



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 26, 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, October 26, 2021, at 6:00 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 6:00 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)**

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). The executive session was projected to last thirty 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-Richland High School Agriculture Program**

Ty Beaver, Communications Director, introduced Danielle Jelinek, Agriculture Teacher-Richland High School. Ms. Jelinek stated the Agriculture program was started eight years ago and includes students from both Richland and Hanford High Schools with officers elected last week. Students shared their experiences and awards including livestock and floral competitions at both the Connell and Puyallup Fairs, corsages for Homecoming and senior nights, and monthly floral subscriptions. Ms. Jelinek announced a Fall Bazaar will take place on November 20, 2021 at Richland High School.

Dr. Redinger announced October is National Principal Month. She thanked the District Principals for their amazing work. Mr. Jansons stated, especially after the last two years, Principals have done their work gracefully while deescalating issues that have occurred.

**2.2 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.

Eugene Nemeth shared pre-COVID-19 the District shared the Special Education Report. He stated since then he has not heard anything about the plan, and nothing has been implemented.

Cody Freeze shared his concern that the normal quality controls have been waived on EUA Rapid tests. He asked Board members where the line is drawn to following mandates. He asked the Board to make a motion to make EUAs and masks voluntary for participation.

Deanne Sullivan, Teacher at Orchard Elementary School, asked where to find out more information about the ESSER 3 funds the District received.

Casie Douglas shared her concern regarding safety measures when a student was hit after getting off the bus where there is no crosswalk.

Sasha shared her concern regarding Jill Oldson as a Board member and feels she shows bias to those not agreeing with mandates or the Critical Race Theory and feels she needs to be removed.

John Distifeno echoed the previous sentiments. He felt Ms. Oldson's post demonizes parents for caring.

Shelly Burt shared concerns regarding iReady test scores, transitional Kindergarten to first grade classrooms, sensory rooms in all elementary schools, lunchroom protocols, and Board meetings via zoom. Ms. Burt likes the Montessori idea for Jefferson Elementary.

Dr. Redinger reported the Transportation Department reviewed videos of the bus incident and the bus had left the area but did give students time to cross. She stated there are not always crosswalks at all bus stops. Staff members are meeting with the City of Richland to review safety protocols and an awareness campaign. Superintendent Redinger also stated tables are being brought back into lunchrooms for student use.

It was noted there was technical difficulty with a zoom boundary meeting and it will be rescheduled for next week. Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, can share more detail regarding ESSER funds. Dr. Redinger also advised the District does need to do a better job communicating Universal Design work tied to the Special Education Task Force Plan.

### **3.0 BUSINESS**

#### **3.2 Preliminary Communication Survey (moved to first topic on the agenda)**

Mr. Beaver, Communication Director, shared results from a preliminary communication survey conducted with District staff and families. He advised communication has been recognized as a top priority for the District. The survey was completed by over 1,300 with the majority being parents of District students. Mr. Beaver stated results showed a clear preference for email communications to stakeholders and limited use of social media communications. Stakeholders did appreciate the way the District shares good news stories. Areas of future growth include:

- text alert notifications for urgent news
- auditing school websites for continuity
- building connections-planning events for engagement with District leaders
- realigning the District's social media strategy-not as a primary communication tool

Board discussion included:

- overall positive results
- liked the addition of a popup on the cover page of the District website with a link to Board meeting information
- continue looking for improvements/seek more input
- encouraged a consistent newsletter schedule
- name calling/bullying much easier over social media-doesn't help to find common ground

### **3.1 Safe Walking Routes**

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, stated before the beginning of a new school year the District works with both the Cities of Richland and West Richland to discuss any changes that would affect the safety of students walking to and from school. Examples of changes include opening new schools, new housing developments, and/or speed limit changes. The District is in communication with the Cities of Richland and West Richland regarding road construction or modifications. District staff also work with Principals to ensure changes are communicated to families and plans are in place. Throughout the school year if a concern is presented by staff or the community, whether it is a request for additional crosswalks or speed limit signs, the District and Cities work together to assess and problem solve. Final decisions are made by the Cities.

Ms. Williams asked what planning is in the works for safer routes. Mr. Krasner shared several specifics including changes to pickup/drop off spots at Orchard Elementary, speed limit signs, flashing beacons, and moving the location of crossing guards to address student safety. The District is also partnering with the City to install an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk near Chief Joseph Middle School. Ms. Williams asked that staff bring any requests to the Board that could improve safety including additional funding. Mr. Krasner is currently working on a grant in West Richland to improve the additional traffic flow near Libby Middle School. Mr. Jansons stated the Cities have been very responsive to requests and appreciated their timely response to issues.

### **3.3 Staff Vaccination Update**

Dr. Redinger advised all COVID-19 vaccination information was completed by Monday, October 25, 2021. Copies of exceptions were not required to be sent to the State. All but six staff members registered their information and Superintendent Redinger thanked the Human Resource staff for their additional work to meet this deadline. Tony Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared more than 85% of contracted full-time staff verified their vaccination while 14.5% requested accommodations for medical or religious reasons. Mr. Howard advised employees were very professional during this process.

### **4.0 CONSENT AGENDA** (approval by a single vote of the Board)

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.12) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

-----  
**4.1 Personnel Actions**

**CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Diehl, Victoria, .80 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education, non-continuing  
Hue, Edward, 1 FTE, Science, Hanford High School, non-continuing

**NON-DISCIPLINARY DISCHARGE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Fix, Savannah, 1 FTE, Kindergarten, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 10/18/2021  
Tullos, Andrea, 1 FTE, Art, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/18/2021

**CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

**NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Bae, Sookhyn, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/18/2021  
Davis, Jordan, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 10/18/2021  
Elliott, Mark, Paraeducator (Replacement Employee), Orchard Elem. (eff. dates 10/21/2021-  
6/14/2022 only)

Flores, Eric, Plumber, Support Services, effective 11/1/2021  
McFall, Gillian, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary School, effective 10/14/2021 (updated date)  
Nelson, Victoria, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary School, effective 10/19/2021

**CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Lawter, Cory, Custodian, Chief Joseph Middle School to Building Foreman 1, Badger Elementary,  
effective 11/1/2021

**CHANGE OF POSITION FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Bennett, Jacob, Information Technology Technician 1 to Information Technology Systems Analyst,  
Information Technology, effective 11/1/2021

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Black, Sean, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective dates 8/30/2021- 11/29/2021  
Hickman, Briana, Secretary, River's Edge High School, effective dates 10/19/2021 – 1/11/2022  
Mathews, Katrina, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective dates 10/25/2021-2/22/2022

**RESCINDING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Bampton, Cindy, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 11/01/2021

**RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Andersen, Cynthia, Paraeducator, (Currently on 2<sup>nd</sup> yr LOA), effective 10/14/2021  
Berger, Nikita, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 10/27/2021  
Bueno, Juan, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary School. Effective 10/29/2021  
Kamrowski, Rachel, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 8/31/2021 (will Cert Sub)  
Rhynes, Heather, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/18/2021 (corrected date)

**NON-DISCIPLINARY DISCHARGE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Hodges, Carla, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/18/2021  
Logan, Eileen, Nutrition Services, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 10/18/2021  
Rizzo, Kimberly, Secretary, Carmichael Middle School, effective 10/18/2021

**4.2 Approval of Minutes (October 12, 2021)**

**4.3 Paraeducator 2021-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**4.4 Office Personnel 2021-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**4.5 Nutrition Services 2021-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**4.6 Tri-Tech Skills Center Interdistrict Cooperative**

**4.7 Policy/RR No. 4060-Distribution of Materials (replacing No. 3222)**

**4.8 Policy/RR No. 4500-Drones (replacing No. 2500)**

**4.9 Policy No. 2255-Alternative Learning Environment Programs**

**4.10 Enrollment Monthly**

**4.11 Budget Monthly**

**4.12 Payroll and Warrant Information**

- ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006824 through 40006831 for \$5,151.99
  - Nos. 54000356 through 54000358 for \$86,442.00
  - Nos. 74000121 through 74000123 for \$3,417.69
  - Nos. 40006832 through 40006836 for \$21,182.33
  - No. 54000359 for \$525.00
- Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001730 through 20001733 for \$895,965.81
  - Nos. 52000239 through 52000241 for \$323,523.85
  - No. 52000242 for \$133,502.94
- General Fund Warrant Nos. 10078761 through 10078838 for \$340,454.71
  - Nos. 51001299 through 51001313 for \$639,203.20
  - Nos. 71002315 through 71002324 for \$17,729.91
  - Nos. 10078839 through 10078896 for \$324,860.58
  - Nos. 51001314 through 51001327 for \$481,597.41
  - Nos. 71002325 through 71002341 for \$58,562.75
- Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 57000050 for \$6,739.16
  - Nos. 70000231 through 70000232 for \$2,114.76
  - No. 57000051 for \$2,862.09

**5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Shelley Redinger shared that Angela Withers, School Psychologist, was announced as School Psychologist for the State of Washington. She also reported Hanford High School will hold its first football game at the new Hanford Field Complex and the first musical event will take place in the newly renovated Richland High School Auditorium later this week.

Kari Williams will be attending the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Legislative Assembly as the voting delegate for the District. Jill Oldson and Rick Jansons will also be attending.

Rick Jansons reported the District Mental Health Assessment Team (MHAT) presented at the State level and are leading the way for mental health services in school districts.

Jill Oldson stated the WSSDA General Assembly works to prioritize goals of School Boards across the State to be sure school district voices are heard by the Legislature. Ms. Oldson also stated she serves on the Board because she loves kids. She explained the post on her private Facebook page was a mis-judgement on her part. In no way was it directed to someone in the community. Masks and vaccinations are public health issues, and the lack of civility including death threats and email threats to Board members is troubling across the nation. Ms. Oldson stated her passion is for kids and she has no intention of offering a resignation. She advised she will always listen to parents with differing positions.

-----

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

---

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

---

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS