



Board of Directors, Special Meeting Minutes, Tuesday May 18, 2021  
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400  
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a Workshop/Special Meeting Tuesday, May 18, 2021 via Zoom and in person at 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington, Benton County. 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 4:02 P.M.

### **1.0 Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan**

Mr. Jansons explained this meeting is an opportunity for the public to give input on the Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan. The public is also encouraged to share input via email. No action will be taken at this meeting. The Plan will be on the May 25, 2021 regular meeting agenda for Board approval. Mr. Jansons asked for public comment, followed by Board input and discussion. Copies of the emails received so far were shared with Board members.

#### *Public Comment:*

Shelley Burt stated she emailed her concerns already. Several concerns were transitions from kindergarten to first grade and first to second grade, addressing sensory rooms, and offerings needed to get students excited for school.

John Distifeno stated lots of attention is needed to getting students caught up. He shared the many disruptions to students' days currently and wants to know the plan to get back to "normal" school days this fall.

Elizabeth Vann-Clark shared she likes the Plan and asked if the Plan had been reviewed by teachers and support staff. She also asked if the District has the resources to make the Plan happen. Mr. Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, explained the Plan has been sent to staff and is on the District website for staff input. The timeline for the Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan has been very short. More time will be allowed for Phases 2 and 3. This will also provide more time to involve a larger representative group. The deadline for plan approval is June 1, 2021.

Board members shared input on the *Equity Tool* including:

- Add the following groups listed in the Workgroup on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion's written comments: (blend what we currently have to include the following) American Indian/Alaskan Native; Asian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino of any race(s); Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; Two or More Races; White; English Learner; Students Experiencing Poverty; Students with Disabilities; Students Experiencing Homelessness; and Students in Foster Care. Also mentioned were Highly Capable, English Language Learners (ELL), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Mental Health.

Board members shared input on the *Academic and Student Well-Being Plan* including:

- recommendation for more para support for Kindergarten-Second grade
- clearly link what the District is doing about the Dyslexia Assessment
- include information on District required Special Education transition meetings (assure that team meetings occur for students with IEPs transitioning to middle school or high school to provide full teacher awareness)
- add information regarding co-teaching
- shift make-up of Equity Trainers (supported by all Board members and was the most referenced concern received from public input-especially students)
  - diversity of presenters is important
- add a clearer description of tools/resources
- what are the staff (certified, classified and administration) supports? Include a section on resources available to staff – i.e., Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Mr. Jansons heard requirements for masking and attestations will not be changing for the rest of this school year but may for the start of school. Dr. Redinger stated new guidance for fall should be coming later this week. There were no changes to Resolution No. 927. The resolution states the Board reserves the right to update as new guidance is available.

Mr. Jansons explained the final Plan will be presented at the next regular board meeting, May 25, 2021, for Board approval.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 P.M.

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS