



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, May 26, 2020
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a regular meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. via Zoom, Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members participating via zoom conference: Heather Cleary, Rick Donahoe, Kari Williams and Jill Oldson.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-Evaluation of the Superintendent)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 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 forty-five minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:05 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:33 P.M.

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. He reminded all there are several ways to leave feedback for the board including boardfeedback@rsd.edu or info@rsd.edu.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call-All here

1.2 Approval of Minutes (May 12, 2020)

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

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2020.

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

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 COVID-19 Update

2.1.1 School Closure Emergency Waiver Application

2.1.2 Resolution No. 906 – 2019-2020 Emergency School Closure Waiver

2.1.3 Updated 2019 – 2020 School Calendar

2.1.4 Richland School District At-Home Learning Plan

Superintendent Schulte stated at the last Board meeting the District’s “At-Home Learning Plan” was shared to show how it meets the requirements of the new WAC 392-901. He also shared model

resolutions prepared by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) seeking a waiver of the 180-day and 1,027-hour basic education requirements. The waiver and the application are necessary in order for the District to continue receiving the basic education apportionment from the state. The resolution must be adopted before May 29, 2020. There have been no changes made to the At-Home Learning Plan. Dr. Schulte asked the Board to approve Resolution No. 906, 2019-2020 Emergency School Closure Waiver. A revised annual calendar showing the last day of school as June 16, 2020 and the latest version of the District's At-Home Learning Plan were also shared as required.

Mr. Jansons advised the State counts days and hours of instruction. School was closed for ten days and in lieu of making up all ten days, they are allowing districts to apply for a waiver of five days.

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

THE BOARD APPROVE RESOLUTION No. 906 - 2019-2020 EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE WAIVER, INCLUDING THE AT-HOME LEARNING PLAN AND UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR.

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

Dr. Schulte continued to share COVID-19 related topics. Last Thursday students were given a bag containing meals for all four days of the holiday weekend for a total of 36,830 meals. Schools are a significant source of nutrition for students during the school year. He praised our nutrition services, transportation, para, and leadership staff with this remarkable achievement.

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, stated each week a survey is being sent out on a rotating basis to teachers, parents, students and principals in the hopes of designing a system with stakeholder input for the restart of school and/or any further school closures. Mr. Moore shared the results of the second parent survey (mid-May) were very similar to the results from the first survey in mid-April including:

- half of parents said they wanted a break for the summer, while others wanted some work that students could do at their own pace (weekly activities)
- concern regarding the number of platforms (learning management systems) and apps being used.

Board members shared concern regarding the many apps and platforms. Teachers use different tools for communication. Board members would not like to limit teachers' innovation, but a clear pathway with communication up front including information or training for parents is desired. Mr. Jansons advised we also need to wait for guidance from OSPI as they are looking in to the same issue.

Dr. Schulte stated another parent survey will be sent out soon asking parents to think about the start of school in August/September. Questions may include: will you be sending your students back to school? which classes are easier to complete online? which are not? Would you like partial day or staggered day attendance if needed? What safety issues are you most concerned about? This information is needed for planning purposes.

Dr. Schulte stated the District will be working towards more consistency within departments as well. With virtually no time to prepare for online classes, teachers were forced to move quickly into the totally online world of education with a fair amount of independence.

Mr. Jansons advised significant decisions will be needed for the re-opening process. We are expecting direction from the large OSPI committee working on this in the near future. He likes the idea of parent input through the surveys. Details of re-opening are going to be important, and decisions need to be communicated to staff and parents as soon as possible.

Superintendent Schulte reported we are preparing a process and structure for the start of school that will allow us to quickly adjust to changing circumstances and rules. There is a need for a more nimble and responsive planning, decision-making, and implementation process. We understand that between now and the start of school (in whatever form) there are significant decisions that must be made with limited time and limited opportunities for the kind of extensive process the District is accustomed to. Many processes were reviewed, and leaders decided on a return to school roadmap which is a more decentralized process, delegating parts of planning and decision making to smaller groups. Plans include decisions for now, before school starts, and after school starts. Those groups will then report back to a coordinating group to assure similarity of format and to prevent conflict or contradiction. Then the consolidated and integrated drafts will be disseminated seeking feedback and input before beginning implementation. Dr. Schulte explained any plan under implementation will remain a work in progress subject to ongoing adaptation and improvement.

Mr. Jansons stated the process looks like it is well thought out and asked that it be shared with stakeholders for input and show how the District is preparing for our students.

Dr. Schulte advised, according to the Governor's requirements, vulnerable employees should not return to work until Phase 4. We need to find out how many of our staff fall into that category and what classifications they are? Just the number of these employees is needed at this time for planning purposes.

Board members asked about the return to school process and committee members. Dr. Schulte advised we are leaving that up to committee leaders. In the past when we have tried to pick members, the process has been extremely time consuming. He encouraged Board members to contact committee leaders if they have people in mind. He also said it was appropriate to have several board members involved in the larger decision-making process. The decisions that affect more people need to be brought to the broadest possible audience.

Rick Donahoe stated we need to use common sense, keep our eyes on the big picture, and realize we are all working together to do the right thing for our students. Board members asked to be kept informed of decisions so they are aware of what is happening and can understand the justification behind decisions.

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

Mr. Jansons added to the personnel report in the consent agenda that he would work with Dr. Schulte to allow for any adjustments to his June 2020 calendar and related contract provisions.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (3.1) THROUGH (3.3) 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:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Norris, Suzanne, Paraeducator, 2nd year LOA

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Schulze, Heidi, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 5/19/2020

Weddle, Janis, Secretary, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 8/7/2020 CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT

Spears, Tamber, From Paraeducator to 1FTE, SPED Teacher Pool for 2020-21 school year

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL:

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Smith, Megan, 1FTE Jason Lee 4th Grade

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Varland, Amber, 1FTE RHS, CTE-Family Consumer Science

Ellefson, Debbie, 1FTE Leona Libby Middle School, Science

3.2 Budget Monthly

3.3 Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant No. 40006635 for \$64.00

Nos. 54000269 through 54000270 for \$7,587.05

Nos. 40006636 through 40006637 for \$1,645.00

No. 54000271 for \$1,647.71

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001462 through 20001464 for \$7,934.26

No. 5000156 for \$1,218,590.32

No. 72000018 for \$420.00

Nos. 20001465 through 20001470 for \$1,520,559.69

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10072984 through 10073018 for \$259,477.02

Nos. 51000876 through 51000880 for \$257,298.90

Nos. 71001663 through 71001676 for \$132,677.16

Nos. 10073103 through 10073136 for \$183,547.46

No. 51000881 for \$315.00

Nos. 71001677 through 71001689 for \$39,077.59

SI Fund Warrant No. 57000004 for \$17,839.64

Self-Insurance Fund No. 70000163 for \$1,750.00

Dr. Schulte stated if COVID restrictions for Board meetings are loosened, he would like to have several items on the June 9, 2020 meeting agenda:

- Special Education Task Force progress report
- Construction project summary report
- Budget report

Mr. Jansons added a WSSDA Board training workshop is available remotely rather than in person and can be scheduled in three one-hour trainings if needed. Mr. Jansons also thanked parents for participating in surveys, thanked staff for their continuous work during this emergency, and thanked all those working on the high school graduation ceremonies to make these memorable for students.

Kari Williams thanked all for their tremendous work distributing meals when many are worried about food for their children.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS