



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 22, 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 22, 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 6:26 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:30 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.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 Approval of Minutes (September 3, 2020; September 8, 2020; September 14, 2020; September 15, 2020)

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

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 2020: SEPTEMBER 8, 2020; SEPTEMBER 14, 2020; AND SEPTEMBER 15, 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)

George Reddick is a middle school science teacher and shared his concern at the lack of information shared with staff and asked the Board to look critically at the process to bring students back and get feedback from teachers.

Kristen said no one envies the position the Board members are in. She expressed her concern with the online learning her children are receiving and stated they were missing out on receiving 100% of their education. She doesn't believe there is a risk for kids and encouraged the Board to either get students back in school or figure out how to provide a better education online.

Sarah Hall is a parent and kindergarten teacher and asked that the District find a way to meet the needs of students and keep everyone safe. She shared her concern with students only in school for two days week and asked the Board to consider an AM/PM half day schedule for students.

Jayne Brackett shared the health district recommendations and suggested a hybrid AA/BB schedule with cleaning in between.

Liesel Volk thanked the Board for being transparent and shared she feels very supported.

Jenn Smith stated as a parent and a teacher she prefers the half day AM/PM model giving students more time with their teachers. She asked to consider choice for those teachers who wish to return and parents that need to get back to work or have students with high risks.

Jadon Ogala is a student and prefers the AM/PM schedule since he has a younger sibling that he helps daily. He stated engagement has been low and it is hard not to see classmates.

Jennifer Perez works at an essential business and has been back to work for several months. She encouraged the Board to reopen schools and shared her concern for the ability to pass a bond in the future.

Michelle Robertson stated she has four children at home and is concerned about AP classes and courses needed for upper level students. She suggested the District needs to come up with a better way to get more instruction, especially with higher level classes, than they are currently providing.

Brada Baker shared science teachers have tables in their rooms and asked if they would be able to have plexiglass dividers or some option to help provide for social distancing.

Joy is the parent of a life skill student. Her child has been attending zoom instruction daily and is concerned about moving to the in-person classes for only two days a week. Consistency is the key and she feels like two days a week is not ideal.

Colleen Mangano stated she really appreciates the district's caution and feels we need to move with deliberate speed. She feels we need to continue to look at the numbers and doesn't want to see students or staff become ill.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Regional Health Information/District Letter

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, shared several different communications including the Washington Risk Assessment Dashboard, the Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard, and the Benton Franklin Health District Daily Counts Dashboard. He explained the confusion from these documents as some are not updated frequently, some are projections, and labeling is confusing. Dr.

Person, Benton Franklin Department of Health (BFDOH), stated in her recent letter to districts that we should plan for the reopening. The county still has not reached the goal number of 75 cases per 100,000 but is showing encouraging improvement.

3.2 Return to School Update

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, reported a meeting was held earlier to discuss details of the hybrid model. He reminded all how quickly information is changing. Over 400 teachers attended a zoom training focused on instructional models. More professional development is planned, and he recognized the Special Education staff for their work to prepare for students tomorrow.

Dr. Tracy Blankenship, Executive Director of Special Education, also shared the hard work of special education staff members preparing for the return of students. She reported supplies and instructional resources have been delivered to buildings. She visited all buildings with Mr. Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, Mr. Pettett, General Counsel, to review the set ups in each classroom to provide for social distancing. She thanked the nurses and support services staff for their work to prepare classrooms for the safety of students and staff. Staff members are excited to see students return tomorrow.

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, stated her department has been working hard to provide materials and professional development for staff.

Dr. Jesse Buchholz, Director of Online Education, reported Richland Virtual School (RVS) is going well. All students have access to teachers and courses including elective classes. Staff members have been working on gathering supplies needed for students. Grade Guardian has been added to make student data available so teachers can provide better support for students.

Richard Krasner advised Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been provided to buildings to serve the special education students and staff returning tomorrow. Nutrition services, transportation and support services employees have worked hard to provide all the support needed for a safe return for special education students.

Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Information Services, reported his staff members have been working hard to provide proper support for students and staff. Many of the issues with Chromebook and zoom are not specific to the District, but rather being experienced across the country. He reported 225 Hot Spots have been purchased. 100 were delayed but should be arriving shortly. Out of 225, approximately 195 have been allocated. Mr. Leseberg is working with Communities in Schools (CIS) staff to identify those in need. Schools without CIS staff members have been directed to reach out to Mr. Leseberg directly.

Ms. Cleary asked for the number of students returning to Stage 2 in-person classes tomorrow. Dr. Blankenship stated 358 students were given the opportunity to return, with 75 students saying they will continue online at this time. This will mean approximately 140 students will be in classes since each day half of the students will take part for two days each week.

Ms. Williams requested the Benton Franklin Health District report the number of cases per 100,000 population, as this would be less confusing to base decisions on. She also asked for information regarding the number of children under 18 that have attempted suicide during this time. She thanked Dr. Buchholz for his work with RVS. She asked how many how many Hot Spots are still needed? Dr. Redinger stated she is meeting with STCU today and they have expressed interest in helping to obtain Hot Spots.

Ms. Oldson asked how many hotspots are already in use? Mr. Leseberg will get that information to her and reported CIS also have other programs they can leverage to help families access Wi-Fi. Ms. Oldson wants to be sure we are not missing families as it is critical for student success.

3.2.2 Stage III Hybrid Discussion

Mr. Jansons advised the District received a letter from Dr. Person (BFHD) that the area case count may drop as soon as October 1, 2020, and districts should start preparing for students to move forward to the Stage 3-hybrid schedule. Mr. Jansons feels it is important to ask BFHD for whatever criteria they are going to use to open or shut down schools. He does not want to see the District open for a short period, then have to close quickly. He also asked for guidelines for when COVID cases are discovered in schools. Parents, staff, and community members have shared hundreds of emails with opinions that are clearly divided, all with valid concerns. There is unity from all that we love our students and want what is best for them. He shared a proposal that addresses the needs of both groups.

Mr. Jansons asked that administrators and bargaining units work over the next week to address specific concerns, then report to the Board at a special meeting on October 1, 2020 to address how concerns will be met. His plan, designed with community unity in mind, is to bring students back in the hybrid scenario while maintaining cohort sizes as small as possible, consider social distancing, cleaning and safety precautions, and validate that the District is ready to meet those needs.

Secondly, to reopen the elementary in stages by bringing in K-2 or K-3 in with a target of mid-October. Many of those students have not been in school yet and need to learn routines. These students would start at least a week before others. He asked staff to look at the Hybrid AA/BB schedule again. He also stated, with so many on both sides of this issue, we need to survey the number of families that wish to keep their students online even when the hybrid in-person classes begin. Mr. Jansons stated we need to find a way to serve those families who don't want to come back to in-person classes and we can't expect teachers to be able to teach virtually and online daily. The Board has received hundreds of emails both in favor and opposed to in-person classes. Each family's needs are unique, and we want to offer opportunities that are best for all students.

Mr. Jansons advised secondary schedules are more complex and possibly the best time to move to hybrid learning for grades 6-12 would be at the quarter break in early November. The October 1, 2020 date would give administrators time to survey parents, address issues, coordinate with staff, and present a detailed plan at that time. He asked for input from Board members on this proposal.

Ms. Williams reported the Board is listening to parent and community input and the plan proposed emphasizes giving parents a choice. Many teachers and families want to return to in-person classes

and this would open that avenue for parents. She is eager to hear the detailed plan and is in favor of surveying parents to see each family's choice.

Ms. Cleary agreed it would be good to survey parents and Dr. Redinger agreed since each family has a different set of circumstances. She thanked the public for the many emails sharing their unique needs.

Ms. Oldson echoed how much the Board appreciates the community and teachers providing input and reported each email is read by all members. We want to make sure that we can provide the best education and are committed to do what is best for kids.

Mr. Jansons announced there will be a Board special meeting/workshop on October 1, 2020 where administrators will present a concrete plan that the Board could approve that evening or shortly thereafter. He asked families to be thinking about their preference of continued online or returning to the hybrid in-person classes and reply to the survey.

Dr. Redinger advised the District wants to be measured and take all safety precautions. We will learn a lot with Special Education students coming back tomorrow. The District will continue to monitor BFHD information and have already received plans to address break outs in schools. She reported administrators and staff will work together to get details in place for the October 1, 2020 meeting.

3.3 Enrollment Update

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, stated since the last report enrollment has decreased 85 full time equivalent (FTE) to an even 13,000 students, which is 400 students less than budgeted. He reported the trend is slowing. He met with Mr. Hansen and Dr. Redinger to discuss contingencies still in place.

3.4 Construction Update

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, shared information regarding the Hanford High School Field Project Schematic Design and Design Development and asked for Board approval. A workshop to review all construction plans and progress was held last week. Ms. Johnson will share another project update once the construction document is complete.

3.4.1 Hanford High School Field Project-Schematic Design

3.4.2 Hanford High School Field Project-Design Development

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

THE BOARD APPROVE HANFORD HIGH SCHOOL FIELD PROJECT-SCHEMATIC DESIGN AND DESIGN DEVELOPMENTAS PRESENTED.

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 Kari Williams –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.4).

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

INCREASE IN FTE FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Weinman, Nicole, .30FTE, PE/Health, Richland High School (now .70cont./ .30non-cont.)

Steiner, Elizabeth, .10FTE, CTE Class, Richland High School (Non-continuing first semester only)

RESIGNATION FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Johnson, Amber, .60FTE Occupational Therapist 10/9/2020

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Davis, Jeff, 1FTE, Counselor, Richland High School, effective 9/28/2020

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Barboza Armendariz, Cindy, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 9/8/2020

Harrah, Brittney, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 9/17/2020

Moreno, Astrid, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 9/21/2020

Stiver, Lynsey, Secretary, Enterprise Middle, (moving from Paraeducator), effective 9/16/2020

Townsend, Steven, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 9/21/2020

Witwer, Alisha, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 9/21/2020

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Hoeckelberg-Waldo, Heidi, Paraeducator/Home Liaison, ELC, effective 10/26/20-end of school yr.

Roy, Cari, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 9/3/2020

LAYOFF STATUS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Morrow, Erin, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 9/01/2020

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Breslau, Benjamin, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 9/25/2020

Brewer, Kendra, Nutrition Services, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 9/22/2020

McBride, Celesti, Paraeducator, Special Programs, effective 10/9/2020

Mitchell, Davina, Paraeducator (had been on Leave of Absence), eff. 9/11/2020

Schulz Antonissen, Katharina Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/17/2020

Wardlow, Pamela, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/30/2020

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Keller, Debbie, Nutrition Services, Enterprise Middle School, effective 10/31/2020

Klug, Sheree, Kitchen Manager, Hanford High School, effective 11/16/2020

4.2 Policy/RR No. 3225-School Based Threat Assessment

4.3 Budget Monthly

4.4 Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 54000289 for \$10,416.05

Nos. 54000290 through 54000291 for \$4,969.01

Nos. 74000111 through 74000112 for @2,769.84

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001529 through 20001532 for \$265,724.59

Nos. 52000178 through 52000178 for \$959,115.93

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10073944 through 10073986 for \$323,007.83
Nos. 51000975 through 51000985 for \$477,856.31
Nos. 71001896 through 71001915 for \$47,260.47
Nos. 10073987 through 10074030 for \$133,062.25
Nos. 51000986 through 51000992 for \$124,731.11
Nos. 71001916 through 71001929 for \$64,287.03
Transportation Vehicle Fund Warrant No. 90000124 for \$534,919.47
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos. 57000014 through 71000015 for \$41,528.89

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jansons announced there will be a special meeting/workshop on October 1, 2020-Time to be determined. There is an executive session scheduled for tomorrow to continue goal setting with Dr. Redinger.

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger stated she is looking forward to visiting SPED classes tomorrow.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS