



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 27, 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 27, 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, Real Estate)

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), acquisition of real estate, if public knowledge might increase the price 42.30.110 (1) (b), 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 recessed at 6:29 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:35 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS

2.1.1 Certificated Appreciation Week-May 3-7, 2021

Tony Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, stated next week is Certified Appreciation Week. Mr. Howard recognized the many teachers and support position staff members who have worked extremely hard, especially during this very challenging year. This recognition is well-deserved and several activities have been planned to celebrate next week.

Mr. Jansons reported this has been the most difficult year with so many changes and accommodations. He thanked all certified staff members for their dedication.

2.1.2 Destination Imagination

Ty Beaver, Communications Director, introduced students involved in Destination Imagination. The District had sixteen teams compete at the virtual Regional Tournament, of which ten teams then moved on to the virtual State Tournament. Six of those teams qualified for Global Finals after

finishing in the top three of their challenge. Students shared information regarding their team's challenge. Global Finals will be virtual as well.

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

Shelly Burt shared her concerns regarding public input for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Planning Guide, suggested a transition classroom for students moving from kindergarten to first grade, and a co-teaching classroom. Ms. Burt suggested using a portable to address the sensory room issue.

Keith Pilgrim shared his concern regarding students returning to in-person classes. Mr. Pilgrim felt hybrid learning was working well and feels the quality of learning has gone down. He asked the Board to revisit their decision.

Gary Bullert stated issues regarding the Mental Health Assistance Team information at a previous Board meeting and feels they neglected major criticisms of social emotion learning by some professionals. He shared further information with the Board.

Ian Allison shared his concern with the length of quarantine time for students with close contact to a student testing positive and the issues this causes for students needing to complete Advanced Placement (AP) testing.

Evelyn Hamby, Hanford High School Student, applauded the Board for making the decision to return students to classes full time, even considering all the COVID protocols students are required to follow.

Mr. Jansons stated his concern regarding AP testing and advised administrators are looking for ways to have students who are quarantined be allowed to complete AP testing in District. Dr. Redinger is also concerned with the 14-day quarantine period and met with Dr. Person, Benton Franklin Health District (BFHD), who shared since schools have moved from six-foot distancing to three-feet, those in close contact need to quarantine for 14 days.

Ms. Williams questioned why non-elected officials are making these decisions. She stated, when looking at other states with fewer restrictions, when do we say thanks for input but decide on our own protocols. The goal is to do what is best for kids. The District is providing options for online as well as in-person instruction.

Dr. Redinger stated the District has scheduled vaccination clinics for students. If students have completed the two-week period after being fully vaccinated, they do not need to quarantine. Students ages 12-15 may soon be offered vaccinations. Mr. Jansons advised Board members have received emails for months on both sides of the issue and stated he is not confident to make these decisions. The District is part of a system and is bound by rules. Dr. Redinger will invite Ms. Williams to the Benton Franklin Health District meetings. Mr. Jansons stated the District is in the top ten percent of in-person schools in the state. Ms. Williams still stated she does not agree with the 14-day quarantine.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Re-Opening Update

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, reported schools opened up full time, in-person instruction on April 19, 2021. Mr. Hansen shared some opportunities to celebrate and also some challenges.

Celebrations:

- 130 new enrollees since April 12, 2021
- Students meeting classmates for the first time
- Students eating lunch together (first time ever for kindergarten students)
- Planning for onsite COVID testing underway
- Additional onsite vaccination clinics are continuing

Challenges:

- Mask breaks-lunch/outside possibilities
- Recess-elementary only
- Transitions-more difficult at secondary schools
- Quarantine: the three-foot distancing requires more quarantining

Board discussion followed regarding the number of students vaccinated (10%), creative mask breaks (new guidance for outdoor activities), and plans for academic student assessment for fall. Mr. Hansen explained the OSPI required Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan will be presented at the next Board meeting, then again for approval on May 25, 2021. This will allow time for Board and public input on the plan.

3.2 Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Report

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, advised this is the annual Board interaction to meet requirements pursuant to WAC 392-121-182 and Policy No. 2245. Tyler Reeser, Three Rivers HomeLink Principal, and Nicole Anderson, River's Edge High School Principal, shared highlights from their schools.

Mr. Reeser thanked the Board for their continued support during this very challenging year. He stated satisfaction remains strong and the latest parent survey in March revealed families feel highly supported and are satisfied with HomeLink. HomeLink has opened enrollment to returning families for the 2021-2022 school year and has confirmed 770 students plan to return next fall. HomeLink has also increased graduation rates from 10% in 2018 to 90% in 2020. Low graduation rate was the reason HomeLink was identified in 2018 as a "needs improvement" school by the Office of System and School Improvement (OSSI) and has used their grant funds the past two years to further improve program offerings through project-based learning and academic support offerings.

Ms. Anderson reported because of lower enrollment, REHS students were able to return to in-person classes earlier than the large high schools. REHS created and implemented flexible scheduling allowing opportunities for students to earn credits through competencies and explore careers through internships with local company partnerships. Several classes added include a forensic class and a theme park class, both earning credits in several different areas. Ms. Anderson also reported a counselor was hired which was much appreciated to help with the emotional well-being of students. REHS is actively recruiting freshman students for next school year that desire a small high school atmosphere with project-based learning opportunities. Ms. Anderson thanked the Board for their support and invited them to visit in the future.

3.3 Richland Virtual School (RVS)/Naming Options

Mr. Baddley reported last week RVS (grades 6-12) was approved as a multi-district school on its first application. He introduced Andre Hargunani, RVS Principal, who stated the vision for a Richland School District online school began even before COVID. Advantages for this option include but are not limited to:

- Safe environment for students
- More opportunities for one-on-one interaction with teachers
- Flexibility to meet individual and family needs
- Parents have a greater opportunity to be involved in student's education
- Fewer classroom distractions

Mr. Hargunani explained on April 21, 2021, OSPI approved RVS as a Multi-District Online School for grades 6-12. He stated marketing can now be expanded as soon as the new name for RVS is decided by the Board. The committee followed Board Policy No. 9250 for naming of school facilities. The committee developed a survey to solicit input from all RVS families and the greater Richland community. The survey was also available on the RVS website and posted on the District Facebook page. The committee then devised evaluation surveys to rate the submissions; one survey for name, one for mascot, and a third for colors. The committee compiled the scores to find the top-rated submissions and then compared the scoring from the two stakeholder groups to find the commonalities and overall top submissions.

- **Colors:** The committee decided to wait until the school has a name before making a final decision on colors.
- **Mascot:** The committee decided to go with the highest rated mascot. The winning entry was a 3-tiered mascot:
 - Bumblebee (Elementary)
 - Yellowjacket (Middle School)
 - Hornet (High School)
- **Name:** Of the top ten rated names from each stakeholder group, eight names were in common. The committee removed submitted names that did not meet the criteria stated in the school board policy. The top five names were:
 - Ada Lovelace Virtual School
 - Columbia River Online Public School (CROPS)
 - Constance Motley Virtual School
 - Pacific Crest Online Academy
 - Reach Online Academy

Mr. Jansons stated this has been a quality program and the Board has offered strong support as an option for families. He commended the staff for their resiliency and creativeness. Ms. Olson asked to streamline the registration process so families can easily access information and registration. Ms. Williams congratulated all for their consistency throughout this year of changes.

Mr. Jansons advised marketing can begin immediately after a name is chosen. He asked Board members to share their preferences from the list presented by the committee. Mr. Jansons preferred Reach Online Academy or Pacific Crest Online Academy. Ms. Williams preferred Columbia River Online Public School or Pacific Crest Online Academy. Ms. Cleary preferred Pacific Crest Online Academy or Reach Online Academy. Ms. Oldson preferred Columbia River Online School or

Pacific Crest Academy. Mr. Gosney preferred Pacific Crest Online Academy or Reach Online Academy.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE REPLACING THE NAME OF RICHLAND VIRTUAL SCHOOL (RVS) WITH PACIFIC CREST ONLINE ACADEMY.

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

3.4 Construction Projects (All Project Report)

Caren Johnson, Capital Projects Director, shared a short recap of all capital projects currently underway.

Tapteal Elementary

The building transition for staff and students of Tapteal is complete with the first day in their new building on April 19, 2021. The building is in its final closeout stages with most of the items on the punch lists complete.

Richland High School Auditorium

The renovations on the auditorium and lobbies at RHS are progressing as designed. The new concrete floor is in the final phases of concrete pours. The orchestra pit floor and walls have also been poured. The existing restrooms are mostly complete with new finishes and trim. The team expects the project to be completed over the summer in preparation for the start of the 2021-2022 school year with a soft opening for school events this fall.

Old Admin Demo Project

The old administration building at 615 Snow has been demolished and new sod and irrigation has been installed.

Hanford High School Athletic Field

The old track and football field have been removed. The site is graded to new elevations and underground infrastructure is started for utilities, irrigation, and synthetic turf drainage.

New Badger Mountain Elementary

The contractor took over the building a week early, once the school moves were complete. Removal of the old gym floor logo and utility disconnections were started. Site demo will begin soon. One of the first activities by the contractor will be reconstructing the pathway along the school property. Ms. Johnson reported the newest Big Toys at Badger Mountain will be reinstalled.

Fran Rish Stadium Improvements

The Fran Rish Stadium improvement project was approved by the Project Review Committee for the General Contractor/Construction Management (GC/CM) delivery method. The committee will shortlist firms for interviews on May 6, and final sealed proposals will be opened on May 20, 2021. The committee will seek final School Board acceptance at the last meeting in May

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 (4.6) INCLUDING A REVISED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE END OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Bryan, Kathleen, Assistant Director, Early Learning Center

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Flajole, Jesse, 1 FTE, Language Arts, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 1/26/2021

Kulp, Hannah, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 4/12/2021

Morgan, Darren, 1 FTE, Resource Room, River's Edge High School, effective 2/1/2021

Muñoz, Angelica, 1 FTE, Self-Contained, Enterprise Middle School, effective 2/17/2021

Parsons, Meghan, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Lewis and Clark Elementary, rescinded effective 4/19/2021

Smith, Leah, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Tapteal Elementary, effective 3/1/2021

Utecht, Theresa, 1 FTE, Pre-School, Tapteal Elementary, effective 3/29/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Cohen, Caren, .40 FTE (Will then be .60 FTE), Occupational Therapist, Special Programs

Mcatee, Kaylee, 1 FTE, Kindergarten, Jason Lee Elementary

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Knowles, Kathy, 1 FTE, Resource Room, Chief Joseph Middle School

Smith, Jay, 1 FTE, Resource Room, Hanford High School

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Anderson, Sari, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

Carter, Rachel, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

Davis, Carrie, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

Ferguson, Jessica, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

Foster, Jared, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

Obbink, Sydney, 1 FTE, Psychologist, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

Smith, Daleen, 1 FTE, SpEd Teacher Pool, Special Programs, effective 08/31/2021

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Gjerdevig, Crystal, Nutrition Services-Temporary, Carmichael Middle School, effective 5/3/2021

Harrington, Lena, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 5/10/2021

Hinkley, Ma Leila, Nutrition Services, William Wiley Elem, effective 4/19/2021

REASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Stacks, Amanda, Custodian, Libby MS to Bldg. Foreman 1, Wiley Elementary, effective 4/26/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Bermudez, Priscilla, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 4/30/2021

Brina, Rossella, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 4/28/2021

Gladden, Crystal, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 4/22/2021

Hartsfield, Jennifer, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 8/31/2021
Johnson, Linda, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elem., effective 4/16/2021 (will Cert Sub)
Stairs, Belinda, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 4/28/2021
LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR
Burt, Desirae, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 4/12/2021
RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Pavkov, Charles, Bus Driver, Transportation
Schaefer, Shelly, Building Foreman 1, William Wiley
4.2 Approval of Minutes (April 13, 2021; April 20, 2021)

4.3 Graduation Policy No. 2410-RR

4.4 Enrollment Monthly

4.5 Budget Monthly

4.6 Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006723 through 40006730 for \$3,760.62
Nos. 40006731 through 40006735 for \$5,463.25
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001629 through 20001632 for \$615,801.69
No. 52000216 for \$498.67
No. 20001633 for \$4,086.50
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10076266 through 10076399 for \$698,594.26
No. 51001142 for \$13,674.56
Nos. 10076401 through 10076484 for \$729,072.03
Self-Insurance Warrant Nos. 70000205 through 70000207 for \$19,910.08
No. 70000208 for \$5,716.77

5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger advised staff members are really working hard and is pleased with the District progress for in-person learning. This will help to prepare all for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Jansons recessed the meeting at 8:34 to continue the Executive Session. Executive session reconvened at 8:45 P.M. The executive session was projected to last thirty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 9:05 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 9:05 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS