



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, June 30, 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 Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom, Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members present: Heather Cleary, Rick Donahoe, Kari Williams and Jill Oldson.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 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](mailto:boardfeedback@rsd.edu) or [info@rsd.edu](mailto:info@rsd.edu).

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

### **1.1 Roll Call-All Here**

## **2.0 BUSINESS**

### **2.1 COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Schulte announced he met recently with Athletic Directors and the Return to School scheduling committee to consider possible options for the start of school. He asked administrators to describe the process and invited Board members to ask questions and share their ideas and values so we can incorporate those into the plan moving forward. The start of school is scheduled for September 1, 2020. There will be many changes in the upcoming months. We need to prepare for all scenarios using guidance from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Department of Health (DOH). This will also be partly dependent on which phase our county is in at the time. A document put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics was also released recently which could change some of the guidance provided.

#### **2.1.1 Hybrid School Schedule Planning Status Update**

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, explained the goal is to establish a schedule that includes as much face to face learning as possible, with the hope of being fully onsite the first day. Planning is still in very early stages, and we still have questions about the OSPI and DOH guidance. The Reopening Planning Guide from OSPI is not explicitly and clearly aligned to county reopening phases and the rules in the Guide are intended to apply to all four Phases of reopening. The challenge is preparing for three scenarios, fully on-site instruction, partially on-site instruction, and fully online instruction (Continuous Learning 2.0). The District also needs to be able to move to fully online (2.0) within 48 hours if needed. Mr. Hansen shared staff will present updates at the July 14 and July 28 Board meetings and will interact with the Board in between as well. The plan will be ready for the July 28, 2020 meeting and will be flexible based on the status of the COVID spread in the community, though it isn't entirely clear how the OSPI Planning Guide matches the state and county re-opening phases. The three scenarios are included in the phases below:

- 1) Phase 1-County officials may have additional requirements we will have to implement if Benton County is still in Phase 1 when school starts. Begin the year fully online but with

Continuous Learning Plan 2.0 being developed at this time. This will be a much more robust plan than used this spring with actual learnings and accountability.

- 2) Phase 2-This may include online for most but emphasizes the needs of our most at-risk students such as those with an IEP, ELL, homeless, or otherwise at risk. The priority will be on having these students in school most of the time, with other students either part time or online. This would involve a rolling schedule to allow as much class time as possible for those students.
- 3) Phase 3-Schedules get more complex very quickly. Elementary students would have an AB kind of schedule with roughly half of students attending classes either Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday, with Monday used for teacher planning and training. Mondays would still be a student day with online classes for both groups. High risk students would be in class four days a week. Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported the high school master schedule is driven by student interest and graduation requirements, which makes scheduling more complex since some classes are not offered every period. Middle school schedules are easier. High school schedules will be the driver as we attempt to keep families with students in elementary, middle and/or high school on similar schedules. We will be brainstorming with bargaining groups to create options to make schedules work.
- 4) Phase 4-Groups no larger than 50 are allowed with 6 foot social distancing, face coverings, screening, and hand washing still needed.

Mr. Hansen reported we are in exploratory mode with three smaller teams working to create schedules that will best meet the needs of all students. He also shared the parent survey showed high interest in a Virtual Academy. Mr. Hansen met with Jesse Buccholtz, newly hired Director of Online Learning, Dr. Shelley Redinger, incoming Superintendent, and members of the Spokane Virtual Academy (K-12) to explore options. The District is able to enroll a limited number of students in the Spokane Academy, or we can train District staff and create our own Richland School District Virtual Academy. We are expecting at school enrollment to be down due to online learning interest, and District teachers will most likely be available to be trained and work in this online academy.

Mr. Jansons asked board members for questions/comments:

Ms. Cleary asked if secondary students have already signed up for classes. Mr. Baddley stated they had, but this could be re-done this summer if needed.

Mr. Donahoe shared that he had been involved in a split schedule (AM/PM) and is glad we are not considering that type of schedule.

Ms. Williams asked that if classes are online, we seek minimum requirements for students and teachers with very clear expectations. She liked the rolling schedule in Phase 2 for Special Education students with no more than five students. For secondary students if in a 3-period schedule, she asked for shorter classes or breaks provided if classes needed to be longer. Ms. Williams liked the idea of training our own teachers for a Richland School District Virtual Academy.

Ms. Oldson asked if seniors will be required to attend six periods if they have met their graduation requirements. Mr. Baddley stated that has been past practice, but there may be exceptions due to COVID. Students are also allowed to graduate early if requirements have been met. She also asked if we are limited to using schools as teaching rooms or can we use community facilities? Dr. Schulte responded that various locations have been considered, several outside of Richland or West Richland. Buildings must meet code for housing students which is different than other uses. Space could be available, but every space would require an additional teacher. We have approximately 600-750 classrooms. If all students were attending, we would need another 600-750 teachers. The new Tapteal Elementary building may be complete by November which would potentially add 26 classrooms. Various ideas are being considered for those classrooms, but again would involve 26 more teachers.

Ms. Oldson suggested a later start time for secondary students. Dr. Schulte shared this has been discussed over the years but would be better if agreed to with neighboring districts.

Mr. Jansons suggested Friday as the weekly online student day for all students if using an alternating day schedule, since many employees at Hanford have Fridays off. This would allow those parents to be home with their students. Dr. Schulte stated they chose Mondays since holidays more often fall on Mondays, and we want to give students as much class time as possible. Mr. Janson also likes the idea of having District staff involved in an online academy. He stated parents are interested in specialist classes (music, drama, library, art, PE). Dr. Schulte assured all that it is the District's intent to preserve those programs.

Ms. Cleary shared there are retired teachers in the area that may be available on a temporary basis. Dr. Schulte stated, because of COVID implications, the District will most likely need more substitute teachers. Training will need to be provided to substitute teachers for online learning.

### **2.1.2 Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Guidance on Extracurricular Activities**

Dr. Schulte advised WIAA is an independent body and includes such activities as music and cheer competitions as well as athletics. This guidance was just recently received in memo form and was formatted into a user-friendly matrix. Many of the fall activities begin before the start of school. The District needs to begin planning for the fall season as soon as possible.

Mr. Baddley stated the document contains lots of information and other districts are asking to use our format as it lays information out by risk factors for each activity and phases. Our league includes schools in four counties which complicates guidelines. Mr. Baddley is meeting with other districts to explore options.

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Low risk: cross country, individual swimming events, golf, some track events
- Moderate risk: basketball, bowling
- High risk: football, wrestling, cheer and dance stunts, choir and band

Unlike the Reopening Schools Planning Guide, the WIAA guidance is directly connected to the county reopening phases. Mr. Baddley explained a few of the restrictions involved:

- Phase 1 there is no conditioning, no practices, and no contests.

- Phase 2 allows only groups of five, no sharing of equipment (can't pass balls), no locker room usage, pods of students stay together (coaches stay with pods), no contests, no transportation.
- Phase 3 limits gatherings to 50 people with attendance at less than 50%, use of locker rooms only with social distancing, balls cleaned intermittently, no spectators or vendors.
- Phase 4 moderate risk sports practices and contests may begin, gear cleaned between each use, 6-foot distancing when not in competition. New guidance just today states that high risk sports such as football would be cleared to practice, but no information on competitions was included. In all phases, if a school must close, no activities will be allowed for that school.

Board members appreciated the spreadsheet which adds more clarity. They shared their concern for students with football and marching band not able to begin practices until the county is in Phase 4. Training is needed for staff regarding Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students as these changes will be challenging for all families. We need to start communicating the WIAA guidance with parents as soon as possible. Mr. Baddley stated since this information was just received, he is currently meeting with Athletic Directors, they will meet with coaches, and then regroup again next Monday. Hopefully information can be shared at that time. Dr. Schulte stated most information included in the guidance is copied from the national organization and the standards are consistent nationwide. He reiterated that our league consists of four counties which will most likely be in various phases. This will also affect dance, cheer, and music competitions. Dr. Schulte stated, because of the interest in student engagement, there are various eSports available online which could be encouraged to help with conditioning. Mr. Baddley is also concerned about the "no cut" policy in middle school, since we only have a limited amount of space available with social distance guidelines. Lack of transportation and locker room usage could also have implications for families who are unable to provide transportation.

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

Ms. Williams asked to pull Item 3.2-WIAA Delegation.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (3.1) AND (3.3).

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

Ms. Williams asked if the WIAA Delegation was an annual resolution or a COVID requirement. Mr. Jansons advised this is a standard yearly requirement.

It was moved by Kari Williams and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3.2-DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO WIAA.

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

Motion was approved.

### **3.1 Personnel Action**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL:**

##### **NEW HIRES**

Buccholtz, Jesse, 1FTE, Director of Online Learning, effective July 1, 2020

#### **CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL:**

##### **NEW HIRES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21**

Gates, Lisa, 1FTE, SPED RR, Lewis & Clark/Jefferson

Weinman, Nicole, .70FTE, Health, Richland High School

##### **RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR**

Spencer, Reed, Correction from 6/23/2020, 1FTE, Science Richland High School

### **3.2 Res. No. 905-Delegating Authority to WIAA**

### **3.3 Superintendent Contract**

Mr. Jansons reported the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) is asking the Department of Health to consider the report from the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance information.

He also shared this is Dr. Schulte's last day after seven years of service to the District. On behalf of the entire Board he thanked Dr. Schulte and his wife for their years of service to students starting in 1971. He has appreciated the friendship, counsel, and keen intelligence when looking at problems. He announced Dr. Schulte has offered to volunteer for the month of July until the new Superintendent, Dr. Shelley Redinger, comes on board.

Dr. Schulte advised during his career he has attended over 1,000 Board meetings and has enjoyed working with 38 board members. Dr. Schulte stated Board members are volunteers and are the most accessible part of our democracy, with easy access to a large number of populations. He thanked all for the opportunity to serve the District.

### **4.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **4.1 July Board Meeting Dates**

**4.1.1 July 14, 2020; July 28, 2020** – Meetings will take place at 6:30 P.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS