounds crews will continue work and construction is proceeding as planned. The bid opening for the Richland High School Auditorium is set for March 31, 2020. There was a good contractor turnout for the building walkthrough which was encouraging. Dr. Schulte cancelled the Facility Committee meeting for tomorrow and is recommending not running a bond in 2021. With many changes coming in the future months, a campaign would be difficult to run, enrollment could change, bonds may be refinanced, and this delay would give the new superintendent a chance to be

involved in the planning process. OSPI will continue apportionments, even without enrollment counts.

The Board meeting schedule/protocol will be communicated to meet the Open Public Meetings Act. The Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) will be giving more direction in the near future. Mr. Jansons stated the District will continue its practice of bringing issues to the Board for approval at two meetings. Board discussion followed regarding a wide range of technology available to be sure meetings are open and transparent.

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

THE BOARD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ADJUST BOARD MEETING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 DISTRICT-WIDE EMERGENCY IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, INCLUDING ALLOWING ANY OR ALL BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS, SO LONG AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ABLE TO LISTEN TO AND/OR VIEW THE BOARD MEETING AND THE INTERACTION AMONG ALL BOARD MEMBERS.

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

Mr. Pettett added the same form of communication that is currently being used to publicize Board meetings should be continued.

Dr. Schulte stated due to crowd size guidelines, very few administrative staff will be required to attend the meeting on March 23, 2020.

Ty Beaver, Communications Director, will create a submissions page for any input on the COVID-19 website. Tony Howard, Executive Director of Human Resources, will send daily memos to staff with updated information.

Rick Jansons reported on the Superintendent search process. Site visits, via zoom conferences, have already been completed for Carole Meyer (Moses Lake) and Mark Davidson (Medicine Hat, AB). Friday, March 20, 2020, zoom conferences will take place in the IT conference room for Jon Holmen (Lake Washington) and Lexi Cunningham (Salt Lake City, UT). He also announced a time to get together with all who took part on the interviews from 3:00-5:00 P.M. on Monday, May 23, 2020. Ken Hays, Richland Education Association (REA), also has information to share. Structure of meetings for groups (Public, Cabinet, Principals, REA, PSE) to meet the candidates will be communicated when detail decisions are made. The City of Richland has offered the use of their video facility if needed for the public portion of interviews. Questions could be sent through the District website in advance of the public forum. The Board requested communication go out to stakeholders in a variety of forms (social media, robo call, website, etc.). Hank Harris, HYA Search Consultant, will develop survey questions to allow the public to weigh in on the candidates for review by the Board.

Board members will meet on March 28, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. in executive session to discuss candidates and hopefully make a decision on the new superintendent to replace Dr. Schulte beginning July 1, 2020. This will be announced at an open session after the executive session concludes.

Dr. Schulte reported Jefferson Elementary School was chosen by the Council for Excellence in Education as one of 31 schools in the state to exceed the norms for growth and performance. Jefferson will be involved in a study by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Board adjourned to executive session at 4:59 P.M. Executive session was expected to last thirty minutes with no action expected.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Superintendent Search)

Executive session began at 5:05 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 thirty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 5:20 P.M.

Board members returned to the regular meeting at 5:20 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS