



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 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, March 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 6:25 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

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Student Representative Report

Mr. Jansons introduced Alex Pereira, Delta High School Student, who shared topics discussed at the recent Student Advisory meeting. She reported students were following safety protocols and in-person school was very positive. Other topics discussed were mental health, sporting events, graduations, dances/proms, and a waiver which would provide some flexibility for graduation.

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

Mr. Jansons shared this is the first in-person Board meeting in the new building and asked for everyone's patience with technical issues.

Kristin Chapin hopes there is a plan in place for in-person, all day school reopening as soon as possible. Ms. Chapin appreciates the teachers who are working hard but is requesting the option for students to return full time.

Ted Robbins stated he was glad the Board is discussing in-person learning since kids are struggling with online learning. Mr. Robbins asked which entity will be making that decision-

School Board? Administration? Department of Health? (Mr. Robbins' remote connection was lost and then reconnected.)

Heather Barber shared information regarding vaccine availability, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) three-foot distancing requirements, ventilation updates, and other safety protocols. She stated we have all learned much over the last year and feels it is safe to return to in-person school.

Stephen Holmes has concerns with the new three-foot rule. Mr. Holmes feels if teachers were to increase the time and amount students are learning remotely, it would be safer than returning all students using the new requirement.

Kathryn Ritchey reported students are not being challenged and the option for students to attend full time is not being offered. Ms. Ritchie stated teachers are skipping units and students are falling further behind. She urged the Board to follow science and reopen schools full time.

Rhonda Bass requested more detailed information regarding graduation ceremonies.

Shelly Burt stated the Governor has declared a mental health emergency and asked the Board to treat it as such. She is concerned about the number of suicides and shared she has contacted state agencies to fight for her student to attend school.

Tammy Stokes stated she hopes the District is working on a "Plan B" for in-person graduations if schools aren't allowed to use the Toyota Center for a large ceremony.

Rebecca Ritchie stated she has learned about teacher unions. Other states have been in person for months. Students are lacking motivation, and some don't want to return to school. She feels the Board needs to act now to start to repair the damage.

Ben Griggs shared students need a full-time option. He stated schools are not spreading COVID and feels asynchronous may be even worse than fully online school. He would like to see students back in school full time, mental health addressed, and a plan to address learning loss.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Boys/Girls Clubs of Benton Franklin County-Plan for Richland School District

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, reported the District is in its third year of partnering with Boys/Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties (B/GBF). Boys and Girls Clubs is a non-profit organization offering child care and is currently serving 200 students. In a normal year the number has been approximately 600 students. Mr. Moore introduced Chad Mitchell, Board President, and Brian Ace, Executive Director. Mr. Mitchell shared goals of the taskforce including having a dedicated space where trained adults mentor youth, strategically located with no barriers to access.

Considerations for Richland include: Family instability, soft skills, workforce development, partnerships and collaborations, and opportunities for all youth. He explained their focus areas:

- Middle schools-Carmichael and Chief Joseph Middle Schools
- Richland core
- Address access issues for youth

Short term program reconditions:

- Co-located Club on a middle school campus
- Storefront Club-possibly in the Uptown area

Long term program recommendations:

- Traditional Clubhouse in residential dense neighborhood

Mr. Ace requested access to connect directly with families through focus groups and surveys to help finalize their short-term recommendations. Board discussion followed.

Mr. Jansons explained three years ago the District changed day care providers from a for-profit organization to Boys/Girls Clubs of Benton Franklin Counties (non-profit). These plans are the result of their work to serve more kids. There was consensus from Board to allow Boys/Girls Clubs access for focus groups and surveys.

3.2 Reopening Discussion

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, advised staff members have been working on this action plan well before the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced their reduction of the physical distancing requirement from six feet to three feet. The intent has been to stay in front of upcoming changes. Evidence shows that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction. Mr. Hansen shared there will be many challenges, but the District has been diligently working on solutions. Some measures already in place or scheduled to aid the District with the reopening process include:

- scheduled two onsite COVID clinics for District staff
- sub-committee to investigate special education needs/issues
- third party safety walkthroughs (NV5) have been scheduled
- similar COVID protocols will be in place (masks, physical distancing, cleaning protocols)

Dr. Redinger stated building walk throughs with NV5 representatives are looking through the lens of the three-foot recommendation, although our state has not provided that guidance as of yet. Dr. Redinger is expecting that guidance soon. Many of Richland schools are new and even the older schools have good ventilation. Both Tapteal and Badger Mountain Elementaries will be moving during spring break-Tapteal Elementary is moving back to their new building, and Badger Mountain is moving into the school on Belmont for the year while the new Badger Mountain is under construction. These moves will require “all hands-on deck” for support staff.

Mr. Jansons advised all Board members have received hate mail or packages. He understands the anger, but realizes the community is divided and needs to get back together. School Boards want schools to open, not close. Mr. Jansons stated the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) met last week and sent a letter to Governor Inslee to urge him to support the change from six feet to three feet. He would like local control, but the Board is not all powerful. We are pushing on the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to implement the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The Board can decide to reopen but needs help at the State level. He believes the local health district is waiting for the State DOH to give permission. Mr. Jansons stated he would like to set a timeline for kids to come back full time.

Ms. Oldson stated if the District could have started full time in September, we would have. She wants to be sure the District can serve the needs of all students. Ms. Oldson reminded all that

Richland is one of the few districts that has students back, even in hybrid. She asked the public to make their voices heard at the State level.

Mr. Gosney would like to move toward getting kids back as soon as possible. He understands that there will be challenges but feels that those can be addressed to reopen schools.

Dr. Redinger advised the District has been thoughtful in their decision making. The moves (Badger Mountain and Tapteal Elementaries) during spring break will require every custodian/support services staff member helping. Teachers will also need some time to prepare for the change so she feels April 12th would be a challenge. Superintendent Redinger suggested April 19th will allow time for classroom set up, teacher planning, and time to address other challenges.

Ms. Cleary stated both moves will be complete (Badger/Tapteal) by the end of spring break and teachers won't have access to buildings until that is completed. Online learning will continue for that week.

Ms. Williams stated teachers are given two days of asynchronous learning. She is wanting to focus on our students and feels April 19th is the best option. Board discussion followed.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Kari Williams -

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE MOVE INTO PHASE IV ON APRIL 19, 2021, WITH ALL STUDENTS K-12 ATTENDING ALL DAY, EVERY DAY CONTINGENT ON LEGAL AUTHORITY FROM THE STATE OR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. FURTHER APRIL 14, 15, AND 16, 2021 WILL BE ASYNCHRONOUS-2 TWO DAYS PER CONTRACT, AND ONE TO ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.

Mr. Jansons advised this adds one extra day for staff training. Ms. Oldson wanted to be sure teachers have a spring break. Ms. Cleary asked when NV5 safety tours were taking place. Mr. Gosney asked for an update on logistical issues at the next meeting. Ms. Williams likes that the District is giving families options to choose what is best for their students.

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

Motion was approved.

Dr. Redinger complimented our staff members who continue to care for our students and the community.

3.3 Summer School Discussion

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, reported initial interest in summer school is very strong with the results of last week's survey showing 1,000 students have signed up. He reported:

- summer school will be offered at all elementary sites free of charge
- summer school will be advertised and planned as a "Summer Learning Camp".
- Summer Learning Camp will run between June 21st and July 29th. Monday-Thursday. 8:45-11:45am.

The District is developing plans for:

- transportation to all families that live in neighborhoods that normally receive bus transportation.
- onsite ‘grab and go’ lunches to all students
- teacher positions for summer learning camps will be posted by April 15th.

Initial Secondary Details:

- middle schools are currently developing summer STEM camps that will be offered in 2-week sessions.
- middle school schedules and times will be similar to the elementary schedule.
- STEM Modules will integrate math, science, reading, and writing into engaging fun-themed units.
- high school summer learning opportunities are provided to allow students to complete the credits needed for graduation. All classes will be taught online through APEX between June 16 and July 22.
- courses this summer are tuition-free for Richland School District students.

Mr. Jansons stated there will be no cap on the number of students and the District can use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to expand the budget, if needed. The District is required to spend at least 20% of these funds on learning loss.

3.4 Graduation Ceremony Options

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent, reported principals have been preparing for in-person graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021. Mr. Baddley explained the ceremonies will be adjusted as COVID restrictions in our county are tightened or loosened:

- The Toyota Center is reserved for Hanford High School and Richland High School graduation ceremonies and will be used if the State’s limitation on gatherings is increased from the current 400-person limit on indoor events.
- Phase 3 guidelines currently allow events at outdoor venues at 25% capacity (not including participants) using 6-foot distancing. Fran Rish Stadium’s capacity is approximately 6000 and schools will use 1500 spectators as their maximum for planning purposes. Graduation ceremonies are tentatively being planned for Hanford High School on Friday, June 11, and for Richland High School on Saturday, June 12, to accommodate parking and cleaning between events.
 - If Benton County is in Phase 2 or in case of inclement weather, school gymnasiums will be used. Hanford and Richland High Schools will use their gymnasiums and host multiple mini ceremonies within the limitations for gatherings.
 - River’s Edge High School and Three Rivers HomeLink ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, June 11, and are in the process of securing event space to allow for required distancing.
- Both Hanford and Richland High Schools will also broadcast graduation ceremonies.
- If the county moves back to Phase 1 and gatherings of any size are not permitted, then virtual ceremonies will be implemented.

Mr. Baddley stated, in case of Phase changes, schools could pivot quick since their gymnasiums will already be set up for practices. All were asked to share any ideas they have with Mr. Baddley. Discussion followed regarding other end of year events sponsored by PTO/PTAs. The District

cannot support events that don't fit State guidelines, but Dr. Redinger asked that events will be looked at on a case by case basis.

3.5 Alternative Learning Environment (ALE)-Policy No. 2255-First Reading

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, reported the Washington State Legislature recently revised the rules that govern Alternative Learning Experience (ALE). The revisions remove the requirement to obtain a parent or guardian's signature documenting their understanding of the difference between home-based instruction and ALE. He explained once the Board approves an ALE program, school, or program provider, the indicated designee(s) is responsible for reporting to the Board on an annual basis.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2255-ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR FIRST READING.

Vote: Cleary, yes; Oldson, yes; Williams, yes; Gosney, 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 Ken Gosney –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.5) INCLUDING A REVISED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

INCREASE IN FTE FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Wietsma, Margaret, .20 FTE, Science, Richland HS (now .60 cont./40 non-cont.), eff. 2/21/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Dayley, Nedda, .50 FTE (Will then be .50 FTE), Nurse, Special Programs

Smith, Jamee, 1 FTE, Self-Contained, Sacajawea Elementary

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Covington, Joe, 1 FTE, PE, Hanford High School (Correction - Rescinded)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL

Levy, Maggie, 1 FTE, Math, Carmichael Middle School, effective 2/1/2021

Parsons, Meghan, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Lewis and Clark Elementary, effective 2/8/2021

Qualheim, Jim, 1 FTE, Language Arts, Richland High School, effective 2/22/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL

Macias, Lynne, 1 FTE, request second year leave, 1st Grade, Sacajawea Elementary

Stevens, Jana, 1 FTE, request second year leave, 1st Grade, Sacajawea Elementary

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Chanmounny, Phafanh, Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 4/1/2021

Morley, Rochelle, Custodian, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 4/1/2021

Ramirez, Arturo, Custodian, Richland High School, effective 4/1/2021
Seelye, Jaime, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 3/22/2021
Snook, Emily, Paraeducator, Badger Mtn Elementary School, effective 3/24/2021
Talmage, Alicia, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 3/29/2021
Thompson, Amy, Paraeducator-Leave Replacement, Enterprise Middle School, effective 3/3/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Davis, Kelsey, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 4/2/2021
Garfias, Mary, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 4/2/2021
Hancock, Windy, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 4/2/2021
Hannaman, Chrissy, Paraeducator-Leave Replacement, William Wiley, effective 4/2/2021
Musick, Cade, Paraeducator, River's Edge High School, effective 4/2/2021

REASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Palencia, Miguel, Asst. Custodial Supervisor to Custodial Supervisor, eff. 4/1/2021 (permanent)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Kellie, Cindy, Para-MSW, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2021
Schaefer, Shelly, Building Foreman 1, William Wiley Elementary, effective 8/31/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Bennett, Jill, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 2/26/2021
Eaton, Denise, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary School, effective 3/8/2021
Schouviller, Tricia, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 3/26/2021

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Lobdell, Jon

4.2 Approval of Minutes (March 9, 2021)

4.3 Enrollment Monthly

4.4 Budget Monthly

4.5 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006705 through 4006708 for \$4,831.45
Nos. 40006709 through 40006714 for \$4,493.54
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001606 through 20001609 for \$1,316,643.80
Nos. 20001610 through 20001612 for \$252,437.46
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10075850 through 10075954 for \$656,313.97
Nos. 10075955 through 10076022 for \$432,494.24
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos. 70000195 through 70000198 for \$31,059.92
Nos. 70000199 through 70000201 for \$44,527.32

5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger stated she is looking forward to the NV5 safety tour of buildings over the next few days and is excited a target date has been set to allow all students to return full time.

Jill Oldson stated, based on our District policy, agenda items go through the superintendent, then on to Board leadership for items to move forward.

Rick Jansons thanked the community for passing the Bond which included the new Teaching, Learning and Administrative Center. The old Administration Building has been demolished and he thanked Dr. Schulte, retired Superintendent, for his work on this beautiful new building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS