



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 28, 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, September 28, 2021, at 5:40 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 5:40 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:40 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 sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:27 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 GOOD NEWS-National Merit Semifinalist

Tory Christensen, Hanford High School Principal, introduced Maia DeMeyer, Hanford Student, who was recently named a National Merit Semifinalist. Maia plans to pursue a career in computer science when she attends college next year.

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

Mr. Jansons reported this is the time for the Board to listen to comments on educational issues. The Board will not respond to comments or engage in dialogue unless clarifications are needed. Comments will be limited to two minutes.

J. Distifeno questioned why Board meetings are not being held in person. He also asked if the District was willing to lose teachers and bus drivers who do not adhere to the vaccine mandate.

Kari thanked the Board for being pro-active to keep students safe. She also asked why people were bringing the vaccination issue to the Board since it is a State mandate.

Andrea is a teacher at White Bluffs and shared her confusion regarding masks/shields. She stated she had COVID and feels those that have had COVID should qualify for an exemption from the vaccine mandate. Dr. Redinger stated there was some confusion with information that was sent out and new clarification will be shared soon.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 NAC Facility Planning Update

Caren Johnson, Capital Projects Director, introduced Melissa McFadgen, NAC Architects. This committee began before COVID-19, but was put on hold until recently. She shared information from the last two workshops with committee members, a focus group update, and next steps. Ms. McFadgen advised using lessons learned from past high school projects to set up focus groups to begin this work. Topics discussed included:

- technology adaptable for in-person and remote instruction
- options for career work as well as college preparedness
- community need for new high school: less crowding, additional program offerings, smaller class sizes
- magnet programs-include transportation?
- develop a building culture, balancing teachers and coaches-important to have a core group

Ms. McFadgen discussed several options of student populations at a new high school with pros and cons to all. A-freshmen only? B-freshmen and sophomores? C-freshmen, sophomores, and juniors? D-freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors? The committee felt best about option C. In other districts this information has been shared with the public beforehand.

Board discussion followed including:

- interest in option C-good to have some upper classmen
- focus on what students want
- work with City of West Richland for possible pool option
- survey community to gather input-over communicate!

Ms. McFadgen reported she will be meeting with the student advisory group in early October to gather input and the facilities committee will meet again on September 30, 2021. Mr. Jansons stated the Board goal has been to keep bond rates flat. The District has other needs as well as a new high school and projects need to be prioritized.

3.2 Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA) Update

Andre Hargunani, Principal, reported Pacific Crest Online Academy is in its first year of implementation as a full-fledged K-12 online school, approved by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Last school year, Richland Virtual School (RVS) was quickly created in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, with the goal of providing an option for families who desired for their children to remain online and out of the school buildings all school year. Mr. Hargunani advised new elements this year include:

- specials/electives
- curriculum designed for online learning
- hands-on materials
- “house system” in secondary-grade-level teams (sense of community)
- written student learning plans

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum
- Special Education program
- improved technology-K-12 students using ACER laptops
- increased support staff

Mr. Hargunani reported enrollment of 196 students at the end of July, currently increasing to 452. Most students are Richland students but 41 are from other districts in Washington since PCOA was approved as a multi-district online school. He thanked the Board for their vision and commitment to create this online option for families.

Ms. Williams heard great things about PCOA and is very impressed with the specials and electives being offered including Spanish at every grade level. Mr. Hargunani also shared working on communication tools to help parents and teachers better communicate and finding ways to be more flexible to teach to large groups, small groups, and individuals.

Ms. Oldson asked how many different curricula were looked at before making the selection? Mr. Hargunani stated 4-5 that were robust for K-12 students. He advised this curriculum is built specifically for an online school instead of a brick-and-mortar school.

Mr. Jansons liked the idea of a one-time pick up for supplies and thanked Mr. Hargunani and all PCOA staff members for their effort. More than doubling enrollment is a huge lift! Dr. Redinger advised this has been a group effort with several different departments involved and recognized Carol Crowell, Lead Secretary, for her work to prepare for the start of school.

3.3 Board Policy Updates (6,000; 7,000 series)

Mr. Jansons advised one of the goals of the Board is to review and update District policies to align with the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA). The Administration proposes deleting the District's current 7000 series. These policies are recommended but not required. Mr. Jansons stated school budgeting is complicated, with multiple budgets and fund accounts. The three policies being recommended for deletion are:

Policy No. 7416 – Management of Banks Accounts

Policy No. 7425 – Inventories

Policy No. 7510 – Insurance

Policies for approval are:

Policy No. 6000 – Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption and Implementation

Policy No. 6020 – System of Funds and Accounts

Policy No. 6570 – Property and Data Management

Policy No. 6530 - Insurance

Ms. Oldson stated policies are critical to the operation of the Board to maintain a systematic approach to issues. Ms. Cleary advised it is important to have policies to refer to as Board members come and go. Ms. Williams stated it is also important to have these written when transitioning from a smaller to larger district as our enrollment grows, rather than just an informal understanding.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR FIRST READING:

Policy No. 6000 – Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption and Implementation
Policy No. 6020 – System of Funds and Accounts
Policy No. 6570 – Property and Data Management
Policy No. 6530 - Insurance

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

Mr. Jansons thanked Mr. Pettett, General Counsel, for his work on this lengthy project to update policies. These policies will be brought back for second reading at the next meeting so members will have more time to review.

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 AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hart, Nicole, 1 FTE, Nurse, Teaching & Learning Department

DECREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

McDowell, Jodi, .12 FTE (Now .60 FTE), Spanish, Three Rivers HomeLink, effective 9/27/2021

REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Appel, Jennifer, TOSA, Teaching & Learning, to Language Arts, PCOA, effective 9/20/21

Ballo, Erin, 5th Grade, Lewis & Clark Elementary, to 4th Grade, PCOA, effective 9/20/21

Marchell, Lisa, 1st Grade, William Wiley Elementary, to 3rd Grade, PCOA, effective 9/20/21

Nondorf, Stephenie, 5th Grade, Jefferson Elementary, to 5th Grade, PCOA, effective 9/20/21

Tansy, Racquel, Instr. Specialist, Marcus Whitman, to Math/Science, PCOA, effective 9/20/21

Wang, Carolyn, Title/LAP, Lewis & Clark, to 5th Grade, Jefferson Elementary, effective 9/20/21

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Leggett, Ben, 1 FTE, Music, Jefferson Elementary, non-continuing, effective 9/23/2021

Rumsey, Donald, 1 FTE, Science, Hanford High School, non-continuing, effective 9/23/2021

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Andebrhan, Daniel, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 9/22/2021

Maret-Johnson, Celeste, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 9/20/2021

Melvin, Lindsey, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 9/16/2021

Mendoza, Shannon, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 9/27/2021

Mesina, Crystal, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 9/27/2021

Meyer, Delton, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/17/2021

Reilly, Jennifer, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 10/11/2021
Same, Leila, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 9/20/2021
Scott, Alan, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 9/20/2021
Snargrass, Sash, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/23/2021
Shipley, Morgan, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 9/17/2021
Same, Leila, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/20/2021
Valdovinos, Diana, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/23/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Gunale, Usha, Paraeducator, 1st yr. LOA, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 10/1/2021
Knight, Alison, Secretary, 2nd yr. LOA, effective 9/24/2021-8/31/2022
Saldana, Ariana, Paraeducator, 1st yr. LOA, Enterprise Middle School

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Ahmeti, Arber, Custodian, Richland High School, effective 10/8/2021
Garrett, Kaitlyn, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 10/27/2021
McCary, Cathleen, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 10/8/2021
McNiven, Karen, Building Foreman 1, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/8/2021

4.2 Approval of Minutes (September 14, 2021)

4.3 Enrollment Monthly

4.4 Budget Monthly

4.5 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006800 through 40006815 for \$16,814.71
Nos. 54000345 through 54000347 for \$9,694.75
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001714 through 20001719 for \$1,333,691.71
Nos. 52000235 through 52000237 for \$147,461.78
Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000133 for \$1,500.00
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10078417 through 10078461 for \$315,482.78
Nos. 51001252 through 51001261 for \$47,905.37
Nos. 71002258 through 71002268 for \$7,056.72
Nos. 10078462 through 10078516 for \$545,296.37
Nos. 51001262 through 51001269 for \$49,582.48
Nos. 71002269 through 71002284 for \$11,092.42
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos. 57000045 through 57000046 for \$28,024.94
No. 70000228 for \$82,539.00

5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger complimented all who worked on policy changes. She also sent condolences to the Pasco School District for the devastating loss of one of their bus drivers. Patricia Thomas, recently hired Transportation Supervisor, has reached out to help and is also updating District staff on bus safety protocols.

Jill Oldson is concerned about learning loss and asked to add assessments as an agenda item. Mr. Hansen stated Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) will be discussed at the next meeting. She also asked Board members to review the Board Planning Document and give input on future topics.

Kari Williams stated she would love to see the iReady data when available. She feels teachers and instructional specialists are excited about LETRS training and other training options. She would

like to have a Board conversation regarding the allocation of funds toward learning loss. Mr. Hansen stated some iReady data will be available by the next meeting.

Mr. Jansons stated the Board Planning Document was created so staff members can plan their work. Ms. Cleary stated this has been done every year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS