



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 13, 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, April 13, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, 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 6:29 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:34 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 Jade Villanueva, Richland High School Student, who reported on discussion topics at the last Student Advisory meeting including reopening schools, graduation ceremonies, state assessments, and the universal screening tool to gage social/emotional health.

2.2 GOOD NEWS

Ty Beaver, Communication Director, recognized several students for outstanding achievement:

- Science Fair Grand Champions-Anika Halappanavar, Richland High School, Nikhita Bontha and Daniel Li, Hanford High School.
- Regional Art Show Judge's Choice-Maria Gardner, Hanford High School
- Journalism Award Winner-Ellie Sullivan, Hanford High School
- Richland High School-Undefeated Volleyball Team-Payton Pederson and Roslyn McLellan

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

Shelley Burt reported Washington State is near the bottom regarding special education services and feels sensory rooms need to be addressed in the District.

Steven Holmes (poor zoom connection) stated there had not been any information regarding bus schedules for next week communicated.

Elizabeth Van Clark shared her concern regarding messages from teachers stating there would be no more online learning starting next week. She did not think that was what she heard previously from the District.

Phyllis Baxter had the same experience as Ms. Clark regarding information from schools. Her student attended hybrid for the first time recently to prepare for returning next week. Ms. Baxter shared her concern regarding reopening next week if teachers' cameras are turned off and students can't access classes online if quarantined or ill.

Bob Brown shared his concern with the lack of communication regarding online learning this week for his student.

Mr. Jansons reported Board members had also heard some teachers were notifying students and families that live-streaming of classes for secondary students would end when the District transitioned to Stage IV of the COVID-19 reopening on April 19, 2021. He stated that this information is incorrect. Some students will continue to access classrooms via live streaming for the remainder of the school year. Stage IV is not full onsite operations. Stage IV allows both students and staff to continue remotely for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year. The Board also set a goal to be at "full site operations" when school returns this fall, depending on the Department of Health.

Mr. Jansons stated the District will not exclude online students from accessing instruction in the secondary classrooms. Richland Education Association (REA) may have a different interpretation of our prior agreement, but he believes the shared interest of both teachers and administrators is to put students first. The District and REA have discussed relief for workload issues for managing onsite and live-streaming instruction consecutively, offering extra duty stipends, additional staff, and release time during this unusual, but temporary, time. While an agreement has not been reached, the District will continue to work towards a collaborative solution. The District understands the stressors required of teachers and appreciates the dedication they have shown towards helping all students. The District is also continuing to protect high risk staff members by having them teach remotely from their homes for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Jansons advised this is a time of celebration because students are returning to school. The Board will continue to direct administration to bargain with REA leadership. We are confident an agreement can be reached because our shared interest is what is best for students. In the meantime, we are having all students back, either in person or zooming into the classroom, five days a week beginning Monday, April 19, 2021.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Re-Opening Update

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, shared information on several items taking place in the District. Mr. Hansen thanked all those involved with the moves of Tapteal Elementary back to their new school building, and the Badger Elementary School move to the building on Belmont for the upcoming school year while the new Badger Elementary is being built. Mr. Hansen recognized all staff members from schools, Support Services, Information Technology, and the Print Shop. These moves were complex with many moving parts and all were completed over spring break.

Mr. Hansen explained, with the change from six to three-foot distancing, the District needed to order over 2,000 desks. The six-foot requirement is still in place between adults, and during lunches. More lunch periods need to be scheduled and more options for recess. Specialists will also be back for in-person learning. The same cleaning protocols will be in place and special distance requirements will remain for music and performing arts. Special Education students returned in January and staff members have found creative ways to serve students during this time. Ty Beaver, Communications Director, is finalizing the Phase 4 communication to staff and parents in the next several days. The District organized vaccination clinics for both staff and students. The Transportation Department is also finalizing bus schedules at this time to be communicated shortly.

Mr. Jansons thank all for their work over spring break.

3.2 High School Science Instructional Materials Adoption

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, explained prior to break Middle School Science materials were adopted. Tonight, High School Science materials are being brought for approval. Erika Doyle, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, facilitated the committee work. Ms. Doyle stated there are nine books collectively, with seven from the same vendor.

Amy Fishburn, Richland High School, shared the materials meet all national and next generation standards. They support student learning with up-to-date information, improved visual and diagrams and better access with Chromebooks.

Sarah Flores Anderson, Hanford High School, shared information on equity and access with the resources providing additional videos, study areas, and close captioning. Books have tutorials and materials in multiple languages. The materials integrate with Canvas and have a time estimate tool.

Board members stated they appreciated the work done by teachers and the committee.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AS LISTED BELOW:

- **Anatomy and Physiology**, Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology, Marieb 12E, Savvas, 2019
- **Biology**, Biology, Miller Levine, Savvas, 2019
- **Chemistry**, Pearson Chemistry, Savvas, 2017

- **Property of Matters**, Stuff Matters, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014
- **Advanced Placement Biology**, Biology in Focus, Campbell, Savvas, 2020
- **Advanced Placement Chemistry**, Chemistry (the central science), 14e, Brown, Lemay, Savvas, 2018
- **Advanced Placement Environmental Science**, Environmental science for AP, Freidland, BFW, 2019
- **Advanced Placement Physics I**, Principles with Application, 7th edition, Savvas, 2017
- **Advanced Placement Physics C**, Fundamentals of Physics: Extended 11th edition/Wiley Publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018

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

3.3 Special Education Task Force Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Tracy Blankenship, Executive Director of Special Education, reported in June of 2020, the Board was presented with the Special Education Task Force (SETF) Strategic Plan. This five-year plan was guided by the recommendations from the Special Education Task Force (convened 2019-2020) and the recommendations from the Urban Collaborative Program Review (2018). Dr. Blankenship introduced staff members who reported on focus areas of this work: Zac Carpenter-Special Education Director, Shyla DeJong-Special Education Coordinator, Kiley Hodges-Special Education Coordinator, and Robert (BJ) Sorensen-Special Education Director. She also thanked the many staff members who helped support this work.

Dr. Blankenship advised the focus of the 2020-2021 school year has been centralized on building awareness. The action steps outlined in the SETF Strategic Plan have guided this work providing a consistent plan for all stakeholders. Action steps and updates were provided for each focus area.

The SETF organized its recommendations into the following focus areas:

- Focus Area 1 - Instructional Practices

Special Education staff utilize research-based evidence practices (including inclusive practices) to guide effective educational services provided to students.

- Focus Area 2 - System and Organization Improvements

The Special Education Department is intentional about meeting district-wide structural and communication needs to provide consistency and to minimize barriers for implementation and support.

- Focus Area 3 - Professional Development

The Special Education Department provides quality professional development training opportunities for all staff to build their competencies and expertise levels for creating positive outcomes for students.

- Focus Area 4 - Data and Accountability

The Special Education Department utilizes on-going data collection and analysis to determine both areas of successful program implementation and areas for continuous improvement efforts.

The SETF plan was developed as a “living document” that will develop and change based on the needs of our students, staff, and families over time. Each year of the plan is defined and titled

according to the level each of the action steps of the focus areas would be addressed in a phased manner.

The plan years are defined as followed:

- 2020-2021 Awareness Year
- 2021-2022 Implementation Year* (will be extended as an Awareness year for inclusionary practices, universal design for learning, co-teaching, and Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS), to ensure all stakeholders are provided a strong foundation.)
- 2022-2023 Improvement Year
- 2023-2024 Sustainability Year
- 2024-2025 Sustainability Year

Board discussion followed including:

- 2021-2022-Implementation year-the need to “go slow before we go fast”.
- Inclusion-staff looking for ways to serve students in buildings/students receiving services with less fear.
- Education/training to bring teachers along/inclusion.
- Great commitment from the team-making growth.
- Community forums-work to promote-May 26 2021-6:30 P.M.

3.4 Graduation Regulation (RR) No. 2410-First Reading

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, stated the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1599–*High School Graduation Requirements*, HB 1424–*Career and Technical Education Course Equivalencies*, and SB 5088–*Computer Science Courses*. All three pieces of legislation expand pathways to high school graduation.

HB 1599 eliminates the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) requirement for graduating classes after 2019 and eliminates the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) requirement for graduating classes after 2021. Other changes include establishing options for graduation pathways, modifying the requirements of credits and credit waivers, and retooling high school and beyond plans. Statewide assessments of students will continue in the content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

Mr. Pettett explained high school courses completed by middle school students are not required to apply automatically to graduation requirements but apply if requested by the student and parent. Mr. Pettett stated this will require ongoing dialogue with families and can be completed up until the end of the student’s junior year. Districts are also allowed to waive two of the twenty-four credits required for students to be eligible for graduation and HB 1599 adds some flexibility for using the waiver.

HB 1424–*Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Equivalencies* provides that any CTE course for which OSPI has established a statewide equivalency will fulfill the requirement. HB 1424 authorizes Boards to adopt local course equivalencies for CTE courses that are not on the list of courses approved by OSPI.

SB 5088–*Computer Science Courses–Availability–Competency Testing*, the Legislature added provisions allowing school boards to award academic credit specifically for computer science courses taken through course equivalencies or before attending high school.

Additionally, SB 6263 school districts establish data-sharing agreements between school districts and local tribes. The legislation required that the agreement would comply with FERPA and safeguard students’ personally identifiable information. Discussion followed including:

- Physical Education Waiver-separate policy
- High School and Beyond Plans-living document. Start in middle school-notification of changes
- Additional communication needed

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE REGULATION NO 2410, GRADUATION FOR FIRST READING.

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

Motion was approved.

3.5 Resolution No. 925-Graduation Waiver

Mr. Pettett explained this is a step the District must meet to help students. He advised graduation requirements that can be waived under this program include credit graduation requirements and graduation pathway options. The waiver program is a last resort and extra tool to help students. The High School and Beyond Plan cannot be waived.

Up to two elective core credits may be waived for the Class of 2021, as long as only one credit in each core subject is waived, and the student graduates with no fewer than 20 total credits.

Additionally, the requirements waived for the individual student will be based on those least applicable to their postsecondary plans. The waiver does not address:

- local graduation requirements. Districts have the authority to address these issues locally.
- missed hours/days for public schools

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 925-GRADUATION WAIVER.

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 Kari Williams and seconded by Heather Cleary –

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

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

Deffenbaugh, Kendra, .20 FTE, Orchestra, Chief Joseph MS (now 1.0 non-cont.), eff. 5/13/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Richter, Audra, 1 FTE, Science, Richland High School, effective 4/19/2021

Berry, Hilari, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs, effective 2/8/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Kinney, Jessica, 1 FTE, Science, Richland High School, effective 4/12/2021

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Osborn, Cheryl, .80 FTE, LA /Social Studies, Chief Joseph MS (Corrected from
Resignation to Retirement)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Kulp, Hannah, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Jason Lee Elementary

Varland, Amber, 1 FTE, second year leave, Home & Family, Richland High School

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Berry, Hilari, .40 FTE (now .60 FTE), Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs

Fundak, Gwen, 1 FTE, Resource Room, Carmichael Middle School

Jackson, Janel, .60 FTE, Nurse, Special Programs

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Bean, Autumn, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 3/26/2021

Boyd, Yvonne, Secretary, Carmichael Middle School, effective 4/12/2021

Corbin, Kallee, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 4/12/2021

Hernandez, Ivan, Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 4/1/2021

Kahl, Ryan, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 4/13/2021

Maine, Alaina, Nutrition Services (Rehire), William Wiley Elementary, effective 4/16/2021

McCleary, Naomi, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 4/14/2021

Meichle, Matthew, Warehouse, Support Services, effective 4/26/2021

Villarreal, Felicia, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective
4/12/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Hane, Wendy, Secretary, Early Learning Center, effective 5/14/2021

Korsvik, Janet, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 4/2/2021

Kovolyan, Joseph, Grounds Manager, Support Services, effective
4/16/2021

Thramer, Melanie, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 4/13/2021 (will Cert Sub)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Conrad, David, Director of Transportation, effective 7/1/2021

Stewart, Clara, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 8/31/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Jensen, Beau, Electrician, Support Services, effective 4/1/2021

RESCINDING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Orme, Francelle, Nutrition Services, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 4/12/2021

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Chanmounny, Phafanh, Custodian, Hanford High School, offer rescinded, effective 3/31/21

4.2 Approval of Minutes (March 23, 2021; April 1, 2021)

4.3 Alternative Learning Environment (ALE)-Policy/RR No. 2255

4.4 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006715 through 40006716 for \$1,324.89

No. 54000320 for \$799.21

Nos. 40006717 through 40006722 for \$9,306.63

Nos. 54000321 through 54000322 for \$38,498.02

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001613 through 20001619 for \$108,696.34

Nos. 20001620 through 20001628 for \$704,596.92

Nos. 52000213 through 52000214 for \$2,832.45

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10076145 through 10076208 for \$524,377.28

No. 51001140 for \$576.24

Nos. 10076209 through 10076263 for \$496,436.73

No. 51001141 for \$306,476.35

Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 70000202 for \$7,660.48

Nos. 70000203 through 70000204 for \$6,900.61

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10076023 to 10076105 for \$168,681.82

10076144 for \$4,519,377.72

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$9,220,705.00

Total March Payroll approved in the amount of \$13,908,764.54

5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger advised high school graduations will be held in person at Fran Rish Stadium on June 11 and 12, 2021. River's Edge High School will be on June 11, 2021. The time and location will be announced soon.

Rick Jansons advised Board members to complete the yearly Public Disclosure information, due on April 15, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS