



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 23, 2021
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, February 23, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members present: Heather Cleary, Kari Williams, Jill Oldson and Ken Gosney.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal)

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), and discussion with legal counsel, of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation, if public discussion might result in an adverse legal or financial consequence. (Does not permit an executive session solely because attorney is present.) 42.30.110 (1) (i). 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 6:31 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 Approval of Minutes (February 9, 2021)

It was moved by Heather Cleary and seconded by Ken Gosney that –

THE BOARD APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2021.

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

Motion was approved.

1.4 Board Elections

Mr. Jansons explained the yearly Board officer election process and asked for volunteers for the Office of President.

Williams, no; Cleary, no; Gosney, no; Oldson, no; and Jansons, yes.

It was moved by Ken Gosney and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE RICK JANSONS AS PRESIDENT OF THE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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

Mr. Jansons asked for volunteers for the Office of Vice President.

Williams, no; Cleary, no; Gosney, no; Oldson, yes; and Jansons, no.

It was moved by Ken Gosney and seconded by Kari Williams that –

THE BOARD APPROVE JILL OLDSON AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Student Representative Report

Dr. Redinger introduced Wyatt McKellep, River's Edge High School Senior, who shared info from the last Student/Superintendent Advisory Meeting including school reopening information, sports/activities in Phase 2, student concerns regarding AP tests and scholarship access, and new Career and Technical Education classes. Students stated they are most active on Instagram and asked to have student information available on that platform. He shared alternative schools have a negative stigma that they don't deserve. Wyatt stated River's Edge High School is marketing a new image to share the many benefits of alternative schools and reasons they are working for students. Board members agreed students at River's Edge High School are accomplishing great things.

2.2 GOOD NEWS-Para Educators

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, thanked all paraeducators for their ongoing support for students and staff during the past year. They work one-on-one with students as well as help support health rooms, food service, and transportation. They greet students by name each morning and many times are the students' last contact each day. They truly make a difference each day in our schools. Board members thanked paras for their daily contribution to our schools.

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

Ted Robbins stated he feels the District is not moving fast enough on kids' mental health. He stated having kids back in school for a couple days a week is good but feels many kids are still in crisis.

Shelly Burt thanked Mr. Robbins for his comments and shared concerns about counseling. She questioned why special education students attend school four days a week while elementary students attend five days a week. She would like the Board to fight to get all kids back in school full time.

Steven Holmes thanked the Board and staff for their work and asked that safety protocols on school busses be followed including social distancing and sanitizing. He also asked to clarify snow days in the future.

Heather Griggs stated they decided to unenroll their son who is a senior and enroll him in a school in Utah. She explained their program has all students in school and activities, even though the COVID cases rates are higher than in our area. She would like to see a robust plan to have all students return to full time school as soon as possible.

Michelle Robertson stated she was grateful for her student to return to in-person school today, but is not really pleased with the system right now. She asked why the majority of teachers don't speak up. She has purchased online credit classes for her students and was able to assist her kids with classes so they don't fall behind, but knows that many families don't have this opportunity.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Curriculum Adoption-Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics Instructional Materials

Dr. Redinger introduced Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, as well as Carolyn Leggett (Hanford High School) and Jeremy Smith (Richland High School). Ms. Blake advised the review of this curriculum began in 2018 but a decision was made to delay the Statistics adoption until the updated version of the current book was available for review in the fall of 2020. Mr. Smith reported this text included real world examples of research-based work directly aligned with the college board framework. Ms. Leggett advised that this addresses both access and equity for students who love math and those who don't. Graphing calculators were purchased for students to check out to give equal access to all students. There are many resources available to support students. She also felt this text provides professional development for new teachers as well as more experienced teachers.

It was moved by Ken Gosney and seconded by Heather Cleary that –

THE BOARD APPROVE ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) STATISTICS-UPDATED PRACTICE OF STATISTICS 6E, *SAVVAS*, 2020.

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

Motion was approved.

3.2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Annual Program Update

Ryan Beard, CTE Director, shared Career and Technical Education, both locally and statewide, has experienced positive changes and recognition. HB 1599 introduced a CTE Graduation Pathway, de-linking the state assessment with graduation, and legitimizing a rigorous CTE course of study as a pathway to graduation. Mr. Beard stated over ten percent of graduates last year were eligible for a CTE pathway. During this same time, staff efforts to market and grow CTE programs has resulted in an increase in course offerings, and increased enrollment from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

Mr. Beard shared, despite the challenges in teaching many hands-on classes during COVID, our teachers adapted in creative ways, adopting new virtual curriculums, spending countless hours putting together take-home lab kits, conducting numerous virtual tours, and/or virtually hosting guest speakers. Several of the new courses for 2020-2021 include: Sports Event/Broadcasting, Core Plus Aerospace Manufacturing, Podcast Production, Fashion Merchandizing. New course planning for 2021-2022 include: Home Care Aide, Kinesiology/Exercise Science, Agriculture Business Foundations, and Sustainable Energy Technology.

Mr. Beard praised the great work being done at River's Edge High School in project-based learning. He announced Adrian Ochoa at Richland High School was selected New Teacher of the Year by the Washington Association of Marketing Educators (WAME). Mr. Ochoa started an eCommerce platform to sell school gear online. Board members congratulated Mr. Beard for his work to expand the CTE program.

3.3 Capital Projects/Construction Updates

Caren Johnson, Capital Projects Director, reported the District received very competitive bids for the Badger Mountain Elementary Project, coming in under estimates. Staff opened the bids from six general contractors on February 10, 2021. The lowest bidder was Chervenell Construction Company with a total bid, including all alternates of \$19,533,000 (without taxes). Ms. Johnson asked the Board take action on the following resolutions and award the project to Chervenell Construction Company.

3.3.1 Badger Mountain Elementary-Resolution No. 922-Award of Bid

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

THE BOARD APPROVE BADGER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY-RESOLUTION NO. 922-AWARD OF BID, TO CHERVENELL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

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

Motion was approved.

3.3.2 Badger Mountain Elementary-Resolution No. 923-Acceptance of Constructability Review

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

THE BOARD APPROVE BADGER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY-RESOLUTION NO. 923-ACCEPTANCE OF CONSTRUCTABILITY REVIEW REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION.

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

Motion was approved.

3.3.3 Badger Mountain Elementary-Resolution No. 924-Intent to Construct

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

THE BOARD APPROVE BADGER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY-RESOLUTION NO. 924-INTENT TO CONSTRUCT.

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

Motion was approved.

Mr. Jansons stated he appreciated the patience from parents during the yearlong delay due to COVID.

3.4 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Update

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, advised the CARES Act allocated dollars into the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) Fund. These funds were put to work in a variety of ways to ensure a continuation of learning and provide a safe environment for students and staff to return to. The ESSER I dollars were allocated to each district across the country with the same methodology as Title I dollars. The allocation for the Richland School District was approximately \$1.5 million. This allocation, like many grants, is provided to the District as a reimbursement for expenses. It took a concerted effort to identify and prioritize these needs. Staff and families were surveyed, and the overwhelming initial concerns were broken down into a handful of categories: Safety, Instructional Materials and Support.

Building Safety - \$840,000

This is the largest additional cost the District has faced as a result of COVID-19. Much of this-\$319,000-has been for personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff. Additional building safety costs include:

- Implementation of health attestation system for students and staff
- Upgrades to the HVAC filters in all district facilities
- Supplies for more extensive cleaning and disinfecting in all learning spaces
- Additional resources to support frequent hand-washing and sanitation
- Safety walkthroughs to ensure procedures and materials were in place

Instructional Materials & Support - \$890,000

More resources were needed to support all students learning at home:

- Student supplies
- Providing training and other resources
- Technology was critical and included more than just ensuring every student had a digital device including:
 - mobile hotspots for students without reliable Internet access
 - additional devices so our youngest learners could use them at home
 - new audio-visual equipment to better help teachers work simultaneously with students learning remotely and in-person

These expenses will continue as we move through the school year and will easily surpass the ESSER I allocation of \$1.5M. Mr. Sherman stated he is waiting for guidance from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for ESSER 2 funds.

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

Enrollment reports will continue to be provided monthly at the second meeting of the month.

It was moved by Kari Williams and seconded by Ken Gosney –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.4) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Ledbetter, Gail, 1 FTE, Principal, White Bluffs Elementary

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Ghadamsi, Sabria, Nutrition Services, William Wiley Elementary, effective 3/8/2021

Gibson, Matthew, Paraeducator (Leave Replacement), Hanford High, effective 2/17/2021

Hinrichs, Jessica, Paraeducator (Leave Replacement) Leona Libby MS, effective 2/19/2021

Parnell, Amanda, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 2/12/2021

Tackett, Elizabeth, Nutrition Services, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 2/21/2021

Whitney, Ashley, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 2/9/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Arthur, Anna, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 2/26/2021

Griggs, Annette, Paraeducator, Badger Mtn Elementary, effective 2/12/2021

REASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Rodriguez, Debora, Custodian, from Hanford HS to Jefferson Elementary, effective 2/22/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Branson, Debra, Secretary, Hanford High School, effective 2/26/2021

Moreno, Astrid, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 2/19/2021

Mucha, Jacqueline, Nutrition Services, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 3/31/2021

Yorgesen, Amy, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elem., eff. 2/18/2021 (revised date)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Steiner, Elizabeth, .60FTE History, Richland High School, 2nd Semester Only, Non-Continuing

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL (Continued)

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Schlahta, Glenda, .20FTE (Now .80FTE) Teacher, Three Rivers HomeLink, effective 2/1/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Anderson, Deborah, 1 FTE, 2nd Grade, Sacajawea Elementary

Buck, Robin, 1 FTE, Counselor, William Wiley Elementary

Carter, Diana, 1 FTE, Math, Richland High School

Hull, Kaylee, 1 FTE, Self-Contained, Chief Joseph Middle School

Lyman, Emily, 1 FTE, Kindergarten, Marcus Whitman Elementary

Mead, Teresa, 1 FTE, 2nd Grade, William Wiley Elementary

Osborn, Cheryl, .80 FTE, Language Arts/Social Studies, Chief Joseph Middle School

Radkins, Marilyn, 1 FTE, Language Arts, Carmichael Middle School

Simpson, Connie, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education

Simpson, Elise, .60 FTE, Orchestra, Chief Joseph Middle School

Taylor, Faith, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Crow, Jeff, 1 FTE, PE, Hanford High School

Falls, Shirley, 1 FTE, Librarian, Orchard Elementary

Hoke, Mark, 1 FTE, Science, Chief Joseph Middle School

Jensen, Rebekah, 1 FTE, Structured, Leona Libby Middle School

Morelock, Constance, 1 FTE, Special Education, Carmichael Middle School

Patitucci, Diana, 1 FTE, Counselor, Leona Libby Middle School

Polster, Mike, 1 FTE, Math, Hanford High School
Rachinski, Bertha, 1 FTE, Language Arts, Hanford High School
Ruane, Timothy, 1 FTE, History, Chief Joseph Middle School
Sevigny, Wanda, 1 FTE, K-8, Three Rivers HomeLink
Sterling, LaDonna, 1 FTE, Instructional Specialist, William Wiley Elementary
Teague, Debbie, 1 FTE, Music, Sacajawea Elementary
Wade, Margaret, 1 FTE, PE, Chief Joseph Middle School
Wheland, Michelle, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Orchard Elementary

4.2 Enrollment Monthly

4.3 Budget Monthly

4.4 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006692 through 40006696 for \$8,425.44
Nos. 40006697 through 40006698 for \$9,025.42
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001588 through 20001592 for \$930,087.60
Nos. 20001593 through 20001596 for \$218,755.91
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10075433 through 10075532 for \$368,564.93
Nos. 10075533 through 10775580 for \$183,095.35
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos. 70000187 through 70000190 for \$98,008.17
Nos. 70000191 for \$10,349.28

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- *Board planning calendar
- *Re-opening schools full time
- *Mental health update

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger reported she was happy to see all students are back in-person. Staff members have worked extremely hard to make this happen. She is also pleased to hear from students during the recent Student/Superintendent Advisory meeting.

Jill Oldson thanked staff for their effort to have kids back in school. She also attended the Legislative Conference and stated pressure is being put on legislators to address mental health issues and learning loss in the current session.

Rick Jansons stated the Open Public Meeting Act has been updated to allow in-person Board meetings. Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) is reviewing the restrictions and these will be discussed at the next meeting. He also felt the Legislative Conference was very well done.

Kari Williams also attended the Legislative Conference and was pleased that one of Hanford High School Students, Shreya Mehta, was a speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS