



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 11, 2022  
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, January 11, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Jill Oldson presided. Board members present: Kari Williams, Audra Byrd, Semi Bird, and Rick Jansons. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Deputy Superintendent Mike Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Secondary Education Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Tony Howard, Executive Director of Financial Services Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Information Technology Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Special Education Dr. Tracy Blankenship, Director of Communications Ty Beaver, and District Counsel Galt Pettett.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal)**

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 P.M. to discuss complaints or charges against an employee or board member (the person complained against may open the meeting to the public) 42.30.110 (1) (f); 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 6:30 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:33 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-LEGO Robotics Team**

Shawna Dihm, Digital Specialist, introduced the Robotics Team “Intelligent Mademoiselles” who recently competed in the Eastern Washington Lego League Robotics Regional Tournament. The team qualified to compete in the state competition in Seattle. Students involved include Lucy Cramer, Armelle Bonneville, Anditri Prasad, Bianca Zink-all from Lewis and Clark Elementary. Samviti Prasad-Orchard Elementary and Kaitlyn Gibson-White Bluffs Elementary were also members of the team.

### **2.3 Requests and Comments by Visitors (3 minutes per individual)**

Deannie Sullivan shared the importance of early literacy and stated Senate Bill 6162 requires schools to screen students K-2 for literacy problems. She also shared the responsibility to communicate with families.

Barb Puigh shared her background and asked where she might be able to help the District. Dr. Redinger suggested she follow up with the Board President for more information.

Phillip Gorton shared his concern with COVID shots for students and feels their immune system is more effective.

Elizabeth Van Clark stated the District ended its partnership with The Arc of the Tri-Cities some time ago and asked that the District continue this partnership. Dr. Redinger asked Dr. Blankenship, Executive Director of Special Education, to follow up.

Shelly Burt shared concern with the District's reading curriculum, lack of co-teachers, and is concerned with how the District is using para educators.

Matt O'Hara asked the capacity of the board room at the Teaching, Learning and Administrative Center and shared the sound quality for those viewing online is inadequate.

Brianna Watson appreciated the candidate forums for the Jefferson Elementary Principal position. She asked if a student representative would be a voting member and was told they would not. Ms. Watson also referred to a comment at the last meeting and stated she valued curriculum but felt learning is much more than curriculum. Ms. Byrd stated her comment referred to teachers sharing personal beliefs.

Danika Garcia asked for more information to the public on boundaries including transfer opportunities and timelines. Ms. Garcia also asked what work has been done towards adding dual language opportunities. Mr. Moore stated the window for transfer requests opens on February 1, 2022 and will be well publicized. The District will try to honor as many accommodations as possible.

Tina Gregory feels requiring students to wear masks is harmful and lockdowns are not effective. Ms. Gregory also questioned the amount of COVID relief funds the District received.

Brad Klippert asked the District to consider a resolution similar to the Mead School District stating opposition to a vaccination mandate for students if proposed by the State. Representative Klippert is also opposed the testing of student athletes and reinforced that Critical Race Theory not be taught in Washington State.

TAB feels people walking in schools without masks put a burden on District staff. She also stated Representative Klippert is running for office and used his time to promote his personal agenda.

### **3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Legislative Priorities**

Melissa Gombosky, Legislative Consultant, stated this is the second day of a 60-day Legislative Session with over 600 Bills introduced today. District priorities presented include:

- Update the prototypical school funding model
- Protect regionalization investment
- Fully fund Special Education
- Support capital facilities

Discussion followed including:

- Advocate for local control
- Mandate for children to be in school at age five (currently age eight)-what purpose?

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Audra Byrd –

Ms. Williams asked to add “Strengthen Local Control” to the presented priorities. Mr. Bird agreed.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES WITH THE ADDITION OF *STRENGTHEN LOCAL CONTROL* AS AMMENDED.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, yes; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes: and Oldson, yes.  
Motion was approved.

#### **3.2 NAC Facility Planning Update**

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, introduced Melissa McFadgen, NAC Architects, who updated the Board on facility planning. Ms. McFadgen advised the planning process has included meeting with focus groups, student involvement, and Thought Exchange feedback with priorities including:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> High School
- Larger operations facility (warehouse/support services area)
- Smaller class sizes

Next steps include defining the project scope, assigning costs, and bringing a recommendation to the Board for review. Ms. McFadgen shared a meeting to discuss a pool mentioned at the last meeting is scheduled for next week. The property to be used for a third high school is 62 acres, which is small for a comprehensive high school.

Ms. Byrd asked to discuss current options for Three River’s HomeLink verses on a future bond. Dr. Redinger shared NAC is structuring the next bond. Mr. Krasner and Ms. Johnson can address the bigger picture District-wide at an upcoming Board meeting.

Ms. McFadgen shared meeting with Ryan Beard, Career and Technical Education Director, where they discussed possible magnet components for a third high school. Ideas from students included: environmental science-sustainable, life-long fitness, dual credits, and blending career paths. Dr. Redinger advised the need to keep all current high schools strong and complement each other. Board members asked for more detailed information on student input.

#### **4.2 Strategic Plan Planning/Process (moved from New Business below)**

Dr. Redinger stated currently the District is using a document created from the Special Education Task Force with stakeholder input from several years ago. She asked for suggestions on how to move forward with a process, i.e., Request for Proposals (RFP)/outside facilitator? Interviews?

Ms. Byrd suggested having Mr. Bird facilitate this work since he has expertise in this area. Mr. Bird stated he would volunteer his services at no cost. Board discussion followed:

- Cost saving to the District
- Mr. Bird to provide support
- Mr. Bird shared this would not be a conflict of interest
- Process to include evening community meetings

It was decided Mr. Bird will present information on the process at the Board Workshop on Friday, January 14, 2022. More discussion to follow.

#### **3.3 Educational Programs and Operations Levy Renewal Update**

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, stated the four-year Levy proposal, with a tax rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, maintains the same Levy term and collection rate as the community has previously supported. He explained the desire is to provide predictability and stability for our community. Levy funds protect athletics, arts, extracurricular activities, music, PE, technology, while sustaining underfunded State and Federal programs such as Highly Capable and Special Education.

Dr. Redinger announced several Public Forums to take place in the next several weeks-Richland High School (1/26/22) and Hanford High School (1/19/22). Both will be held from 5:30-7:30 P.M. Tables will be set up for individual topics (Special Education, Athletics/Activities, Technology, Counselors/Nurses, etc.) with experts at each to answer questions.

Board members asked for clear communication regarding:

- What levies fund are used for-tracking of expenses
- Unfunded mandates
- What programs would be discontinued without levy funding
- Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds-how much received/what funds have been used for
- Video to communicate to the community

#### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Fran Rish Construction Documents-First Reading**

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, shared construction documents including track and field site layouts, building floorplans, elevations, and final Construction Document estimates from the Project Estimator and the General Contractor/Construction Management (GC/CM). As part of the GC/CM Alternative Public Works method used on this project, there was an early demolition phase that is now complete, and an early procurement bid package in December. Chervenell will proceed with opening bids on a variety of packages January 12, 2022 and the District will open bids on other general construction packages on January 13, 2022. Construction is expected to begin the first of February with substantial completion expected August 31, 2022.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Semi Bird –

Discussion: If bids come in low, alternates will be accepted. Mr. Jansons explained the GC/CM process used for this project with architects interviewed early, then contractors. This process has rigid guidelines and must be approved by the State. He credited Dr. Redinger and Mr. Krasner for their work to gain State approval.

Mr. Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported Richland High School will practice at Hanford High School this spring.

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE FRAN RISH CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR FRIST READING.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, yes; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes: and Oldson, yes.  
Motion was approved.

#### **4.3 Policy Update-9,000 Series**

Galt Pettett, District Counsel, advised the District is in the process of updating its policies. The Administration is recommending the Board delete the current 9,000 series, update the related policies, then add them to the 6,000 series.

- Policy 9280 – State Environmental Policy Act Compliance is the only essential (required) policy in the current 9000 series. Recommendation: renumber to 6890 - adopt updates-title to remain the same.
- Policy 9100 – Energy Use is classified as encouraged. Recommendation: renumber to 6810 - change title to Energy Management, Education and Conservation.
- Policy 9226 – Capital Financing is classified as encouraged. Recommendation: renumber to 6910 - change title to Construction Financing.
- Policy 9231 – Architect and Engineering Services is classified as encouraged. Recommendation: renumber to 6925 - title to remain the same.
- Policy 9232 – Educational Specifications it is classified as encouraged. Recommendation: renumber to 6920 - change title to Construction Design.
- Policy 9271 – Sale of Real Property is classified as encouraged. Recommendation: renumber to 6882 – title changed to Sale of Real Property.
- Policy and Rules and Regulations 9272 – Disposal of Surplus Property Other Than Real Property are encouraged. Recommendation: renumber to 6881 and Procedure 6881 - title changed to Disposal of Surplus Equipment and/or Materials.
- Policy 9225 – Facilities Planning, this policy is discretionary. Recommendation: renumber to 6900 - title remains the same. Policy provides guidance on how the District plans for new facilities.
- Policy 9225 – Facilities Planning, while this policy is discretionary, Recommendation: renumber to 6900 - title remains the same. This policy provides guidance on how the District plans for new facilities.
- Policy 9270 – Closure of Facilities is discretionary. Recommendation: renumber to 6883 - title to remain the same.
- Policy and Procedure 9228 – Capital Projects Policy. Recommendation: renumber to 6940- title to remain the same.

After discussion, Board members agreed to keep Policy and Rules and Regulations 9250 – Naming Schools and Facilities and delete Policy and Form 9273 – Use of District Property and Equipment.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Semi Bird –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE DELETING THE CURRENT 9,000 SERIES, UPDATING THE RELATED POLICIES, AND ADDING TO THE 6,000 SERIES.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, yes; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes: and Oldson, yes.  
Motion was approved.

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

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Kari Williams –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.5) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, yes; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes: and Oldson, yes.  
Motion was approved.

**5.1 Personnel Actions**

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Salinas, Amy, Assist. Principal, Carmichael MS to Principal, Jefferson Elementary, effective 1/18/2022

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Buchholz, Jesse, Director, Online Learning, TLAC, effective 1/6/2022

Howard, Burt, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, TLAC, effective 4/30/2022

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Caslin, Lauren, .40 FTE, Science, Richland High School, eff. 1/25/22 (FTE correction)

Forrester, Angela, 1 FTE, Transitional Kindergarten, Early Learning Center, eff. 1/3/2022

Kamrowski, Rachel, 1 FTE, Life Skills, Richland High School, eff. 1/3/2022

Sheldon, Jenna, 1 FTE, Kindergarten, Jason Lee Elementary, eff. 11/22/2021

Wagar, Mackenzie, 1 FTE, Social Worker, River's Edge High School, eff. 1/12/2022

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Fraga, Patricia, 1 FTE, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Orchard Elementary, effective 2/28/2022

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Ahmeti, Riad, Custodian, Hanford High, effective 1/18/2022

Brown, Joshua, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 1/3/2022

Buel, Carolyn, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 1/3/2022

Christensen, Brenda, Nutrition Services, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 1/3/2022

Comstock, Chase, Information Technology Tech. 1, Information Technology, effective 1/10/2022

Dortland, Ashley, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 1/10/2022

Drake, Jennifer, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 1/11/2022

Harrod, Eric, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 1/20/2022

Mendoza, Tara, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 1/3/2022

Mesteth, Chayton, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 1/10/2022  
Peale, Teresa, Secretary (Replacement Employee), effective 1/3/2022 – 6/22/2022  
Planesi, Indira, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 1/20/2022  
Ross, Nicholas, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/11/2022

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL (CONTINUED)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Thomas, Victoria, Paraeducator (Temporary), White Bluffs, eff. 1/3/2022 – 6/14/2022  
Tooley, Mary, Paraeducator (Rehire) Sacajawea Elementary, effective 1/10/2022  
Hernandez, Ivan, Custodian, Hanford High to Custodian, Early Learning Center, effective 12/20/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Thomas, Sandy, Nutrition Services, effective through 6/14/2022

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Alderman, Camille, Secretary, Financial Services, effective 1/21/2022  
Bowen, Sidney, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/10/2022 (will Cert Sub)  
Brown, Hans, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 12/14/2021  
Ennis, Mary, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 1/28/2022 (Will sub)  
Lawter, Cory, Building Foreman 1, Badger Mountain, effective 1/7/2022  
Lehrschall, Lani, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 1/14/2022  
Pedersen, Sunny, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 12/17/2021  
Sanchez-Smith, Ciccone, Information Technology Tech. 2, Information Technology, effective 12/31/2021

DECEASED

Mehinovic, Hamza, Custodian, Hanford High School

**5.2 Approval of Minutes (December 14, 2021; January 4, 2022)**

**5.3 Policy/RR No. 4040-Public Record Requests**

**5.4 Policy/RR No. 3432-Emergencies**

**5.5 Payroll and Warrant Information**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006888 through 40006895 \$16,785.02  
Nos. 54000379 through 54000381 for \$994.18  
No. 74000129 for \$3,529.50  
Nos. 40006896 through 40006899 for \$1,803.05  
Nos. 54000382 through 54000385 for \$9,470.11  
Nos. 74000130 through 74000132 for \$25,570.00  
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001752 through 20001755 for \$1,360,405.68  
No. 52000259 for \$49,386.06  
Nos. 20001756 through 20001760 for \$1,933,977.61  
Nos. 52000260 through 52000261 for \$98,989.05  
Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000134 for \$550.00  
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10079625 through 10079699 for \$225,226.43  
Nos. 51001401 through 51001419 for \$491,061.92  
Nos. 71002427 through 71002446 for \$56,813.72  
Nos. 10079853 through 10079918 for \$938,890.79  
Nos. 51001422 through 51001438 for \$118,663.95  
Nos. 71002447 through 71002464 for \$21,831.72  
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 57000060 for \$3,176.00  
No. 57000061 for \$7,470.60

Payroll Warrant No. 10079492 for \$3,975.75  
Nos. 10079493 through 10079494 for \$5,396.50  
Nos. 10079539 through 10079540 for \$3,589.04  
Nos. 10079623 through 10079624 for \$6,403.01  
Nos. 10079700 through 10079809 for \$164,040.91  
Nos. 10079810 through 10079850 for \$4,472,788.58  
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$9,680,706.72  
Total December Payroll approved in the amount of \$14,336,900.51

## **6.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1 Board Operating Principles Workshop-January 13-14, 2022**

#### **\*Discuss workshop topics-dates/times**

Ms. Oldson advised the Board Workshops later this week with Tricia Lubach, Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) have been cancelled due to illness. The Workshop scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2022, will still take place and agenda topics will be sent to Board members for input. Mr. Bird was asked to present information on Strategic Planning. Ms. Byrd shared a Resolution from the Mead School District regarding the possibility of vaccine mandates for students if required in the future and asked a resolution to included for discussion at the Workshop, then placed on the next Board meeting agenda.

Ms. Byrd asked for information on dual language discussions. Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, is working on this topic and will provide more information on progress.

## **7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Shelley Redinger presented Rick Jansons with a certificate from WSSDA honoring his 20 years serving as a School Board Director and thanked him for his many years of service.

Semi Bird shared his excitement for the upcoming Public Forums to share information with the community.

Audra Byrd discussed the substitute shortage and asked what the District is doing to help. Dr. Redinger stated more information will come in a Friday packet.

Kari Williams attended the community interviews for the new Jefferson Elementary Principal and would like to see this practice continued. She also encouraged all to read the Early Literacy information provided earlier in the meeting.

Jill Oldson reported spending the weekend on State Legislative calls where 60-70 Bills were discussed. Ms. Oldson is also on the Federal Relations Network and shared all meetings have been moved to virtual.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS