



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 9, 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, March 9, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. via Zoom, West Richland, Washington. School Board Vice President Jill Oldson presided. Board members present: Heather Cleary, Kari Williams, and Ken Gosney.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 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 sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session recessed at 6:10 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**-Rick Jansons is excused.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS

2.1.1 School Retirees' Association Appreciation Week-March 15-20, 2021

Dr. Redinger introduced Victoria Russell, Benton Franklin School Retirees' Association President and Retired Hanford High School Teacher. Ms. Russell shared the Retirees' Association offers scholarships to teachers and students in the Tri Cities. They are also involved with legislators to promote education issues, work as substitute teachers, and offer yearly pre-retirement seminars to staff. The association is 840 members strong.

2.2.1 Classified Employee Appreciation Week-March 8-12, 2021

Tony Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared the District employs 1,000 classified staff members including Paras, Food Service, Transportation, Secretaries, Maintenance/Operations, and Information Technology staff members. Mr. Howard stated these employees are unsung heroes and the District could not function without their help. Ty Beaver, Communication Director, announced Holly Hernandez, Chief Joseph Middle School Kitchen Manager, has been selected as the District's Classified Employee of the Year. Ms. Hernandez will also compete at the regional and state level.

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

Shelley Burt shared her concern regarding special education students and feels that specialists need to be teaching in person.

Kristin Chapin stated it has been a year since students moved to remote learning. She feels students should be back in classes full time since case rates in the community have been reduced.

Steven Holmes thanked the Board for following the protocols to keep students safe and shared specialists are doing their best to be creative and engage students. His fourth-grade son also was thankful to be back to in-person school.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Middle School Science Instructional Materials Adoption

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, introduced Erika Doyle, Director of Teaching and Learning, who led the Science adoption process. This process began in January of 2019. The committee reviewed current District science data, researched best practices in middle school science instruction, and updated course content. In the spring of 2019, the committee completed its review of available instructional material and selected material to pilot in the fall of 2019. Upon completion of the pilot, the committee recommended Smithsonian STCSM for adoption in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science. Ms. Doyle introduced several members of the team who spoke on different aspects of the process:

- Student engagement-Veronica Kenney, Three River's Home Link
- Access and Equity-Melissa MacDonald, Chief Joseph Middle School
- Assessment-Keziah Watson, Leona Libby Middle School
- Teacher Experience-Branda Baker, Carmichael Middle School

Board members praised team members for their work on this adoption and enjoyed reviewing the F-1 forms shared by the Instructional Material Committee members.

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

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE SMITHSONIAN STCSM, CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL/SMITHSONIAN, 2019, FOR 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADE SCIENCE.

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

Motion was approved.

3.2 Mental Health Assistance Team (MHAT)

Mr. Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, provided an update on work by the team to address School-Based Threat Assessment and Mental Health Supports. A report was previously shared in December. Since then the team has been formed utilizing building release time. The team is establishing processes and procedures to engage stakeholders in evidence based, data driven decisions which will guide student interventions and effective referral processes to school and community mental health services. The team lead position was posted, and co-leads have been hired to share the position: Angie Withers, School Psychologist, and Michelle Sorensen, School Social Worker.

Ms. Withers shared goals of the team including:

- Resource Mapping (60-day goal)
- Initiative Alignment (ongoing goal)
- Community Partnerships (ongoing goal)
- Social-Emotional and Behavior Universal Screening Procedures (spring 2021)
- Richland School District Flight Team (90-day goal)
- Training and Support (PREPaRE) (ongoing)

Ms. Sorensen reported information on the implementation of a Universal Screener. Screening students' social/emotional/behavioral health allows for assessment of:

- Social risk or resilience factors
- Emotional problems or wellbeing
- Behavior problems

This screening requires planning and collaboration with community stakeholders before its implementation. After a through process, the BIMAS-2, which supports K-12 social and emotional health, was selected and provides for early detection of students' mental health challenges.

Ms. Sorensen advised the need to establish community, youth, and family partnerships, as well as a continuum of accessible resources for mental health supports, is a priority. The District is also working with the University of Washington SMART Center to form a multiyear partnership with a mission to promote quality improvement of school-based mental/behavioral health services.

Board discussion followed including:

- Suicide information/need prevention infrastructure in place
 - Universal screener will assist in locating students needing support. Response will be in real time. Assessments will begin at River's Edge High School beginning March 29, 2021, with large high schools next, then middle schools to follow. Assessments will be planned for several times per year. An opt out process will be available.
- Development of "Flight Teams" will be an important addition.
- Board members asked for monthly or frequent updates on the process.
- Community was encouraged to contact legislators to advocate for additional support and funding for mental health related issues.

Board members thanked the team for their dedication to the mental health of students and directed the team to bring any needs to the attention of the Board.

3.3 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER 2) Fund

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, advised the District received \$1.5M from the first round of COVID-19 relief funding for elementary and secondary schools and is expecting \$6M in the second round. House Bill 1368 requires each Washington public school district, state-tribal education compact school, and charter school to review and update school reopening plans submitted for the 2020–2021 school year and provide the updated plans to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) no later than March 1, 2021. Mr. Hansen stated the plan has been updated, provided, and accepted by Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), making the District eligible for ESSER 2 funds. These funds are eligible to be spent through the summer of 2023. The Reopening Progress Report is organized into the following six sections: District

information, health and safety planning and training, communication protocols, data collection/implementation, and student learning and well-being.

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared several of the items these funds can be used for are school repairs, improving indoor air quality, personal protection equipment (PPE), and more robust summer school to address learning loss, etc. These funds cannot support anything sustainable such as employee salaries. Board discussion followed including:

- PPE continued use
 - have some inventory but need to continue ordering
- need to address learning loss
 - summer school planning taking place-hiring staff by April 15, 2021
- How these funds are calculated?
 - high poverty schools are getting more funds-District is watching Bills in Olympia currently for further guidance
- Students receiving incompletes
 - many options for students to convert these to letter grades-tie this back to the student's High School and Beyond Plan-Mr. Baddley reported more A's were received this year-failure rate increased 2 percent

3.4 Budget-Forecast Expenditures

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared a graph showing the composite of District expenditures for 2021-2022. Since the legislative session is still in progress, the actual numbers are still unknown. He explained certificated salaries, employee benefits and payroll taxes, and classified employees together represent approximately 85% of the District budget. Contractual services include software licensing, running start, utilities, student nutrition, insurance, etc. and account for approximately 9% of our budget with supplies and materials (books, paper, cleaning supplies, manipulatives, other materials necessary to operate and educate) accounting for roughly 5.5%. The remaining 1% includes travel and capital equipment. Mr. Sherman will schedule budget workshops with several options as soon as the legislative session has ended.

Ms. Oldson stated part of the employee benefit cost is the unfunded mandate-School Employee Benefit Board (SEBB), which will continue until three months after the emergency proclamation has ended.

Mr. Sherman also stated he is budgeting for flat enrollment next year. Kindergarten enrollment is hoped to increase since low enrollment is thought to be partially due to COVID.

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

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

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

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Chunn, Calvin, 1.0 FTE, Assistant Principal, Jason Lee/Marcus Whitman Elementary, change from noncontinuing to continuing effective 7/1/2021

Kohn, Amy, 1.0 FTE, Assistant Principal, Tapteal Elementary to Assistant Director of State & Federal Programs, TLAC, effective 7/1/2021

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Covington, Joe, 1 FTE, PE, Hanford High School

Wade, Margaret (Peggy), 1 FTE, Math, Chief Joseph Middle School

Wuerl, Steve, 1 FTE, Math, River's Edge High School

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Chunn, Calvin, 1 FTE, Math, Richland High School, effective 6/30/2021

Dessert, Amy, 1 FTE, 2nd Year Leave of Absence

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Ahn, Joonhee, Nutrition Services, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 3/1/2021

Gilmore, Rachel, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 3/9/2021

Olivera, Celeste, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 3/3/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

McDonough, Christin, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph MS, effective 2/24/2021 (will sub)

Reed, William, Mechanic III, Transportation, effective 3/9/2021

4.2 Approval of Minutes (February 23, 2021; February 25, 2021)

4.3 2021-2022 School Calendar

4.4 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006699 through 40006700 for \$544.54

Nos. 40006701 through 40006704 for \$8,643.75

Nos. 54000317 through 54000319 for \$36,287.74

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001597 through 20001605 for \$274,281.54

No. 52000212 for \$2,365.97

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10075698 through 10075769 for \$377,819.51

Nos. 10075770 through 10075849 for \$580,649.28

Nos. 51001136 through 51001138 for \$328,369.30

Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 70000192 for \$1,750.00

Nos. 70000193 through 70000194 for \$871.47

Payroll Warrant No. 10075384 for \$1m258.00

No. 10075432 for \$3,900.00

Nos. 10075581 through 10075655 for \$130,199.25

Nos. 10075656 through 10075697 for \$4,448,039.61

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$8,943,733.20

Total February Payroll approved in the amount of \$13,527,130.06

5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger reported the District is working to set up vaccinations for school staff and Mr. Beaver is communicating opportunities. Three hours of leave time is being offered for staff to use for the two vaccinations. Staff members have also been working on scenarios for fall with the

possibility that the Department of Health may change the six-foot distancing requirement to three feet. She also enjoyed visiting schools and classrooms.

Kari Williams stated she was open to a workshop on discussing reopening options. Ms. Williams attended the PTA Council meeting last night and was excited to hear all the activities being accomplished even during COVID.

Jill Oldson was pleased that opportunities for educators to receive the vaccine are moving forward. She advised next week we will have a better idea on funding from legislators as they are dealing with ridership and enrollment legislation.

Board members were asked to send any future agenda ideas to either Ms. Oldson or Mr. Jansons so they discuss during bi-monthly Board Leadership meetings.

Dr. Redinger advised the March 23, 2021 meeting will be in-person in the District Board Room. She explained there are many regulations involved with the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) that will need to be followed. More information to come on this process from the District. The meetings will still be available via zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS