



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 14, 2020
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a regular zoom meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members participating: Heather Cleary, Rick Donahoe, Kari Williams and Jill Oldson.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call-All here

1.3 Approval of Minutes (March 6, 2020; March 10, 2020; March 12, 2020; March 13, 2020; March 18, 2020; March 20, 2020; March 23, 2020; March 24, 2020; March 25, 2020; March 26, 2020; March 28, 2020)

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

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 6, 2020; MARCH 10, 2020; MARCH 12, 2020; MARCH 13, 2020; MARCH 18, 2020; MARCH 20, 2020; MARCH 23, 2020; MARCH 24, 2020; MARCH 25, 2020; MARCH 26, 2020; MARCH 28, 2020.

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

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 COVID-19 Update

Mr. Jansons explained the state has limited Board meetings to only discussing COVID-19 plans and updates, as well as “necessary and routine” business such as consent agenda items.

Dr. Schulte stated there have been many changes in the last couple weeks including significant changes to the continuous learning plan and spring break. The Governor extended the “stay at home” order through May 4, 2020, and school will continue until June 19, 2020. The first instructions received stated only supplemental work could be directed. Now the Phase II plan coming out next week must include essential learnings. The State Board of Education also passed a resolution to modify graduation requirements. Dr. Schulte reported cabinet meetings are taking place daily, with instructional planning meetings and association meetings bi-weekly, as well as other internal and external meetings. New information is coming in daily.

Superintendent Schulte stated there are a variety of sub groups working on the Phase II Learning Plan. An internal draft should be ready as early as Thursday, with a release to staff shortly after that. The plan will be sent to students and parents sometime next week.

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, reported on a recent teacher survey to gain a pulse of where teachers are at this time with online learning. He reported 377 teachers responded with a great representation from all levels. Results were even better than expected with 9% - great, 44% - going well, 43% - ok/making it work, and only 3% stating it wasn't going well. He reported the main reason for lack of involvement was lack of student interest or parents not pushing students to engage. Staff members are reaching out to families that are not engaging to help make connections and discover any issues families may be experiencing.

Dr. Schulte stated it is our intention to do the survey several times. A parent survey will also be developed for later distribution as a way to gather information on parents' needs. The difference between Phase I and Phase II is that essential learnings from core curriculum will be addressed, not just supplemental work.

Mr. Moore advised the elementary changes are quite simple while the secondary changes are much more complicated. The elementary plan (K-5) was sent out this afternoon with a survey to allow staff input. This will be reviewed by Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum, and Richland Education Association (REA) leadership representatives. Input will be used to rewrite/update the document.

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported this work was divided between sub committees including Graduation Requirements (Tim Praino-Principal-Lead), Six-twelve Instruction (Tory Christensen-Principal-Lead), Special Education (Mandy Cathey/Tracy Blankenship-Executive Directors), and Career and Technical Education (Ryan Beard-Director-Lead). He reported over 30 people are involved in the groups including teachers, principals, and REA leadership representatives. All are working collaboratively and communicating between committees.

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, explained the Special Education sub group involves 25 staff members. They are using the new guidance document from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). They are working with a para support group to provide services to special need students while it isn't possible to provide one-to-one services. Dr. Schulte advised contacts are being made for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP). He reported River's Edge High School students are continuing with online learning. Richland students attending Tri Tech are running on Kennewick School District plans, while Delta High School students are using Pasco School District plans.

Chromebooks have been issued to all students grades 1-12. One of the challenges the District is working on is how to define evidence of participation, whether that means taking attendance, completion of projects or competency based credits. More direction will be coming in the future on this topic.

Board members were interested in seeing the teacher survey results and were in favor of sending this type of survey out several times, as well as a survey for parents to share input. They were also pleased with the amount of participation by a variety of staff members on the planning committees.

Dr. Schulte stated many questions are being asked regarding graduation credits. The State Board of Education passed new rules to help manage the credit process. The rules require all students on track

to graduate by the end of summer will graduate. High school principals and counselors have looked at each student and feel that the District may graduate more students than ever before, possibly over 90%. The District typical graduation rate is 83%, although much work has been accomplished this year to drastically improve that number. Principals and counselors are working with those students on the bubble, helping them to get registered for online classes so they have the opportunity to graduate. Students need to make a “good faith effort” to attain competency. Deliberate efforts are being taken to help disadvantaged students. Dr. Schulte stated the District needs to submit a waiver. WSSDA offered a sample resolution, but Dr. Schulte didn’t feel a resolution was necessary. Board members agreed that a resolution was not necessary.

Board members questioned the higher graduation rate. Mr. Baddley shared more students are involved in credit retrieval, more credits are being offered in middle school and online, and counselors and principals are making connections with students at risk of not graduating. There were also questions regarding grades. Dr. Schulte advised more direction will be coming from the state next week. All Washington schools count a “pass” as a “pass”, but we don’t know what out of state institutions or the NCAA will do.

Dr. Schulte shared there is a committee working on how the ceremony might look. There is not an option to have an in-person ceremony on June 5, 2020 as previously planned, since school and all school activities have been cancelled until the end of school (June 19, 2020). Many ideas are being discussed including a virtual ceremony. Many schools are looking into online ceremonies and companies are trying to sell their products. Mr. Baddley stated a meeting will take place tomorrow for further discussion. Students and parents will be involved in this decision.

Superintendent Schulte advised the nutrition services and operations departments, many of which are essential employees, have been working hard preparing and distributing over 100,000 meals so far. Bus drivers are delivering these meals and learning packets to students, custodians are disinfecting daily, and grounds crews are taking care of school grounds. PPE equipment was gathered to donate to medical personnel.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA (approval by a single vote of the Board)

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (3.1) THROUGH (3.2) WITH REVISED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

3.1 Personnel Actions

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Powell, James, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 4/9/2020

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL:

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Winward, Christine, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs

NEW HIRES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Bosma, Hilari, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs

3.2 Payroll and Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006621 through 40006622 for \$17,706.80
No. 40006623 for \$2,077.85

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001428 through 20001429 for \$36,856.47
No. 52000149 for \$4,017.50
Nos. 54000264 through 54000266 for \$94,292.83
Nos. 20001430 through 20001437 for \$1,584,934.75
Nos. 52000150 through 52000151 for \$17,113.95

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10072557 through 10072608 for \$371,727.88
Nos. 51000837 through 51000839 for \$36,568.16
Nos. 71001571 through 71001587 for \$32,774.52
Nos. 10072618 through 10072652 for \$268,063.75
Nos. 51000840 through 51000847 for \$370,233.64
Nos. 71001588 through 71001603 for \$23,837.49

Self-Insurance Fund Nos. 70000156 through 70000157 for \$25,545.26
Nos. 70000158 through 70000159 for \$29,278.37

Transportation Fund No. 90000123 for \$442,912.17

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10072101 through 10072102 for \$4,168.88
Nos. 10072187 through 10072188 for \$2,712.72
No. 10072252 for \$41.33
Nos. 10072343 to 1007 2509 for \$220,329.50
Nos. 10072510 through 10072556 for \$4,243,473.59

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$8,579,453.32

Total March Payroll approved in the amount of \$13,050,179.34

Mr. Jansons, on behalf of the Board members, thanked staff members for their dedication to the “new normal” type of work, many of whom are working even more hours during this time of change.

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, was asked to report on the Richland High School Auditorium project bid opening earlier in the day. He explained there were seven bids which still need to be verified, but he feels the Board will be pleased that the project can be completed under budget.

Mr. Janson asked the public to send any comments to boardfeedback@rsd.edu.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS