



Board of Directors, Emergency Meeting/Executive Session  
February 17, 2022  
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400  
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for an Emergency Meeting Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. via zoom, 6972 Keene, Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board President Jill Oldson presided. Board members participating: Audra Byrd, Semi Bird, Kari Williams and Rick Jansons.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Olson called the Emergency Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. and moved immediately into Executive Session. Ms. Oldson stated Executive Session is expected to last thirty minutes with possible action to follow.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Legal)**

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:00 P.M. to discuss 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 thirty minutes with possible action to follow. Ms. Oldson extended the meeting at 5:30 for fifteen minutes. She extended again at 5:41 for fifteen minutes, then extended for fifteen minutes at 5:57. Ms. Oldson extended the meeting at 6:14 for fifteen minutes. Executive session ended at 6:32

The Emergency Meeting was reconvened at 6:36 P.M. Ms. Oldson asked for Board discussion.

Ms. Williams reported receiving many communications over the past several days on both sides of the issue. Tensions are high and she asked all the community to be kind to all Board members. Ms. Williams stated some feel mask mandates have been an overreach. Ms. Williams thanked staff who have been respectful and is appalled at some others. She feels parents know what is best for children. She applauds Board members who have voted against masks around the state and Superintendents who have supported them. Board members are faced with a decision between virtual school until March 21, 2022, or going back to school in person with masks until March 21, 2022. Ms. Williams believes children belong in schools.

Ms. Williams moved to modify oral Resolution No. 940-Local Control, passed on February 15, 2022, modifying the date from February 15, 2022 to March 21, 2022.

Ms. Byrd seconded the motion.

Mr. Bird thank Ms. Williams for her brave move. He asked for kindness and grace from the community. Regardless of how the rest of the Board votes, be respectful-kindness and grace! Ms. Williams has his full support for her motion.

Ms. Byrd agreed with Ms. Williams. When the Board made the motion on February 15, 2022 meeting, the full intention was to provide parent choice. When the Board's wishes were not met, the Board was given the choice of students on zoom or back to in-person school until March 21, 2022. Ms. Byrd encouraged all to do what is best for their child and to be patient since there is only a month, then the mask mandate will be removed.

Mr. Jansons stated at least some people took his words to incite negative actions against fellow Board members. He will never incite anything against other Board members, and he apologizes if people misunderstood his meaning. He has always worked hard to build unity and civility, and always respects other Board members whether they vote with him or against him.

Ms. Oldson stated she also owes Board members an apology and does not want to incite violence on anyone. Both civility and kindness are important. We need cohesiveness to work together. All members want what is best for kids. The finish line is in sight.

Ms. Oldson asked for a vote on the motion put forth by Ms. Williams earlier.

Williams, yes; Byrd, yes; Bird, no; Jansons, yes, and Oldson, yes

Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS