



Board of Directors, Special Meeting
October 26, 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 October 26, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom, Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members participating: Heather Cleary, Kari Williams and Jill Oldson.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jansons called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He advised Board members will interview six candidates, then move to executive session, then come back to order and vote on the candidates. Each candidate will be asked six questions and will have fifteen minutes to complete their answers. To be fair to all, the interview time allotted will not be extended.

2.0 Public Interviews for Board Vacancy-Position No. 3

Mr. Jansons welcomed each candidate and shared the process for tonight's meeting. The following candidates were interviewed.

- **Brooke Cannon**
- **Rama Devagupta**
- **Ken Gosney**
- **Ben Griggs**
- **Samantha Mason**
- **Amy Oliver**

3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION (*Personnel*)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:20 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) per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g). The executive session was projected to last twenty minutes, with no action expected. Mr. Jansons extended the executive session for ten minutes at 7:43. Executive session ended at 7:54 P.M.

4.0 Action to Appoint-Board of Directors Position No. 3

Mr. Jansons explained the process and asked each member to speak about the candidate they feel raises to the top of the candidate pool. He explained as the Board moves towards a consensus, he will request a motion.

Ms. Cleary stated all candidates were very impressive with a variety of backgrounds. With current issues such as COVID, schools reopening, and the need for strategic planning, she feels Ken Gosney has the experience with school budgets, business skills and vision needed for the future.

Ms. Oldson reported each candidate has strengths in various areas. She likes the qualities Amy Oliver shared including business experience, communications skills, high energy and having students in the District.

Ms. Williams shared this is a very hard decision. She feels Ben Griggs has a strong analytical mindset and his data skills will be a valuable asset to the Board. She also feels having students in the District is important.

Mr. Jansons advised both Ms. Oldson and Ms. Cleary went through this process and apologized for the wait time. He encouraged all candidates to run for the election next fall when this Board position term is up. Mr. Jansons stated this is the hardest time in his 19 years on the Board with so much division in the community. The District will be dealing with budget cuts, followed by revenue shortfalls. He feels Ken Gosney brings quite a bit of experience during a very difficult time. Mr. Gosney has great community knowledge and can help us navigate budget shortfalls.

Ms. Oldson stated Mr. Jansons made good points about Mr. Gosney's familiarity with the District, but she values having a fresh vision as well. She feels Mr. Griggs could bring lots of experience with complex issues. She also likes that he has children in the District.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board then returned to executive session at 8:10 P.M. expected to last ten minutes. Mr. Jansons extended the executive session at 8:24 for ten more minutes. Executive session ended at 8:35 P.M.

Ms. Cleary shared Ken Gosney has a working knowledge of the budget, strategic plan experience, and is a good collaborator.

Ms. Oldson stated she is struggling with this decision and encouraged all candidates to run for school board next fall. With budget shortfalls coming she feels Ken Gosney is the person we need right now.

Ms. Williams reported having candidates so highly qualified is a great problem to have, but makes the decision very difficult. Having someone with school experience to help us get through the current issues will be valuable and she is recommending Ken Gosney as well.

Mr. Jansons shared any of the candidates would be good Board members, but he feels Mr. Gosney has the District and community background to hit the ground running.

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

THAT THE BOARD APPOINT KEN GOSNEY TO FILL BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION No. 3 VACATED BY RICK DONAHOE.

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

Mr. Jansons congratulated Mr. Gosney and advised Dr. Redinger will administer the Oath of Office at tomorrow night's regular meeting. He thanked all candidates for their time participating in this process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS