



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 25, 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 25, 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: 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 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, Real Estate, 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), and acquisition of real estate, if public knowledge might increase the price 42.30.110 (1) (b). 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 6:36 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

Dr. Redinger stated January is School Board Appreciation Month. She introduced Shana Borms, Badger Mountain Elementary Principal, and Sarah Metcalf, Art Teacher. Badger Mountain Students: Audrey Pardini, Isabella Thurman, Crystal Kirby, Marshall Metcalf, and Axtyn Miller shared small gifts and slogans to show their appreciation for the Board's work.

Ms. Oldson referred to the State mandate requiring masks to be worn at all public meetings and asked all to please put masks on or the meeting could not continue since all work would be considered null and void. Ms. Byrd argued that she could go without a mask since she was speaking at a microphone. After further discussion, all attendees put masks on, and the meeting continued.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS-Richland HS Cello Trio

Dr. Redinger thanked Sarah Berglund, Richland High School Music Teacher, and the Cello Trio consisting of Richland High School Students Dylan Bell, Bee Carterby, and Rex Wright, for providing entertainment in the lobby before the meeting. Ms. Berglund was recently honored as Washington State Music Teacher of the Year. Ms. Berglund will work with staff to provide music before Board meetings in the future.

2.2 Student Representative Report

Alexandira Pereira, Delta High School Student, reported on topics discussed at the recent Student Advisory Meetings including: a Student Representative to the Board, mental health issues, inclusionary practices, plans for a Multi-Cultural week at Delta High School, and graduation ideas.

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

Giuseppe Rubinaccio shared concern regarding the lack of space and building inadequacy at Three Rivers HomeLink.

Eugene Nemeth shared his concern with accountability concerning the recommendations from the 2018 Special Education Audit and stated he is not in support of the Educational Programs and Operations Levy.

Deannie Sullivan provided information on Early Literacy and the *Ladder of Reading and Writing* and *Structured Literacy*. She asked for leadership from the Board to develop the system to teach.

Shelly Burt stated administration has not addressed the 2018 Special Education Audit recommendations and shared frustration with teachers who callout students for not wearing masks. She is appreciative of the new Board members.

Phillip Gorton shared information regarding nose spray that he feels would protect against the virus.

Tina Gregory stated immunity is better than vaccines and the infection rate is the same for vaccinated and unvaccinated. Ms. Gregory feels that masks are hurting our children and asked the Board to stand up against the mandates.

Krista Calvin agreed with Ms. Sullivan regarding Early Literacy. Ms. Calvin stated especially those students reading at lower levels have really benefitted and is thankful the Board is investing in professional development for staff.

D. Hansen shared concern that one of the Board members doesn't understand the mandate is for all. Ms. Hansen stated her students are respectful and mask wearing has little consequence in their day.

S. Anderson thanked administrative staff for taking time over the weekend to deal with a situation. She also thanked Erika Doyle, Director of Teaching and Learning, for her leadership with the rollout of the new science curriculum, and Jill Oldson for upholding the decision to wear masks which is mandated by the State.

Debbie Savino is a Pacific Coast Online Academy teacher and asked the Board to please provide education that will genuinely help special education students to live in the real world. She also requested the link to the meeting be placed in a more visible location on the website.

Mary Jensen shared concern with teachers using their planning periods to sub for other teachers and asked the Board to continue supporting teachers for all they are doing to provide extra help for students.

Cassidi Gaul stated each day is a jigsaw puzzle trying to find staff to cover for other staff. Ms. Gaul also requested more concise information on COVID protocols. Several suggestions were hiring student custodians and having administrators help cover absences in buildings.

Paul Rolon is a student at Hanford High School and feels that masks have been normalized by now. When students are reminded by teachers, they don't argue. He would rather follow the rules and stay healthy.

Superintendent Redinger stated the Early Literacy topic should be on a future meeting agenda but would suggest waiting until the new Executive Director of Teaching and Learning is hired.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 COVID Update

Dr. Redinger introduced Dr. Amy Person, Benton Franklin Health District, and thanked her for taking the time to participate in the meeting.

Dr. Person stated even though caseloads are high, discussions to close schools are not taking place. Quarantine periods have been shortened and more people are getting vaccinated. Test to stay is designed to allow students and staff to return to school after a shorter period. She stressed no single strategy will work. Dr. Person shared a State Board Advisory Group is gathering evidence through a rigorous process, then will make a recommendation on vaccine mandates for students. Board questions and discussion followed including:

- athletics: participants allowed to test less frequently and unmask while participating in events
- hospitalizations-still crowded but many due to staffing shortages
- concerned the State Board is not following their own process since the vaccine has not been fully approved
- discussion of pros and cons of mask wearing. Detrimental effects of mask wearing verses advantages

3.2 Survey Results

Ms. Oldson advised a survey was sent out to get a pulse on the community, but the validity of the recent survey is in question since the survey was shared outside the community and could be completed multiple times. Ms. Williams advised lessons were learned. Ms. Byrd stated the survey was developed quickly but were also shared over social media. The survey results were shared but with the caveat that they may not accurately represent the community. Mr. Bird advised the Board will do a better job next time and he would appreciate having the opportunity to review documents beforehand.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Mental Health Assistance Team (MHAT) Update

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, introduced MHAT Co-Leads-Angie Withers and Michelle Sorensen. Ms. Withers, School Psychologist, reported significant updates to District partnerships with community-based organizations, parent led suicide prevention groups, grant opportunities and awards, and state level advocacy. Ms. Withers shared Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington will use a private donation to provide for a mental health professional in the Richland School District for one year.

Ms. Sorensen, Social Worker, reported Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) was offered a grant totaling \$410,000 from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to partner with the Richland School District to help support the needs of students regarding mental and behavioral health. The Educational Service District 123 (ESD 123) presented the opportunity to place a Student Assistant Profession (SAP) in a Richland middle school. Recently the ESD has provided a second SAP to the District. MHAT has also partnered with the University of Washington SMART Center to establish the Asking is Caring program, a community-based and parent-led suicide prevention program.

Dr. Redinger thanked the MHAT team for their work and advised the District relies on Levy funds for these positions. The team will be presenting at an upcoming Board Workshop.

4.2 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) -this was postponed due to illness of the presenters.

Ms. Oldson added discussion regarding a resolution dealing with State mandates. She stated feeling better after hearing Dr. Person shared the lengthy process the State undergoes before a vaccination mandate for students would ever be recommended and she would not be opposed to a resolution. Mr. Bird advised being in favor of a resolution to exercise local control and doesn't support a vaccine mandate against the wishes of a parent. A draft resolution will be added under Unfinished Business on the February 8, 2022 meeting agenda. Ms. Byrd will share a draft resolution, similar to the Mead School District resolution, beforehand for Board review. Ms. Williams agreed and shared concern regarding the process being used by the State. Mr. Jansons stated liking the idea of local control from Benton Franklin Health District and following their requirements.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.9) 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 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Blake, Nicole, Executive Director, Teaching Learning & Curriculum, TLAC to Principal,
Elementary #11, effective 7/1/2022

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Browning, Rachel, .60 FTE (Now 1.0 FTE), Drama, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2021

Frank, Laura, .60 FTE (Now 1.0 FTE), Math, Pacific Crest Online Academy, eff. 9/20/2021

Perlot, Kathy, .20 FTE (Now .80 FTE), History, Enterprise MS, effect. 9/20/2021, non-cont.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hocker, Melissa, 5th Grade, William Wiley Elementary, effective 8/31/2021

Richter, Audra, .20 FTE (Now .80 FTE), Science, Richland High School, effective 1/25/2022

Rogers, Kaitlin, 5th Grade, Taptal Elementary, effective 11/1/2021

REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hoff, Stacey, Language Arts, Chief Joseph Middle School, to Social Studies, Pacific Crest Online Academy, Administrative Transfer effective 01/25/2022

Klug, Steven, Technology, Carmichael Middle School, to Math, Hanford High School

Rehm, Savannah, Teacher On Special Assignment, TLAC, to 5th Grade, White Bluffs Elementary, Administrative Transfer effective 09/17/2021

White, Jennifer, Resource Rm, Chief Joseph MS, to BESST, Enterprise MS, effective 10/11/2021

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Carr, Susie, Secretary, Orchard Elementary, effective 1/12/2022

Jackson, Edward, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/25/2022

Salinas, Robert, Nutrition Services Worker, Hanford High School, effective 1/20/2022

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hasanovic, Abdulah, Custodian, Hanford High School to Night Lead Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 1/24/2022

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR (CONTINUED)

McNiven, Gina, Custodian, Marcus Whitman Elementary to Building Foreman 1, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 1/18/2022

CORRECTION

Sant, Kati, Paraeducator (Repl. Emp. eff. 1/3/22-3/8/22) on 12/14/21 Personnel Actions; rescinded offer (will sub)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Blumenkranz, Julie, Paraeducator, Delta High School, effective 1/22/2022-8/31/2022

Davin, Emily, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 2/14/2022 – est. 5/22/2022

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Behling, Karalee, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 1/18/2022

Berryhill, Charley, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/31/2022

Christensen, Brenda, Nutrition Services Worker, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 1/24/2022

Dawson, John, Paraeducator, Taptal Elementary, effective 2/3/2022 (will sub)

Dickenson, Jeremy, Building Foreman II, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 1/28/2022

NON-DISCIPLINARY DISCHARGE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hickman, Briana, Secretary, River's Edge High School, effective 1/12/2022

5.2 Approval of Minutes (January 11, 2022; January 13, 2022)

5.3 Fran Rish Construction Documents-Second Reading

5.4 Annual Approval of Elementary Load Limits for 2022-2023

5.5 2022-2023 Coaches/Advisors Collective Bargaining Agreement Approval

5.6 Policy Update-9,000 Series

5.7 Enrollment Monthly

5.8 Budget Monthly

5.9 Payroll and Warrant Information

- ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006900 through 40006904 for \$12,866.56
 - Nos. 54000386 through 54000387 for \$101,927.04
 - Nos. 40006905 through 40006908 for \$515.80
 - No. 54000388 for \$5.00
- Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001761 through 20001762 for \$14,440.29
 - No. 52000262 for \$480,573.05
 - Nos. 20001763 through 20001764 for \$442,205.12
 - No. 52000263 for \$14,788.50
- General Fund Warrant Nos. 10079919 through 10079983 for \$170,288.59
 - Nos. 51001439 through 51001447 for \$532,852.52
 - Nos. 71002465 through 71002477 for \$60,908.83
 - Nos. 10079984 through 10080031 for \$218,207.15
 - Nos. 51001448 through 51001461 for \$282,320.51
 - Nos. 71002478 through 71002494 for \$26,569.77
- Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos. 57000062 through 57000064 for \$15,419.72
 - No. 70000237 for \$684.67
 - No. 57000065 for \$4,099.49

6.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Resolution or letter regarding vaccine mandates on next agenda
- Mr. Bird will take the lead on developing a policy-setting performance goals for funded programs
- Mr. Jansons cautioned Board members requiring additional work from staff if no strict deadline is required
- Mr. Bird asked for budget accountability with more details online
- Capital Projects Budget-next meeting agenda
- Ms. Williams will forward a document for Nancy Mayer to share with the Board regarding inequities between athletics and arts
- Data on summer school-Friday packet
- School Calendar update-Friday packet

7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger stated a Levy Forum will take place at Richland High School on January 26, 2022, along with several Levy presentations this week.

Semi Bird met with Mr. Jansons, Mr. Pettett, and Dr. Redinger regarding District discrimination issues and will be reviewing school level information in the future.

Kari Williams met with Mr. Bird and Dr. Redinger to discuss the Strategic Planning process. Next steps will involve a Board Workshop, then opportunities for staff/parents/students to engage.

Audra Byrd met with Mr. Bird and Dr. Redinger to discuss the development of a parent and guardian advisory group. This group will be inclusive and comprehensive.

Rick Jansons advised being the only current Board member during the 2018 Curriculum Audit and some of the recommendations were implemented in the Special Education Strategic Plan. Mr.

Jansons stated all Board members support the Levy and none of them are paid. He shared his appreciation for all staff working to keep schools open.

Audra Byrd shared several concerns including bus route communication, reported meeting with dual language teacher and parents in Kennewick School District, and shared concerns regarding Three Rivers HomeLink. Ms. Byrd also mentioned a peaceful protest and finding a balance between students' rights and the mandate. Mr. Bird stated his opposition to masks but is also cautious when representing the Board.

Jill Oldson is working on committees to advocate for the District on both State and Federal issues that affect the District.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS