



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 8, 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, September 8, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom, Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members present: Heather Cleary, Kari Williams and Jill Oldson.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 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 6:29 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 P.M. Mr. Jansons explained the State has limited Board meetings to only discussing COVID-19 plans, as well as “necessary and routine” business such as consent agenda items. This order was recently extended until October 1, 2020.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 Approval of Minutes (August 25, 2020)

It was moved by Heather Cleary and seconded by Jill Oldson that –

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25, 2020.

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

Motion was approved.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Requests and Comments by Visitors (20-minute time limit)

Liz Cronin, Richland Virtual School Teacher, stated Dr. Buccholz was amazing but shared concerns regarding the start of the program including some teachers not having classrooms or equipment, students not receiving some supplies, a low budget, and technology issues. Mr. Jansons stated he has heard some similar comments. He shared that equity is important to the Board.

Leah Volkoff shared her frustration as a working parent that some private schools have received waivers to start school in person and asked the Board to consider this. She wants to hear if virtual learning will be long term or short term.

Jessi Smith is a parent of an autistic child and shared her struggles with online instruction. She asked that special education students be allowed to return to in person instruction. Mr. Jansons stated that topic will be discussed tonight.

Kristen Chapin stated kids need to be in the classroom and wants the District to be ready to begin immediately when approval is given. Mr. Jansons stated the Board shares the desire to open as soon as possible.

Gary Moskovitz inquired about SAT testing. Todd Baddley was asked to follow up with him.

Frank Dettrey requested that life skills students whose classes are small be allowed to return to in person instruction. Mr. Jansons reported that is an agenda topic for tonight.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Start of School Update

Dr. Redinger asked administrators to give quick updates on the start of school. Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, reported 30-50% of teachers are working from their classrooms adhering to social distancing and wearing masks. He reported kindergarten registration is down and encouraged parents to register their students if they haven't already.

Mr. Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, stated principals reported 90-98% of students were participating and in a much better place than spring. Limiting platforms to Zoom, Google suites, canvas, and screencastify has helped students and parents. He reported schedules are still being adjusted. Teachers are working with principals to locate students that have yet to participate.

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, reported a good start to school with three days of family connection meetings. He shared this was a great way for students and families to build relationships. He is pleased with the instruction taking place and stated both teachers and families have worked hard to make this a better experience.

Dr. Jesse Buccholz, Director of Virtual Learning, stated the program is up and running. He thanked teachers and the IT department for working through many technical issues. He reported students were able to retain 90% of classes they requested.

Dr. Tracy Blankenship, Executive Director of Special Education, thanked her staff for their hard work to connect with families. The biggest challenge is deciding how to best serve our students.

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, reported this has been a challenging start to the school year. Teaching and Learning staff members did a great job at the last minute to provide training for new staff.

Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Information Technology, reported his staff members have been working long hours to resolve issues and provide the support everyone needs.

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, reported the District is able to offer any community child under the age of 18 free meals. Last week over 2200 bags, 17,000 meals, were

passed out. Meals may be picked up at any of the schools. Meal pickup is on Fridays as follows: elementaries and high schools-11:30am-12:30pm; middle schools: 4:30-5:30pm. Students do not have to be present to pick up the meals.

Ms. Oldson asked how many students are not connecting. Mr. Hansen stated if teachers are not able to connect with students, they tell their principals and an outreach begins to find out what issues the family is having and help to get the student get connected. Ms. Oldson wants teachers to feel supported and realize this is not a reflection on them.

Ms. Williams appreciated the feedback from teachers and asked for follow-up. Mr. Hanson stated he has already made contact.

3.1.1 Regional Health Information

Tony Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported the Benton Franklin Department of Health website crashed earlier in the day so new cases from the weekend were not available. 215 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in the last 14 days. Board members stated it would be more helpful to report the number of cases per 100,000. Dr. Redinger will ask for that information at her next weekly meeting.

3.1.2 Special Education Return Update

Mr. Hansen stated Dr. Blankenship has been working hard to develop options for a small number of students that staff are unable to provide Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) services online to return to in-person learning. Dr. Blankenship shared two plans for Board review (2A and 2B). 2A will allow small groups of seven students or less to attend in-person classes two days per week on a rotating basis in order to comply with health and safety guidelines and meet student needs. Students to include those in Life Skills, structured, extended resource rooms, students with visual/physical impairments, and those served in special education with 1:1 paraeducators.

Dr. Blankenship shared the biggest difference in Stage 2B is bringing back a few more students, allowing Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams to determine which students need this support that can't be provide in an online setting for a small part of the day. Both plans provide staff members to have a 30-minute planning time at the beginning and end of each day.

Mr. Jansons stated Phase 2A will serve students with the most significant needs. 2B will help students who were only receiving services 20% of their day (English Language Learners (ELL), social emotional struggles, etc.). Ms. Oldson asked if we could include all the students in 2A, then leave it to the discretion of the IEP teams to determine those additional students in 2B needing services that cannot be performed online. Ms. Cleary suggested this be on a case by case basis. Mr. Jansons asked if classes could be small enough for an every day model. Dr. Blankenship stated that would be a larger group. He would really like to see students in class every day. Ms. Williams agreed. Board members also stated they would like plans with staff groups, safety protocols, and physical safety measures in place when the decision to return is made. Board discussion followed.

Mr. Krasner advised his department has been working on cleaning protocols and ordering PPE since the closure in March and feels confident they will be able to accommodate buildings, as well as students and staff. Tony Howard, Executive Director of Human Resources, reported the labor groups have been tremendous during this period.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Heather –

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE PHASE 2A WITH THE CAVEAT THAT STAFF SAFETY CONCERNS WITH HIGH RISK CONDITIONS, DEFINED BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ARE PROTECTED, AND THAT WE APPROVE PHASE 2B FOR THOSE STUDENTS REQUIRING ONSITE SERVICE TO PROVIDE FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE).

Ms. Williams asked for clarification that the Board is approving certain 2B students who can't be served FAPE in an online setting, at the discretion of the IEP Teams.

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

Dr. Redinger thanked Dr. Blankenship and stated the District will continue to communicate to staff and families.

3.2 Enrollment Update

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, stated the District's budgeted enrollment for 20-21 is 13,400 FTE plus 250 FTE Running Start = 13,650 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students. The first official student enrollment count date is September 4, 2020. Mr. Sherman reported at this time the District is 314 students down (not including Running Start students which start in October) which amounts to an approximate \$2.75M reduction in funding. The District has planned for some contingencies this year including no travel and some orders not being filled. He explained the biggest decline is in Kindergarten enrollment as some parents are holding their students out an additional year.

3.3 Construction Update

3.3.1 Hanford High School Field Project - Schematic Design

Caren Johnson, Capital Projects Director, reported the Schematic Design is the phase of design where architects and engineers prepare rough diagrams and give a general view of the components and the scope of the project. Due to the recent school board agenda restrictions, the project is further along in design than would normally be shared with Board members. In order to proceed with our current timeline, we are requesting approval of Schematic Design at this board meeting, and design development at the following school board meeting. Ms. Johnson advised the project schedule anticipates completing construction documents in October and bid advertising in December. Depending on bid outcome, the project can be awarded with construction starting in January 2021 with a roughly 9-month construction period. The estimate at Programming was \$6,183,032. Through value engineering steps, the project team has decreased the scope to accommodate the project minimums but still incur a shortfall. However, the Capital Projects budget has unallocated funds available to meet project needs and cover the shortfall.

Ms. Cleary questioned the additional cost of the project increasing from \$6.1M to \$7.2M. Ms. Johnson stated most of the increase was due to infrastructure costs and code requirements. After discussion, Board members requested a Board Workshop to review all remaining construction projects, timelines for completion, and contingency budgets. Then address both the Hanford High

School Field Project Schematic Design and Design Development at the September 22, 2020 meeting. The workshop will be held on September 15, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Sherman reminded all that funds from the bond are specifically earmarked for construction projects and cannot be moved to cover other expenses.

Ms. Johnson also reported the Teaching, Learning and Administration Center (TLAC) will be completed soon after meeting final inspection. Support services staff members will begin moving boxes and furniture on September 21, 2020. The first Board meeting in the new building is expected on October 27, 2020.

The Richland High School Auditorium Project is going well with re-roofing started, most of underground plumbing in place, and the front entry poured. Construction at the new Tapteal Elementary has been halted several times due to COVID-19, but is now moving along well with the first floor almost complete, the gym floor installed, and kitchen equipment being delivered. The project should be complete in mid-November. The design and permits are ready to go for the construction of the new Badger Mountain Elementary. Ms. Johnson said they are expecting some competitive bids as contractors are eager for public work jobs. As soon as the Hanford High School Field Project is complete, the Fran Rish Project will begin.

3.4 Director Position Replacement Process

Mr. Jansons shared with the recent resignation of Director Rick Donahoe, the Board is faced with the task of appointing a replacement. The appointee will serve until the next election (November 2021). The appointee can, of course, file and run as a candidate in that election. Mr. Jansons shared a timeline for Board review:

- September 9 Post application on website and advertise position to the community
- September 30 Completed applications due to the district
- Week of October 5 Executive Session to review applicants and select candidates to interview
- Mid-October Schedule and conduct interviews in Executive Session
- October 27 Board vote to select replacement. Replacement will be seated at this meeting. (Option-meet in special session on October 26, to select the candidate with the goal of seating them at the start of the regular meeting on the 27th.)

Board discussion followed. Ms. Cleary and Ms. Oldson will finalize the application questions tomorrow and the application will be posted online soon thereafter. Board members liked the idea of meeting on October 26, 2020 to select the candidate so they could be seated at the October 27, 2020 meeting.

3.5 Policy/RR No. 3225 – School Based Threat Assessment

Dr. Redinger reported this policy is time sensitive and introduced Galt Pettett, General Counsel. He shared House Bill 1216 requires each district to establish a school-based threat assessment program. HB 1216 sets out the basic framework and creates a statewide network that provides districts with training and technical assistance to implement school-based threat assessment programs and other safety measures. The goal of the school-based threat assessment process is to take appropriate preventive or corrective measures to maintain a safe and secure school

environment, to protect and support potential victims, and to provide assistance to the individual being assessed. Mr. Pettett reported the District's Wellness Committee was instrumental in developing this policy and regulation. Like the Wellness Committee, team members under this policy and regulation come with a variety of areas of expertise.

It was moved by Kari Williams and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE POLICY/RR NO. 3225-SCHOOL BASED THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

It was moved by Heather Cleary and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.5).

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Steiner, Elizabeth, .40FTE French, Richland High School

Steiner, Elizabeth, .40FTE World Geography, Richland HS, 1st semester only Non-Continuing

Baker, Rebekah, 1FTE, Consultant Homelink

Villarreal, Kimberly, 1FTE, Counselor, Tapteal Elementary

Bare, Nadine, 1FTE, MS Social Studies, Richland Virtual School Non-Continuing

Boatman, Bradley, 1FTE, HS Science, Richland Virtual School

Holt, Kayzin, 1FTE, SPED RR, Hanford High School

Scovazzo, Gianna, 1FTE, Math, Richland High School, Non-Continuing

Roach, Jeromy, 1FTE, Math, Libby Middle School, Non-Continuing

Wise, Mary, 1FTE, Resource Room, Sacajawea Elementary, Retire-Rehire Non-Continuing

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

West, Elizabeth, 1FTE, Resource Room Teacher, William Wiley/Badger Mountain

Baker, Nick, 1FTE, was LLMS Non-continuing, now HS Math, RVS 1FTE Continuing

INCREASE IN FTE FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Clements, Amy, .20FTE increase, Speech Language Pathologist (now 1FTE)

Valdez, Paul, .40FTE increase, MS Science, Richland Virtual School (.60FTE at EMS, now 1FTE)

Hall, Melina, .40FTE increase, 3rd Grade, Richland Virtual School (now 1FTE)

Simmelink, Ryan, .20FTE increase, AVID, Richland High School (now .80 NC, .20 continuing)

Adams, Alexandra, .40FTE increase, ELA, Libby MS Non-Continuing, (now .40NC, .60 cont.)

OUT OF ENDORSEMENT FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Steiner, Elizabeth, French, Richland High School

West, Elizabeth, SPED, William Wiley/Badger Mountain

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Martin, Kathy, Kindergarten, Marcus Whitman, 9/1/2020-6/15/2021
Borms, Torrey, PE, Marcus Whitman 9/1/2020-6/15/2021
Doyle, Rachel, 5th, Sacajawea, 9/8-10/2, 2020
Johnson, Amber, Occupational Therapist, intermittent 9/1-12/31, 2020
Macias, Lynn, 1st, Sacajawea, 9/1/2020-6/15/2021
Anderson, Deborah, 2nd, Sacajawea, 9/1/2020-6/15/2021
Servoss, Brenda, 3rd, Badger Mountain, 9/1-12/31, 2020
Brown, Megan, SPED, WW/BM, 9/1-12/18, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Harrington, Elizabeth, Assistant Director, State and Federal Programs, effective 9/8/2020

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Goldman, Savina, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 8/31/2020
Griffiths, Sarah, Paraeducator (Rehire), Jefferson Elementary, effective 9/8/2020
Hasanovic, Adbulah, Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 9/1/2020
Maine, Zach, Custodian, TLAC, effective 9/1/2020
Mata, Monyca, Temporary Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 9/8/2020
Ng, Chen (Mia), Paraeducator, Special Programs, effective 9/14/2020
Strycker, Laura, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 9/9/2020

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Krisher, Amanda, 1FTE, Contract Specialist, Human Resources, effective 9/1/2020

RESCINDING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Brannon, Heather, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 8/31/2020

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Beutler, Alexa, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 9/8/2020
George, Barbara, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 9/3/2020
Irby, Mary, Paraeducator, Tapteal & Jason Lee Elementary
Plake, Mattie, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 9/7/2020
Saueressig, Kendal, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary
Stacy, Toni, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Fujihara, Sue, Paraeducator, Special Programs, effective 9/30/2020
Weddle, Janis, Secretary, EMS, eff. 8/07/2020 (cor. from 'Resignation' on 5/26/20 Pers Action)

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Colee, Brandon, Grounds Applicator, Maintenance & Operations, effective 8/24/2020

4.2 Resolution No. 817 – Elementary No. 11-Final Acceptance

4.3 Resolution No. 918 – Elementary No. 11-Building Commission

4.4 Lobbyist Contract – Gombosky Consulting

4.5 Payroll and Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant No. 40006663 for \$3,735.00
Nos. 54000287 for \$54.55
Nos. 40006664 through 40006668 for \$17,763.95
Nos. 54000288 for \$376.51

Nos. 7400010 for \$13,988.30

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001524 through 20001526 for \$45,539.07
 No. 72000024 for \$229,876.03
 Nos. 20001527 through 20001528 for \$234,002.83
 Nos. 52000175 through 52000177 for \$112,215.42
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10073845 through 10073875 for \$396,960.01
 Nos. 51000957 through 51000962 for \$29,003.97
 Nos. 71001867 through 71001877 for \$31,778.83
 Nos. 10073878 through 10073943 for \$636,751.92
 Nos. 51000963 through 51000974 for \$63,176.12
 Nos. 71001878 through 71001895 for \$117,169.11
Self-Insurance Fund Nos. 70000170 for \$2,942.50
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10073667 for \$872.74
 Nos. 10073724 through 10073774 for \$112,420.71
 Nos. 10073797 through 10073840 for \$4,432,622.20
 Nos. 10073841 through 10073844 for \$8,291.22
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$8,386,164.31
Total August Payroll approved in the amount of \$12,940,371.18

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-None

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger thanked all staff for a great, but very odd start to the year. She also complemented Mr. Krasner on the meal “kit” used to hand out weekly meals for students and stated other district are replicating this process.

Jill Oldson spoke regarding the upcoming Legislative Assembly and stated the Board should give Ms. Williams voting credentials. Information has been emailed to Board members.

Rick Jansons thanked staff members for all their work preparing for the start of school.

Kari Williams asked to meet with Ms. Oldson and Dr. Redinger to review legislative issues before the Legislative Assembly.

Dr. Redinger also reported Mr. Jansons will become the Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA) President for the upcoming year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS