



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 27, 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, October 27, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom, Richland, Benton County, 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.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here and appointee

1.3 Approval of Minutes (October 12, 2020; October 13, 2020; October 15, 2020)

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

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 12, 2020; OCTOBER 13, 2020; OCTOBER 15, 2020.

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

Motion was approved.

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 Oath of Office - Board of Directors-Position No. 3 Vacancy

Dr. Redinger administered the Oath of Office to Ken Gosney to fill Position No. 3 vacated by Rick Donahoe. She congratulated him on being selected to fill the position.

2.2 Return to School Update

Dr. Redinger shared administrators will share the most recent data and plans for the District's return to school.

2.2.1 Metrics for Return to On-Site Instruction

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, shared the area has continued a constant staircase gain in COVID cases to currently 179/100,000 cases, which is moving in the wrong direction. He reported

staff has been trained in the use of masks, cleaning protocols and social distancing. The District will be able to see how this all works when kindergarten students return tomorrow. Mr. Hansen and several administrators are involved in weekly meetings with the Benton Franklin Health District (BFHD) for updates on current conditions in our region.

2.2.2 Elementary Hybrid Timeline and Communications

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, advised the District is prepared to welcome preschool and kindergarten students tomorrow. Staff members have been working hard minimizing risks, while trying to create a family friendly environment for students. Safety measures include daily attestations for both staff and students, increased hand washing, and masks required. An option has been created for families not wanting their students to return to in-person instruction. Unlike Richland Virtual School (RVS) which is a long-term placement, students can choose to continue online learning (Continuous Learning 2.0) with a new teacher for those who might want to join hybrid at a later date. This has created some staff shuffling but has given parents another option. Mr. Moore thanked the Board for the slower start and feels it has made a big difference in providing quality instruction.

2.2.3 Richland Virtual School (RVS)

Dr. Jesse Buchholz, Director of RVS, stated he was able to add some students, while making sure RVS has the capacity to grow further. Families have been able to pick up students supplies and the program is running smoothly.

2.2.4 Safety Checklist-Steve Bump, NV5 Safety and Health Consultant, CHP, CIH, PMP

Superintendent Redinger reported the District has contracted with a third party, Dade Moeller-NV5, to review District safety protocols. Walkthroughs of each elementary school have been completed. Health rooms and sick rooms were key areas of focus and personal protective equipment (PPE) was identified. Dr. Redinger shared teachers did an amazing job creating welcoming spaces for their students. NV5 will be returning to check implementation and continue to review protocols. They will continue to complete building reviews as each level returns.

2.2.5 Grades 6-12 Student Support

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported planning is in progress to bring back approximately fifty students per day at each middle and high school to provide additional support for the District's most needy secondary students including students who are homeless, have disabilities, and English Language Learners (ELL). This support will be provided by paraeducators. Transportation and meals will be provided. Board discussion followed including:

- availability of paras at the secondary level
- failure rate among secondary students
- can we bring in more students? maximize spaces?
 - how can the District cohort students to have secondary students return
- challenges with changing master scheduling
 - student High School and Beyond Plans (HSBP)/staff endorsements
- student engagement/logging on is different than engagement
- challenges with transportation/meals
- 24 credit requirement/possible delay from legislature

Dr. Redinger reported the Benton Franklin Health District (BFHD) stated secondary can be reopened with additional safeguards including cohorting, which is the biggest challenge. A clear definition of “cohorts” needs to be provided since staff members have received a variety of answers from BFHD. Dr. Redinger shared neighboring districts have shared the same concern.

Joan Gribskov, Assistant Director of Human Resources, advised NV5 provided a safety checklist that was given to each building. She stated the building reviews were very systematic reviewing how students enter/exit buildings and all safety protocols. Ms. Gribskov reported these reviews will carry through all grades as students return to in-person instruction.

Mr. Baddley asked if there was any objection from the Board to move forward with this student support. Board members agreed this a definite need and asked if more students could be included. Mr. Baddley stated he would like to start with a small number and continue to have administrators work towards bringing in more students.

Ms. Cleary agreed that starting slowly is the best plan.

Ms. Williams would like administrators to focus on bringing back all secondary students, not just a small number.

Mr. Gosney felt this was a great way to start, then develop a plan to increase the number of students due to the large number of students failing classes.

Mr. Jansons would like NV5 to review each step and is concerned about bringing in a large number of students to begin with. He would like to start small to allow some experience. He reminded members BFHD put in writing to wait 2-3 weeks to add more students. There was consensus from Board members for moving forward with the plan for 6-12 additional support.

Ms. Williams requested a discussion on secondary as a whole and would like to see a plan for bringing students back in two weeks with NV5 review and mitigating factors in place. Mr. Gosney stated his concern for seniors who don’t graduate and the impact on their future.

Ms. Oldson stated the master schedule is the most complicated piece, but the District owes it to students to not let them fall further behind. At some point the District must move forward. She wants to get the elementary started, but once that is mitigated, she feels the District should move forward with secondary students.

Ms. Cleary stated she wants to see students back in school and is all for continued planning, but the guidelines have not been met in our region.

Mr. Jansons advised he would support plans including 2-3 weeks between elementary, then 2-3 weeks for middle school, then the same for high school. He would like to see how openings rollout and doesn’t want to set dates before a plan to cohort in middle schools is created. The region numbers of cases per 100,000 are double what was originally recommended by BFHD.

Ms. Oldson stated she is frustrated that the case numbers are increasing since some in the community are not making good choices. She asked the community to please be diligent, mitigate

risks, and help get our kids back in school. She would like planning to include both small and large groups to return.

Ms. Williams would like a hybrid plan on November 10, 2020, with implementation in 5 days including mitigation measures. She doesn't want to have 2-3 weeks between levels as this pushes the date for high school students to return. Ms. Williams feels the District needs an option for those parents who want their students to return to in-person instruction.

Mr. Baddley explained there is a hybrid plan for students to return, but it needs to meet the cohorting guidelines. He also wants to be sure the students can earn the credits they are currently working on through this transition. If classes are changed midterm, credits may be lost. Mr. Jansons advised many details need to be planned and he does not want to set a deadline. Details to include:

- number of parents wanting their students to continue online learning-those numbers are needed for next step planning
- protect high-risk staff members
- plans to re-arrange class schedules/staff endorsements
- schedule mask fitting for appropriate staff, several hundred needed (a recent requirement)

Mr. Jansons advised there is consensus from the Board to bring in the smaller number of secondary students needing support. More discussion followed:

- graduation concerns if we wait too long to reopen secondary schools
- survey numbers will help the Board make decisions-complete this quickly
- if cohort means we rotate teachers into a classroom of students, schedules will need major changes-need clear criteria.

Ms. Cleary stated parents will want more details before choosing a plan and will want to see if the elementary rollout is successful.

Ms. Williams reported over 90% of elementary families stated they were ready to go back in person, and she would expect similar numbers for secondary. Mr. Moore stated about 80% of elementary students are returning to in person instruction. She would like to set a target date to move forward.

Mr. Jansons asked administrators to prepare for the small groups but has not changed his decision on additional students without the waiting periods. After attending the recent Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) meeting, other health districts are more in line with the state and he has little faith in BFHD numbers. He will support a date when the number of cases decrease.

Ms. Cleary agrees and not ready to set a date that may set students and parents up for disappointment.

Ms. Oldson is not certain about setting a date that might cause undue stress on administration but wants to give families a choice with off-ramps for those not wishing to return at this time. She feels the District should follow BFHD guidelines as long as mitigation measures are in place. Dr. Redinger advised she will work with administrators to develop several scenarios and a timeline

that is attainable to present at the next meeting. Mr. Gosney shared, with the many schedule changes, students may not have the same teachers or class schedule. Mr. Jansons asked if there was consensus for Dr. Redinger to work with staff to bring back a date and several different models to the next meeting. All agreed. She will get a clear definition of cohorts from BFHD, as other districts in our region are also struggling with that.

2.3 Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Update

Mr. Baddley reported some sports have begun working in pods at this time. He is meeting with middle school athletic directors in our league, which covers four counties and five districts, to decide on league competitions or intramurals for this year.

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS

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

Ted Robbins asked the Board to return students to in-person learning. He feels the District needs to consider the mental effects of online learning as well as the academic issues. He shared the loss of his son to suicide and feels the District has not acted fast enough to address this issue.

Madelyn Ritchie stated she is not doing well with online learning, and this will negatively impact her lifetime. She asked the Board to allow students to return to school.

Ian Ritchie is a senior at Richland High School. He is missing the interactions with his teachers and stated it is hard for him to communicate.

Luke Shafer is also a senior at Richland High School and shared he wants to be back in school as soon as possible. He stated suicide is the leading cause of death in teens and feels that isolating is making things worse.

Rebecca said she is proud of the kids who are speaking up and said that BFHD has given the approval for schools to open. She feels schools are essential and students are not engaged in online learning.

Carson Ritchie stated his concern regarding the mental and educational ill effects on the school population. He is struggling with distance learning and asked the Board to set a date to go back to school.

Lillian Robertson is a student at Carmichael Middle School and stated zoom classes are not the same as in person instruction. She shared mental health concerns for students and asked that her Board make a decision tonight.

Luke Ritchie asked to get back to in person school. He feels the virus doesn't spread significantly in schools. He stated deaths are down and space is available in hospitals.

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

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Ken Gosney –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.4).Vote: Cleary, yes; Oldson, yes; Williams, yes; and Jansons, yes; Gosney, yes.

Motion was approved.

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Benedict, Maren, Principal, Leona Libby MS, effective 10/19/2020 (from Asst Principal HHS)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

INCREASE IN FTE FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Allen, Shelly, .60FTE, PE, Marcus Whitman, (now .40 continuing/.60 non-continuing)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Hair, Mellisa, Kindergarten, Marcus Whitman, effective 10/21/2020

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Alford-Stodick, Lauren, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 10/26/2020

Berryhill, Charley, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 11/2/2020

Bueno, Juan, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 10/21/2020

Korten, Karli, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 10/28/2020

Krantz, Joni, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 10/27/2020

Lopez, Kylie, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 10/23/2020

Morales, Marcos, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/28/2020

Sanchez, Ana, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 10/16/2020

Schulz-Antonissen, Katharina, Paraeducator (Rehire), Carmichael Middle School, effective 10/26/2020

Zamora, Misha, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 10/27/2020

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Gladden, Crystal, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 11/2/2020 – 5/2/2021

Morrison, Hanadie, Secretary, Teaching & Learning, effective 11/2/2020

Simmons, Anne, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 10/26/2020

Valdovinos, Diana, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/14/2020

Dasgupta, Krishna, Nutrition Services, Hanford High School, effective 8/31/2020

Orme, Francelle, Nutrition Services, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 8/31/2020

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Colee, Brandon, Grounds, Maintenance & Operations, effective 10/31/2020

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Reeves, Patricia, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 10/23/2020

4.2 Policy/RR No. 3413 - Immunizations and Life - Threatening Health Conditions

4.3 Cash Grant - White Bluffs PTO - Building Use

4.4 Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant No. 54000296 for \$1,472.74

No. 40006677 for \$ 75.00

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 52000187 for \$374,642.81

Nos. 20001544 through 20001548 for \$224,623.87

No. 52000188 for \$71,261.14

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10074280 through 10074349 for \$455,729.85

Nos. 51001017 through 51001026 for \$210,599.13

Nos. 71001980 through 71001995 for \$50,529.16

Nos. 10074453 through 10074471 for \$228,270.53

Nos. 51001028 through 51001031 for \$14,844.80
Nos. 71001996 through 71002009 for \$32,423.60
Self-Insurance No. 5700018 for \$7,021.96
Nos. 70000173 through 70000174 for \$1,591.67
No. 70000175 for \$130,511.00

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- COVID-Return to School Update
- Facilities Update-Construction
- Board Operating Procedures Workshop-Set date

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Jill Oldson encouraged the community to email the Board members.

Rick Jansons congratulated Mr. Gosney on filling the Board vacancy.

Kari Williams thanked all the students who spoke and shared tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS