



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 22, 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, March 22, 2022, at 4:00 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, 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 4:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 4:00 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); 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 two and one-half hours, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:28 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Student Representative Report

Introduced Alexandria Pereira, Delta High School Student, who is serving as the Student Representative to the Board of Directors for tonight's meeting. This will be a new position next school year, but the Student Advisory was tasked with filling the role until the end of this school year and will share ideas on the selection process for next year.

Ms. Oldson introduced Shreya Mehta, Hanford High School Student, who shared topics from the recent Superintendent/Student Advisory Committee meeting including suggestions on the selection process for a Student Representative to the Board.

2.2 GOOD NEWS

2.2.1 Benton Franklin School Retirees Association (BFSRA)

Ms. Oldson introduced Victoria Russell, President of the Benton Franklin School Retirees' Association, as well as Elizabeth Friedrich and Larry Sehmel, all past Hanford High School Teachers. Ms. Russell shared (BFSRA) has more than 800 members. Members support schools by substitute teaching, supporting levies and bonds, and offer scholarships for students and staff.

2.2.3 National Board Teachers

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, and Karen Bryan, National Board Coordinator, introduced newly certified National Board teachers:

- Liz Cronin, Pacific Crest Online Academy
- Adam Hancock, Hanford High School
- Debby Hazen, Leona Libby Middle School
- Wendi Hendricks, Richland High School
- Marta Jisa, Orchard Elementary
- Jessica Kroll, Lewis & Clark Elementary
- Melissa MacDonald, Chief Joseph Middle School
- Crystal Silvia, Jason Lee Elementary

Ms. Blake shared this is the highest level of achievement for teachers and requires an average of 300 hours of work. Board members congratulated each for their dedication.

2.3 Requests and Comments by Visitors (3 minutes per individual/30-minutes total)

Steven thanked Dr. Redinger for keeping schools closed and blamed several board members for creating unneeded issues and hopes they resign.

Beth shared concern regarding hateful comments from the public at the last meeting. She is happy to see students on the Board, hopes Board members limit conversations to topics on the meeting agendas, and feels teachers are not being supported.

Julie Robertson spoke regarding block scheduling and shared many other scheduling options are available besides the example in the packet. She requested thorough research on the topic as well as input from the Parent Advisory Group before any decisions are made.

D. Hansen appreciates the LETRS training, feels more teachers should take the training, and feels staff should be paid for this professional development.

Cameron is a parent of students that will be attending Elementary #11 and his family enjoyed doing research and submitting names for the school. His recommendation is to choose a name that refers to geography.

Tina Gregory had concerns including COVID Relief funds, vaccines, mandates, and feels motions are a way to bring topics up for vote at Board meetings.

Kat Espinda identified herself as a whistle blower and feels children have had no voice. She feels the pandemic was a hoax, shared information on deaths in the region, and feels children have suffered. She asked Dr. Redinger to answer the claim she submitted.

Phillip Gorton shared several religious verses regarding immorality and stated all will be held accountable.

Shelley Burt questioned the reporting part of Policy 8700, stated student representatives should be excused early but business of the meeting should continue, and feels the Board should select members of the community to be on committees.

Mario Pereira is Alexandria's (Student Representative tonight) father. He shared his daughter's story and asked the District not to do away with valedictorians.

Mary stated there are teachers and students that have morbidities and thanked all for supporting those who need to continue wearing masks.

Representative Matt Boehnke and Representative Brad Klippert presented House Resolution #4649 regarding the importance of parent involvement in schools. The Bill passed with bi-partisan support.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Updates

Dr. Redinger shared information regarding the current yearly fiscal audit involving several focus areas including professional development, enrichment, and open public meetings compliance. This process is expected to take three weeks at a cost of \$33,000.

3.2 Strategic Planning Discussion

Board members shared ideas on how to develop the Strategic Plan Mission/Vision and Objectives. Mr. Bird shared ideas at the previous meeting and Ms. Williams shared examples. Several Board members felt a workshop was needed while others felt this topic could be on the next regular Board meeting agenda for discussion and decision making. After discussion, there was consensus to place the topic on the April 12, 2022 agenda and share the proposals from Mr. Bird and Ms. Williams. Any other suggestions were asked to be submitted for review as well.

Alexandria Pereira (Student Representative) stated the plan should be student focused with community and family input via ThoughtExchange.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Budget Preparation-Legislative Update

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, introduced Melissa Gombosky, Legislative Liaison, who reviewed several bills that passed during the recent Legislative Session. Bills that will have impact on the District include:

- Workforce staff shortages-allow retirees to be hired
- Update to prototypical model-enhanced nurses, social workers, counselors
- Enrollment stabilization-use 2019 enrollment (one year only)
- Update to transportation allowances (several year process) - first step-special population trips, next step to update the base by ridership and number of trips
- Inflationary rebase-state funded staffing

Ms. Gombosky reported on possible items being prioritized for the 2023 Legislative agenda including Special Education funding, continuing to update transportation, and staffing updates. Board discussion followed.

4.2 Elementary #11 Naming

Nicki Blake, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning (recently hired Principal of Elementary #11) shared the process used to gather input and narrow choices. The team reviewed hundreds of names suggested and narrowed the list to 18 that met District policy. Those names were shared with the community and the top five were presented:

- Belmont Elementary
- Desert Sky Elementary
- Mountain View Elementary
- Red Mountain Elementary
- River Rock Elementary

Ms. Byrd-1st) Belmont Elementary; 2nd) Desert Sky Elementary
Mr. Jansons-Desert Sky Elementary
Mr. Bird-Desert Sky Elementary
Alexandria Pereira (student)-Desert Sky Elementary
Ms. Williams-Desert Sky Elementary

It was moved by Semi Bird and seconded by Kari Williams –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE DESERT SKY ELEMENTARY AS THE NAME FOR ELEMENTARY #11.

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

Ms. Blake advised students and parents will be involved in choosing the mascot for the new school.

4.3 Graduation Ceremonies

Todd Baddley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, shared information on graduation ceremonies. Full occupancy will be allowed with no masks required. Mr. Baddley is expecting over ninety percent graduation rate. Dates, times, and locations are as follows:

June 9, 2022

7:00 PM Delta High @ Three Rivers Convention Center

June 10, 2022

9:00 AM Three River's HomeLink @ Three River's HomeLink

11:00 AM River's Edge High School @ Three Rivers Convention Center

1:30 PMPacific Crest Online Academy @ Three Rivers Convention Center

4:30 PMRichland High School @ Toyota Center

7:30 PMHanford High School @ Toyota Center

4.4 Summer School Discussion

Mr. Baddley reported last summer the District offered summer school opportunities to all enrolled students at no cost to families. Many students participated in these courses and camps were

provided to combat learning loss and promote positive student/teacher relationships. Overall, approximately 2,800 students participated.

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, stated 1,160 students participated in grades K-5 camps. The goal was to re-engage students with their peers and teachers. Camps were project based with social interaction and offered at all sites.

Mr. Baddley shared middle school students participated in two-week camps including design and personal growth skills through coding, robotics, engineering, STEM, and the arts. Three sessions were offered, and students could select up to three adventures. There were 625 participants in these camps. High school summer learning opportunities were provided to allow students to complete credits needed for graduation. 844 students earned semester credit through online courses and 55 students earned semester credit in Careers & Financial Literacy course that was held in-person. Board discussion followed.

4.5 Block Scheduling-Pros/Cons

Mr. Baddley shared information on block scheduling. In this system, each student has fewer classes per day but for longer periods of time (90 minutes instead of 55 minutes). There are many variations of block scheduling utilizing quarter, trimester, or semester grading periods and/or incorporating A/B daily rotation schedules.

Tory Christensen, Hanford High School Principal, shared advantages, and challenges of block schedules.

Advantages:

- earn additional credits
- longer class time for science labs, Art, CTE (Career and Technical Education)
- more opportunity for credit recovery during the school day

Challenges:

- lack of continuity (classes meet 2-3 times per week)
- additional resources needed: classroom space, Professional development for teachers
- additional planning time (80-90) daily - possible addition of staff?
- possible reduction in state funding

Mr. Baddley stated considerations for moving forward to include establishing the level of support from parents and staff, communication/education, site visits, data gathering, and review a variety of models.

Board discussion included:

- prep time in variety of models-may not require additional staff
- student sleep cycles
- issues with transportation
- ways to offer more credits in middle school
- attendance/relationship with teachers/peers (every day vs. 2-3 days per week)
- student engagement/student interest classes
- survey parents/students-need support from community
- build into strategic plan
- prioritize block scheduling or balanced calendar (year-round school)

Alexandria Pereira shared Delta High School uses a trimester block schedule. This allows teachers more time to delve deeper into subject matter.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.7) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

5.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Garretson, Nicole, Kindergarten, Marcus Whitman, effective 02/28/2022

Kroll, Jessica, 1st Grade, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 02/28/2022

Rehwalt, Kaitlin, 1st Grade, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 03/28/2022

Rose, Jason, Music, Richland High School, effective 02/25/2022

Van Pelt, Gracelyn, 1st Grade, Orchard Elementary, effective 03/21/2022

OUT OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Macduff, Trevor, Correction, PowerSchool data error, not out of endorsement

REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Weagant, Heather, Resource Room, Jefferson, to Lifeskills, Pacific Crest Online Academy,
Effective 11/08/2021

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE END OF THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Huerigo, Dana, 1 FTE, 5th Grade, Lewis & Clark Elementary

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Graves, Marcia, .60 FTE, History, Enterprise Middle School

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Arthur, Samuel, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 3/15/2022

Frye, Jessie, Nutrition Services (Rehire), Richland High School, effective 3/16/2022

Gunnoe, Dawna, Secretary (Replacement Employee), Hanford High, eff. 3/22/2022 – 6/15/2022

Mendez, Gloria, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 3/21/2022

Noble, LaDonna, Custodian, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 4/1/2022

Pina, Amanda, Secretary, Jefferson Elementary (from Paraeducator), eff. 3/14/2022

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Comstock, Brenda, Secretary, Hanford High School, extended through 2021-22 school year

5.2 Approval of Minutes (February 28, 2022; March 4, 2022; March 8, 2022; March 11, 2022)

5.3 2022/2023 Corrected Calendar

5.4 School Closure Waiver

5.5 Enrollment Monthly

5.6 Budget Monthly

5.7 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006950 through 40006958 for \$8,993.06
Nos. 54000407 through 54000411 for \$54,317.48
Nos. 40006959 through 40006967 for \$7,886.97
Nos. 54000412 through 54000413 for \$275.88
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001783 through 20001784 for \$659,069.97
Nos. 52000269 through 52000270 for \$107,419.23
No. 20001785 for \$4,561.20
No. 52000271 for \$5,231.50
Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000135 for \$550.00
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10080644 through 10080722 for \$511,084.77
Nos. 51001520 through 51001534 for \$718,575.12
Nos. 71002580 through 71002595 for \$31,901.83
Nos. 10080724 through 10080780 for \$224,236.69
Nos. 51001535 through 51001545 for \$223,721.32
Nos. 71002596 through 71002604 for \$6,803.80
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 57000073 for \$4,693.44
No. 70000239 for \$743.82

6.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Approval of April 12, 2022 Agenda

For the next board meeting, Ms. Williams has the list of all agenda topics for the Board to prioritize.

Mr. Bird shared concern that Vision and Mission statements were not on the current agenda and was concerned for staff and the public with the length of recent meetings. He requested Board agenda topics be limited to accommodate shorter timelines for meetings. After discussion, there was consensus to add Vision/Mission/Objectives Decision to the April 12, 2022 agenda. There was also discussion to add a budget review to the Board meeting agenda on April 26, 2022. There was consensus to attempt to keep meetings to 2 ½ hours in the future (9:00 P.M. stop time).

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

THE BOARD APPROVE THE APRIL 12, 2022 BOARD AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF 3.1 VISION/MISSION/OBJECTIVES DECISION.

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

7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Kari Williams reminded Board members to update the others regarding committees they are on to be sure the entire Board is aware of participation and future plans.

Jill Oldson agreed that members were to “divide and conquer” to gather information, then bring back to the entire Board. Ms. Oldson attended Fiddler on the Roof at Libby Middle School. Audra Byrd plans to meet with Jen Klauss, newly hired Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, to discuss professional development for teachers, attended Beauty and the Beast at

Enterprise Middle School and Fiddler on the Roof at Libby Middle School, and attended a PTA meeting at Jefferson Elementary. She also encouraged parents to get involved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS