



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, November 23, 2021  
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, November 23, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members present: Kari Williams, Jill Oldson and Ken Gosney.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6: 30 P.M.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.2 Roll Call**-Heather Cleary was excused.

**1.3 New Board Member-Oath of Office**

Mr. Jansons thanked Ken Gosney for his service to the District.

Dr. Redinger administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Board member, M. Semi Bird, and welcomed him to the Board of Directors, Position No. 3.

Dr. Redinger administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Board member, Audra Byrd, and welcomed her to the Board of Directors, Position No. 1.

Dr. Redinger administered the Oath of Office to Rick Jansons and congratulated him on continuing as Board of Director Position No 2.

**1.4 Election of Officers**

Mr. Jansons reviewed the Election of Office protocol and numbers were drawn to decide order of voting. Mr. Jansons asked who would volunteer to hold the Office of President.

Mr. Jansons-No; Ms. Byrd-No; Ms. Oldson-Yes; Mr. Bird-Yes; Ms. Williams-No

Board members were asked to cast their vote for President of the Richland School Board of Directors:

Mr. Janson voted for Jill Oldson.

Ms. Byrd voted for Semi Bird.

Ms. Oldson voted for herself.

Mr. Bird voted for himself.

Ms. Williams voted for Jill Oldson.

By majority, Jill Oldson was voted to hold the Office of President for the Board of Directors of the Richland School District.

Mr. Jansons asked who would volunteer to hold the Office of Vice President and numbers were drawn to decide order of voting.

Mr. Bird-Yes; Ms. Oldson-No; Ms. Williams-Yes; Mr. Jansons-No; Ms. Byrd-No

Board members were asked to cast their vote for Vice President of the Richland School Board of Directors.

Mr. Bird voted for himself.

Ms. Oldson voted for Kari Williams.

Ms. Williams voted for herself.

Mr. Jansons voted for Ms. Williams.

Ms. Byrd abstained.

By majority, Kari Williams was voted to hold the Office of Vice President for the Board of Directors of the Richland School District.

Mr. Jansons asked who would volunteer to hold the Office of Legislative Representative and numbers were drawn to decide order of voting.

Mr. Jansons-only if no others volunteered; Mr. Bird-No; Ms. Williams-No; Ms. Byrd-No; Ms. Oldson-No

After further discussion, Ms. Byrd nominated Mr. Bird for the position of Legislative Representative for the Richland School District Board of Directors. There was consensus from the Board for M. Semi Bird to serve as Legislative Representative for the Richland School District Board of Directors.

## **2.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

### **2.1 Student Representative Report**

Taya Greenup, Hanford High School Student reported on topics discussed at the recent Student Advisory Committee meeting including Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, the need for more teacher/student connection opportunities, and masks/vaccinations for students.

It was moved by Mr. Bird to establish a position for a student representative to serve on the Board to allow students a voice. Ms. Oldson asked to table this discussion to discuss under topic 3.5- Board Goals later in the meeting.

### **2.3 Requests and Comments by Visitors (20-minute time limit)**

Ms. Oldson reviewed the process for visitor comments. Discussion followed regarding the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) rules for engaging in dialogue. Mr. Bird questioned the OPMA requirements. Mr. Pettett, General Counsel, shared often people discuss complaints that involve personnel issues that should not be discussed publicly. It is not a violation of the OPMA for Board members to respond, but individual Board members thoughts or opinions may not be the same as other Board members. Responses need to represent the Board as a unit. If there is a quick answer, Dr. Redinger should respond. Staff members also can address individual concerns outside of the meeting.

Cassidy Gaul shared concern regarding the mental health of students and urged the Board to consider more funds for mental health professionals and services provided in schools.

Gene Nemeth shared concern regarding the Special Education Audit in 2018 and is not seeing adequate progress. Dr. Redinger advised reviewing the 2018 Audit, and stated there will be a discussion about this document to address the issues reported.

Sara Egbert thanked the District for offering vaccination clinics at several elementary schools and is disappointed to hear some want to do away with the mask requirement and risk loss of funding.

Tom Rickey thanked Rick Jansons for his service dealing with frustration from parents while acting professional and poised. Mr. Rickey is thankful for the State mandates for masking and vaccinations.

Dexter Morrison stated the District needs to develop program offerings to help address students who are suffering.

Kristin Chapin expressed disappointment in the response to suicides in the District and requested more timely assistance.

Jacob Williams welcomed the new Board members and thanked previous member for serving. He also thanked the public for their work to keep children safe recognizing parents are suffering as well.

John Distifeno stated he is excited to hear rumors of doing away with masks and opposes the mandate. He shared his concern with the new Board President.

Antonia Garcia shared concern regarding allegations about teacher. Dr. Redinger asked Mr. Baddley to follow up with Ms. Garcia.

Dori Lizzo Gilmore stated members of the Jefferson PTA are in attendance just want to be kept up to date on boundary decisions.

### **3.0 BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Mask Update and Discussion**

Ms. Williams spoke about the controversy at the beginning of the last Board meeting. After more research by Ms. Williams and Ms. Byrd, they found Proclamation 20-28.14 speaks specifically: “If at any time during a public meeting the in-person component cannot comply with each of the requirements herein (attendees separated by six feet and wearing a face covering), the public meeting (to include the telephonic/remote access portions) must be recessed until compliance is restored or if compliance cannot be restored then adjourned, continued, or otherwise terminated.” Ms. Williams and Ms. Byrd asked to have this available on the District website. Ms. Byrd feels all should have the right to choose and will continue to work towards a way to unmask students.

Ms. Oldson asked the community to have patience as the Board members navigate the transition with new members. All members have the best interest of students in mind.

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**3.2 Elementary Boundaries**

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, reported at the last meeting student counts included students attending Three Rivers HomeLink and Pacific Crest Online Academy. Mr. Moore shared updated numbers for Tapteal, William Wiley, White Bluffs and Orchard Elementaries. Community input has been relatively equal and positive for Options A (61%) and B (67%).

Option C explores ways to bring some students downtown since there is classroom space available at Jefferson Elementary. Mr. Moore would like to have a decision on boundaries so the process can begin in January to give parents and staff time for the much-needed planning including naming a principal, hiring staff, naming the school, and communication to share the process well in advance with the community. Board discussion followed including:

Option C – Possible program options to include Highly Capable, Dual Language

Option C – Small number of classrooms, not the entire school

- Keep community well informed
- Transitions from middle schools to high schools-try not to separate small groups, keep groups as equal as possible.
- Work to accommodate student transfers using policy and procedures.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE BOUNDARY OPTION C AS PRESENTED:

- ADDING NEW BOUNDARY FOR ELEMENTARY #11; **AND**
- SHIFTING MEADOW SPRINGS/WILLOW BROOK EAST OF LESLIE ROAD BACK TO THE NEW BADGER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY; **AND**
- EXPLORATION OF ADDING AN INNOVATIVE TYPE OF MAGNET PROGRAM TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA (JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY).

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

Motion was approved.

**3.3 Replacement Levies**

**\*Resolution No. 937-Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operation Levy**

**\*Resolution No. 938-Replacement of Expiring Instructional Technology Improvement Levy**

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared the draft four-year Levy proposal, with a tax rate of \$2.50/\$1000 of assessed valuation, is maintaining the same Levy term and collection rate as the community has previously supported. Resolution No. 937 provides resources for extracurricular activities, additional course offerings, early learning programs, additional professional development, and staffing ratios beyond the prototypical levels.

Mr. Sherman advised the Technology Levy has been leveraged to enhance effective use of instructional technology. The levy will continue to purchase hardware, software, infrastructure, and staff training for the benefit of staff and students. Key features of this levy include the average collection of about \$6 million per year over four years with a replacement levy rate of about 50 cents per year.

Mr. Sherman explained action is needed tonight to run the Levies on the February 2022 election ballot. This is the second review of these documents on the Board agenda. Board discussion followed.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 937-REPLACEMENT OF EXPIRING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATION LEVY AND RESOLUTION NO. 938-REPLACEMENT OF EXPIRING INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT LEVY.

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

### **3.4 Policy/RR No. 3432-Emergencies**

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, advised work began on updating the District's policies nine months ago since many were outdated and not aligned with the Washington State School Directors' Association. The Administration recommended deleting the 10,000 series of the District's policies at the last Board meeting. Policy and Procedure 3432 is recommended, which will consolidate the policies from the 10,000 series. This policy will be located in the student section of the policies. Board discussion followed.

It was moved by Audra Byrd and seconded by Semi Bird –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/RR NO 3432-EMERGENCIES.

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

### **3.5 Board Goals Discussion**

Ms. Oldson stated this is a time for conversation amongst Board members to discuss priorities for the upcoming year. Mr. Bird asked about his pending Motion. Ms. Oldson asked to wait for further discussion as Board members use this time to brainstorm priorities. Mr. Jansons cautioned the Board against making decisions at only one meeting since time is needed for staff and community evaluation and input, including input on process and implementation. Ms. Oldson asked each member for priorities.

Ms. Williams' priorities:

- Meeting structure-public comment time increased to three minutes with no 20-minute limit for input without policing comments
- Add back "Future Agenda Items"
- Add scheduled "study sessions" to every Board meeting to discuss future agenda topics-broadcast but no recording
- Record Board meetings

Mr. Bird stated Board agendas have recently been created by the Superintendent and then reviewed by the Board Leadership Team (President and Vice President). Mr. Bird asked for a more collaborative approach to include all Board member. Discussion followed.

Ms. Byrd entertained a Motion to allow all five Board members to be included in agenda setting. Ms. Oldson explained Open Public Meeting Act requirements. Mr. Jansons explained before COVID, the Superintendent worked with staff to create a Board planning calendar with agenda topics for the year placed on the agenda. The Board would review and add items, then a final review and Board approval. Board discussion followed on how to allow all Board members to be involved in the process while following the Open Public Meeting's Act requirements. Board discussion followed.

Ms. Williams continued:

- Board goals separate from the Superintendent goals
- Meeting to debrief WSSDA Conference
- Board planning calendar accessible to all

Audra Byrd again entertained a Motion to have equal access to all Board meeting agendas via a Workshop. Mr. Bird seconded.

Mr. Jansons stated he would vote against the Motion. He supports the Motion intent but stated a Board Operating Workshop with a WSSDA Trainer is already scheduled for January and agenda processes will be included at that time. Discussion followed.

Mr. Jansons moved to amend the Motion to have a Special Meeting/Workshop on December 6, 2021, to set the agenda for the December 14, 2021 meeting. Then include an agenda item on how to best implement the agenda planning process.

Ms. Oldson would like to amend the Motion to state there is no extra meeting, instead that "Future Agenda Items" be added to the regular Board meeting agenda as was done in the past, then discuss as we move forward.

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

Rick Jansons' priorities:

- Address COVID learning loss-
- Continue to implement Special Education and curriculum processes-curriculum audit was better addressed in the Special Education Audit. This work was interrupted during COVID
- Continue to address student learning needs
- Robert Rules of Order-decide how to operate as a team

Mr. Bird advised Policy/RR 1400 specifically states to use Roberts Rules. This should be used as guidance, although the Board can vote to change policy.

It was moved by Semi Bird and seconded by Audra Byrd –

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THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGREE TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD AND COLLABORATE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EXPLORE THE BEST MODEL FOR RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Discussion: Mr. Jansons asked to consider more than one student representative.

MR. BIRD AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE OR MORE. Mr. Jansons seconded the amendment.

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

It was moved by Semi Byrd and seconded Audra Byrd that -

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS THAT IS IN COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT TO GIVE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS A VOICE WITH THE BOARD. SPECIFIC DETAILS TO BE DECIDED THROUGH FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Ms. Williams would like to include community members. Mr. Bird feels this should be a separate committee to include other topics but is open to including the community.

Mr. Jansons likes this idea and would like to investigate best practices and different models.  
Discussion followed.

MR. BIRD AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE ESTABLISHING A PARENT AND GUADIAN COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD AND TO VET BEST PRACTICES.

Mr. Jansons seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Byrd's priorities:

- Focus for improving mental health challenges-reducing harassment bullying/neglect-helping all students to feel loved, accepted, and valued.
- Improving school choice options-dual language, trade school options, Three Rivers HomeLink, River's Edge High School, Special Education Program.
- Better transparency from District to community and parents-see better communication from all families to the Board.

It was moved by Audra Byrd and seconded by Semi Bird that -

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECORD FUTURE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

Discussion: Ms. Byrd stated this does not mean the process will be decided tonight, only that the Board address that meetings will be recorded in the future for better transparency. Dr. Redinger will work with staff to research best practice.

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

Mr. Bird's priorities:

- Strategic plan-performance assessments and measurements; workshop format
- Learning loss-value of assessment root cause analysis

Ms. Williams suggested a Board Workshop to debrief the recent Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Conference and discuss agenda organization on December 6, 2021. There was consensus to add this Workshop/Special Meeting.

Ms. Oldson's priorities:

- How to better address community comments
- Review the budget-what does the District need from the Board to address learning loss
- Board calendar-how to communicate better as a Board

#### **4.0 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 (4.1) THROUGH (4.8) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

#### **4.1 Personnel Actions**

##### CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

##### NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Anderson, Sheena, 1 FTE, Nurse, Teaching & Learning, effective 11/19/2021

Ensign, Rachel, 1 FTE, Art, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 11/12/2021

Hue, Edward, 1 FTE, Science, Hanford High School, non-continuing, effective 10/27/2021

##### RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Hart, Nicole, .50 FTE, Nurse, Teaching & Learning, effective 11/25/2021

##### CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

##### NEW HIRES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Burows, Sherry, Secretary, Finance/Bldg 11, effective 11/22/2021

Dalton, Jane, Secretary, Carmichael Middle School, effective 11/18/2021

Harrison, Julie, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 11/18/2021

Izaguirre, Elsa, Secretary, Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, effective 12/1/2021

Stiles, Sarah, Paraeducator (Replacement Employee), ELC, effective 11/29/2021

Whitney, Rhea, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 11/18/2021

##### CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Rashed, Riad, Lead Custodian, Richland High to Custodian, Hanford High, effective 11/22/2021



**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Schlierman, Jason, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective dates 11/15/2021-3/08/2022

Sintay, Nicki, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective dates 1/11/2022-6/14/2022

**RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Bryant, Nicole, Secretary, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 11/17/2021

Lacic, Daniel, Printshop Assistant, Warehouse, effective 11/30/2021

Turner, Tracie, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary (from LOA), effective 11/22/2021

**4.2 Approval of Minutes (November 9, 2021; November 10, 2021)**

**4.3 Policies-10,000 Series-Deletion**

**4.4 Fran Rish Stadium-Design Development-Second Reading**

**4.5 Voter Pamphlet Statement Committee**

**4.6 Enrollment Monthly**

**4.7 Budget Monthly**

**4.8 Warrant Information**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40006853 through 40006857 for \$2,540.55

Nos. 54000368 through 54000369 for \$4,101.98

Nos. 40006858 through 40006875 for \$20,988.79

Nos. 54000370 through 54000373 for \$2,320.88

Nos. 74000127 through 74000128 for \$2,534.13

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001742 through 20001744 for \$1,290,194.32

Nos. 52000251 through 52000252 for \$4,932.86

No. 20001745 for \$521,859.69

No/ 52000253 for \$1,293.00

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10079145 through 10079255 for \$161,720.83

Nos. 51001355 through 51001364 for \$287,063.17

Nos. 71002367 through 71002388 for \$75,329.31

Nos. 10079256 through 10079345 for \$315,956.44

Nos. 51001365 through 51001376 for \$331,850.12

Nos. 71002389 through 71002406 for \$36,602.54

Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 57000055 for \$2,715.82

No. 70000234 for \$709.67

No. 57000056 for \$6,890.17

**5.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Shelley Redinger is proud of District staff since there were some school closures around the State due to staff shortages. Dr. Redinger enjoyed the WSSDA Conference and is looking forward to working with Board members as a team.

Jill Oldson welcomed the new Board members. Ms. Oldson also thanked Ken Gosney and Heather Cleary for their service.

Semi Bird stated he is here to represent students and is anxious to work together for students and the community.

Rick Jansons also thanked Ken Gosney and Heather Cleary for service to the District and advised all Board members want to positively impact staff, students, and the community.

Kari Williams was pleased to continue work at the Board Workshop/Special Meeting on December 6, 2021 with all included in collaboration on agendas and a debrief of the WSSDA Conference.

Audra Byrd thanked the community members and has high hopes that good changes are coming. She is excited to learn from other Board members.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS