



Board of Directors, Special Meeting/Executive Session  
May 12, 2022  
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400  
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a Special Meeting/Executive Session May 12, 2022, at 9:00 A.M. via zoom and in person at 6972 Keene, Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board Vice President Kari Williams presided. Board members participating: Audra Byrd, Semi Bird, Jill Oldson and Rick Jansons.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Williams called the Special Meeting to order at 9:12 A.M. and moved immediately into executive session. Ms. Williams stated executive session is expected to last forty-five minutes with possible action to follow.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Legal)**

The Board adjourned to executive session at 9:12 A.M. for 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). The executive session was projected to last forty-five minutes with possible action to follow. Executive session ended at 10:06.

The Board returned to the special meeting at 10:06.

Ms. Williams stated on February 23, 2022, Arthur West filed a complaint against the Richland School Board, Richland School District and Board members Audra Bryd, Semi Bird and Kari Williams. Mr. West's complaint alleges that Richland School Board members Byrd, Bird and Williams violated the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) on February 15 and 16, 2022.

Ms. Williams continued the named Board members and the Richland School District have agreed to a settlement with Mr. West in this matter and have resolved all claims. The parties agreed that this settlement is a compromise of a disputed claim, charge or violation of the OPMA and is not to be construed as an admission of wrongdoing on the part of the Richland School District and the Board members, who expressly deny any wrongdoing. Richland School Board members Audra Byrd, Kari Williams and Semi Bird expressly deny any liability, and specifically deny that they violated the OPMA, but have agreed to settle this matter based upon their belief that it is in furtherance of their goal as good stewards of public funds. Specifically, Richland School Board members Audra Byrd, Kari Williams and Semi Bird recognize that continued defense of the OPMA lawsuit will likely result in attorneys' fees and costs that exceed the amount being paid to resolve the OPMA lawsuit. Richland School District and the Board members have therefore agreed to resolve the OPMS lawsuit, as it is in the best interests of the Richland School District community.

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It was moved by Semi Bird and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SETTLE THE OPMA LAWSUIT FILED BY AUTHUR WEST AS STATED ABOVE.

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

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 10:09 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 A.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS