



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 Friday, January 21, 2022, via Zoom and in person at 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board President Jill Oldson presided. Board members present: Semi Bird, Kari Williams, Rick Jansons, and Audra Byrd.

Ms. Oldson called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

1.0 Budget

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared enrollment trends which help forecast the upcoming enrollment. COVID issues have made these predictions more difficult in the past several years. Last year the District budgeted for \$13,200 students with current enrollment at 13,425 including Running Start and Open Door students. Mr. Sherman advised the District will increase the budgeted enrollment conservatively to 13,375 for planning purpose in 2022-2023. He reported we are still very early in the planning process. Current legislative decisions including regionalization and transportation funding will greatly affect the district's planning. There will be many changes before the tentative adoption in June 2022. The District receives \$8,972/student.

Mr. Sherman explained a more recent process is to have departments complete request forms with evidence of success as part of the process for accountability. Programs "dream big", then prioritize and reevaluate when funds are received. This process requires training for staff.

Board questions and discussion followed including:

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds
 - use of these funds-need to prioritize
- Summer school effectiveness
- Accountability for program spending-staff set procedures
- Strategic Plan development will help to prioritize outcomes
- Dual language-start slow and increase yearly most successful-Ms. Byrd would like to be Board representative

Board members discussed Three River's HomeLink. Ms. Byrd feels HomeLink currently needs expansion and feels funds should be used at this time to deal with overcrowding without waiting for the next bond.

Board discussion followed including:

- expansion should be part of the Strategic Plan-look at the District as a whole and prioritize needs
- more students will bring more revenue-limited enrollment at this time
- building is less than ten years old
- new building for River's Edge High School is a priority

- parent partnership programs generate funds-help with underfunded programs
- funds previously redirected from south Richland elementary project due to low enrollment-
no state matching funds

Mr. Jansons stated he is not supportive of taking funds out of the general fund. Mr. Sherman stated the general fund has no capacity for this project. More discussion followed. Board members requested an overall update on capital projects.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS