



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, August 10, 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, August 10, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, 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 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Mr. Jansons was excused.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS

2.1.1 Linda Johnson, Teacher-Early Learning Center

Ms. Johnson was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Johnson was selected as the Teacher of the Year for the District and named Regional Teacher of the Year by local Educational Service District (ESD) 123.

2.1.2 Holly Hernandez, Kitchen Manager-Chief Joseph Middle School

Ms. Oldson introduced Holly Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez was selected as Certificated Staff Member of the Year and named Regional Certified Staff Member of the Year by ESD 123. Both will be competing for State recognition awarded in September.

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

Ms. Oldson reviewed protocols for the public comment period.

Al Bingham stated the Board's job is to represent students and shared his concerns for students wearing masks. He doesn't feel the Board should uphold the mandate by the Governor. He feels the District should push back on Critical Race Theory and Sex Education policies, also providing opt out options for parents and students.

John Distifeno agrees with the previous speaker. He was disappointed there was only one Board meeting in July and is anxious to hear detailed plans for the upcoming school year. He feels it is sad that his children don't want to go to school.

Shelly Burt shared her concern regarding co-teaching classrooms since teacher negotiations are currently underway.

Lillian Joy Hill shared she has been a public activist and feels parents may be organizing homeschools and a drop in enrollment will cause funding to be decreased.

Valerie Anderson stated half her family is home with COVID. She feels kids are scared with all the mask wearing. They need to be back in school and need normalcy.

Elizabeth Lugo appreciates the Board doing the right thing in wanting masks for students and feels many are being selfish. She feels we all need to work together to keep students safe.

Sarah Watson has a student with medical issues and feels that wearing a mask is a small price to pay for keeping all students safe and allowing all to return to school. She feels most kids want to return to school and will wear a mask. She thanked the Board for their effort to keep students safe.

Ms. Oldson advised Board members are in a tough spot. The current amount of division in our community is very disheartening. It is hard to find accurate data and she feels it is easy to find narratives for any opinion. She asked for grace and patience at this time. No one has the right answer, and all Board members want what is in the best interest of students. Ms. Oldson asked that we respect other people's attitudes and asked all to continue sharing input.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Budget Extension Hearing

Mr. Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, advised a budget was adopted for the upcoming school year, then additional funds were received. Resolution No. 932 is allowing these funds to add to what was originally budgeted. He explained, with enrollment increases, this may be needed again next year.

Ms. Oldson explained this is the formal hearing before the Resolution approval. She called the Budget Extension Hearing to order at 7:12. She advised the Public Hearing was to gain input for the budget extension, not a question/answer period. Ms. Oldson asked for input. She asked twice more with no response.

3.2 Resolution No. 932-Budget Extension-General Fund and Transportation Vehicle Fund

It was moved by Ken Gosney and seconded by Kari Williams –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 932-BUDGET EXTENSION-GENERAL FUND AND TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FUND.

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

The budget portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

3.3 Return to School Guidance-Update for Fall 2021

Mike Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, shared the state requirements from July 28, 2021, which was followed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Chris Reykdal's message to districts. Mr. Hansen stated additional requirements regarding sports and performing arts is

expected shortly. He stated the District is also seeking further clarification for serving meals in a cafeteria setting.

Mr. Hansen reported the District is planning for full-time in-person instruction this fall. Face coverings will be required for all students and staff in school buildings and on buses. Face coverings will not be required outdoors. Physical distancing of three feet will be used whenever possible. Impact on schools:

- contact tracing and reporting requirements will continue
- staff can resume working with small groups of students
- on-site temperature checks are not required
- staff and families are still expected to self-screen and stay home if sick
- mitigation strategies will continue (cleaning/sanitizing, ventilation, hygiene)
- no attestations for students/one time only for staff
- no A/B hybrid schedules

Mr. Hansen shared quarantine protocols have been updated to reduce student exclusions. All staff, including those fully vaccinated, are required to wear a mask at all school locations. Masks are optional for staff at non-school locations and in schools when students are not present if fully vaccinated and attestations completed.

Board meeting procedures:

- physical distancing is no longer required
- pre-registration is no longer required
- opportunities to participate in-person and remotely still available
- masks required if students are present (seeking more clarification on this)

Board discussion followed including locker usage and cafeteria seating.

Public Comment:

Cassidi Gaul has six children in the District and had questions about vaccinations and quarantine periods. She appreciates the Board's decision to require masks and stated it is a small price to pay for allowing all children to be in classrooms with their friends.

Danica Garcia asked if volunteers will be allowed in buildings this year and suggested a letter of support be sent to PTAs/PTOs. Dr. Redinger stated she is in support of allowing volunteers into buildings. Back to school nights are also being planned.

Elizabeth Van Clark shared last year was hard emotionally on her student who graduated. She talked about the trauma and division in the community. Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent, shared information on the Mental Health Assistance Team (MHAT), the addition of school counselors, and the emphasis on relationship building with students this fall.

Sarah Watson asked if students would be allowed to eat outside. Dr. Redinger stated this will be encouraged as long as the weather cooperates.

Katlyn Cleveland asked if the student council will be allowed to meet in person. Dr. Redinger stated she is looking forward to those in-person meetings.

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 (4.3) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Edwards, Sondra, 1 FTE, Math, Hanford High School

Finley, April, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education

Price, Ben, 1 FTE, 4th Grade, Tapteal Elementary

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Anderson, Elizabeth, 1 FTE, 4th Grade, Badger Mountain Elementary

Caldwell, Kyle, 1 FTE, Music, Sacajawea Elementary

Carl, Emily, 1 FTE, Social Studies, Hanford High School

Cioppa, Philip, 1 FTE, Language Arts, Hanford High School

Conti, Gianni, 1 FTE, Resource Room, Richland High School

Cottrell, Keisha, 1 FTE, BESST, Lewis and Clark Elementary, rescinded, remaining in para unit

DeMyer, Annette, 1 FTE, 4th Grade, Sacajawea Elementary

Frank, Laura, .40 FTE, Math, Pacific Crest Online Academy

Gobeil, Mariah, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education

Griffin, Steven, 1 FTE, Social Studies / CTE, Carmichael Middle School

Hair, Mellisa, 1 FTE, 1st Grade, Jason Lee Elementary, corrected to non-continuing

Mathews, MaKayla, 1 FTE, 4th Grade, Marcus Whitman Elementary

Maldonado, Yeselle, 1 FTE, 2nd Grade, Tapteal Elementary, non-continuing

Moody, Stacey, 1 FTE, Nurse, Teaching & Learning

Morfin, Eva, 1 FTE, Counselor, Hanford High School

Peterson, Ashley, 1 FTE, CTE Computer Science, Chief Joseph Middle School, non-continuing

Prather, Kiley, 1 FTE, Math, Hanford High School

Rehm, Savannah, 1 FTE, Instructional Specialist, Teaching, Learning, & Administration Center

Root, Courtney, 1 FTE, PE/Health, Hanford High School

Ruiz, Natilee, 1 FTE, Resource Room, Richland High School

Schumacher, Nicole, 1 FTE, Music, Marcus Whitman Elementary

Shaffer, Christine, 1 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education

Stemhagen, Cassandra, 1 FTE, Resource Room, Tapteal Elementary

Thramer, Melanie, 1 FTE, 4th Grade, White Bluffs Elementary, corrected to non-continuing

Torr-albo, Amanda, .60 FTE, Science, Enterprise Middle School, non-continuing

Tullos, Andrea, 1 FTE, Art, Chief Joseph Middle School

Twing, Brooke, 1 FTE, Language Arts/Social Studies, Leona Libby Middle School

Vander Top, Melissa, 1 FTE, Occupational Therapist, Special Education

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR (CONTINUED)

Wallace, Nathan, 1 FTE, Nurse, Teaching & Learning

Washington, Crystal, 1 FTE, Behavior Analyst, Special Education

TEMPORARY OUT-OF-ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Pryor-Gilles, Juliana, Special Education, Richland High School, In-Program

Schrader, Zachary, Special Education, Libby Middle School, In-Program

White, Jennifer, Special Education, Chief Joseph Middle School, In-Program

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Steiling, Jeannie, Secretary, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/16/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Bahena-Astudillo, Rocio, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School

Doyle, Mary, Nutrition Services, Jason Lee Elementary

Jackson, Kimberly, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary

Kahl, Abigail, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary

Keenan, Kathy, Secretary, Human Resources

Solnicka, Karen, Nutrition Services, effective 8/31/2021

Smothermon, Sarah, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary

Toth, Kaitlyn, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Gearheart, Kristin, From Paraeducator to Secretary, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/23/2021

REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hollick, Joseph, Custodian, Hanford High/River's Edge HS to Orchard, effective 7/19/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Andersen, Cynthia, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School

Behling, Karalee, Secretary, Richland High School

Brown, Hans, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, expected dates 8/30/2021 – 12/17/2021

Heeney, Sherri, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, 2nd yr. LOA

4.2 Approval of Minutes (July 27, 2021; August 3, 2021)

4.3 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006786 through 40006787 for \$245.61

ASB Fund EFT Warrant Nos. 54000335 through 54000336 for \$1,847.28

Nos. 54000337 through 54000339 for \$12,808.27

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001694 through 20001697 for \$106850.92

Nos. 20001698 through 20001702 for \$1,263,297.80

Capital Projects Fund EFT Warrant No. 52000224 for \$196,085.62

Nos. 52000225 through 52000226 for \$3,723.24

Capital Projects Fund EPAY Warrant Nos. 72000026 through 72000027 for \$25,215.20

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10078038 through 10078071 for \$192,169.83

Nos. 10078087 through 10078128 for \$352,183.58

General Fund EFT Warrant Nos. 51001179 through 51001191 for \$43,481.15

Nos. 51001192 through 51001206 for \$450,899.49

General Fund EPAY Warrants Nos. 71002165 through 71002181 for \$40,054.40

Nos. 71002182 through 71002194 \$73,340.50

Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos. 57000038 through 57000039 for \$21,656.06

No. 57000040 for \$8,163.28

Payroll Warrant No. 10077715 for \$1,721.25

Nos. 10077818 through 10077915 for \$186,976.74

Nos. 10077997 through 10078037 for \$4,680,184.79

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$10,841,214.05
Total July Payroll approved in the amount of \$15,710,096.83

5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger advised the District is focusing on guidance and getting clarification to keep our schools strong and safe. Richland School District has a long history of excellence and coming together during tough times.

Jill Oldson shared a report showing COVID cases in local counties are among the highest in the state.

Kari Williams met with a small group of teachers and administrators regarding early literacy and feels this would be a good agenda or workshop topic to further educate all on early literacy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS