



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 11, 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, October 11, 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 participating: Kari Williams, Semi Bird, Audra Byrd, and Rick Jansons. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Brian Moore, Executive Director of Information Technology Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services Tory Christensen, and Director of Communications Ty Beaver.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-Superintendent Check-in)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 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). The executive session was projected to last sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:27 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.2 GOOD NEWS-National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Ty Beaver, Director of Communications, introduced Grace Deng, Ourania-Maria Glezakou-Elbert, Anthony Petyuk, Sean Xu, and Nathan Carr. To earn the semi-finalist qualification, students must place in the top 1.1% of state students taking the test. Board members congratulated all and wished them much success.

2.3 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual-30 minute limit)

Dusty Howard thanked all those who participated in the recent suicide walk to help raise awareness. She encouraged the Board to provide a more inclusive environment for students.

Shelley Burt stated she is not in support of the bond and asked that the reading curriculum be moved up a year. Ms. Burt also requested more parents on the adoption committee.

Eugene Nemeth stated the District has a literacy crisis and gathered 250 signatures on a petition. He stated structured literacy is a solution to this crisis and asked not to delay this curriculum update.

Elisabeth Van Clark stated LGBTQ youth need more support. She feels the District has a responsibility to help these students in need.

Sarah Watson mentioned the recent news article regarding banning pride flags from classrooms. She feels the Board should not follow the Kennewick School District's lead to create this policy. Ms. Watson asked the Board to support all students and to model the social emotional learning training.

Tina Gregory would like all flags to be banned and feels they are offensive. She stated the District should not push these national agendas.

David Anderson stated, "the great threat to free speech is that we might offend someone." He stated controversy is part of free speech and asked to assure students learn the value of free speech.

Ray Geimer reported issues regarding the transportation department. He asked that safeguards be put in place to prevent this in the future. Board members apologized for the incident.

Ron Higgins shared gender affirming surgery should not be tolerated.

Elizabeth Lugo watched the Board Workshop and wants to support the River's Edge High School replacement, the new High School and safety and security additions. She appreciates school choice but feels the District should advocate for all students.

Kat Espinda questioned the effects of cell towers placed on District properties. She feels the government is forcing these on the public and asked the District to investigate exposure issues.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Bond Package Options

Dr. Redinger advised the timeline is short and decisions will need to be made soon to place a bond on the February 2023 ballot. Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, and Melissa McFadgen, NAC Architects, presented several additional options.

Option G:

New Comprehensive High School, New River's Edge High School, Safety and Security (District-wide updates), and Land Acquisition and Pre-design.

Total local cost: \$255,000,000 Tax Rate: \$1.14 / \$1,000

Option H:

New Comprehensive High School (w/Horizontal Fly and Athletic Stadium), Hanford High School (w/Theatre Scene Shop and Athletic Stadium), New River's Edge High School, Safety and Security (District-wide updates), and Land Acquisition and Pre-design.

Total local cost: \$275,000,000 Tax Rate: \$1.21 / \$1,000

Mr. Bird supports Option G, but to include support for HomeLink also.

Mr. Jansons supports Option G. He advised this will address the immediate needs, without exceeding a flat rate tax rate of \$5.00-\$5.25.

Ms. Williams supports Option H which will give the community several completed projects. She would also remove land acquisition and pre-design to reduce costs. She asked to follow up on the Safety and Security cost amount after the recent Safeguard3 assessment. Mr. Krasner shared information on the importance of land acquisition.

Ms. Byrd likes option G, leaving off the stadium and fly and including support for HomeLink. She would also like to decrease the budget for several projects: new high school-reduce cost to \$170M, River's Edge High School-reduce cost to \$20M, and add HomeLink-\$9M, to reduce the bond amount closer to \$200M.

Leif Carman and Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representatives to the Board of Directors, both felt school culture was very important and having a stadium would be beneficial.

Ms. Oldson stated Option H provides the best opportunities for students. She also shared an idea creating a High School Choice Program campus to facilitate the needs of all students.

Tyler Reeser, Three Rivers HomeLink Principal, shared information on enrollment growth and survey results that showed parents want all age children on the same campus. Nicole Anderson, River's Edge High School Principal, advised having a larger freshman class than ever and feels the program will grow with additional space.

Board discussion followed including:

- lack of state match for remodeling schools/must bring buildings up to current code
- limiting out of district students
- school cultures/building needs-differences for River's Edge High School and HomeLink
- moving River's Edge High School to HomeLink location after building
- purchase of Salvation Army Building to accommodate HomeLink overcrowding

Ms. Byrd asked if others would support lowering the budget for the new high school or the River's Edge High School project? Others stated they are comfortable with the projected costs by experts and would not support lowering the costs. Mr. Krasner was asked to send Board members the updated safety and security costs after the Safeguard3 assessment. Board members were reminded if running a bond in February 2023, First Reading for the projects needs to be November 8, 2022, with Second Reading on November 22, 2022, to meet the necessary timeline for filing.

3.3 Legislative Priorities (moved up in the agenda)

Melissa Gombosky, Legislative Liaison, shared the Legislative Priorities as follows:

- Regionalization and Basic Education Compensation Rebase
- Child Nutrition
- Student and Staff Wellness
- Special Education
- Pupil Transportation

- Work Based Credits
- Local Control

Mr. Bird participated the WSSDA General Assembly last weekend and stated there is much support for these priorities state-wide. Board discussion followed.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AS PRESENTED.

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

3.2 Parent/Guardian Advisory – Scope and Charge

Ms. Byrd shared the draft Mission and Goals developed by the Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee as follows:

Mission statement: To achieve success for all students by encouraging parent/guardian engagement and by offering insight and recommendations to the school board.

Goals:

1. To report as well as collaboratively problem solve specific needs in the district and create action plans or strategies to recommend to the school board.
2. To act as a liaison to our schools by sharing information and fostering relationships between parents/guardians, RSD personnel and RSD school board.

Mr. Bird stated the most important aspect is to give parents a voice. Mr. Jansons is in favor of the Mission Statement and Goals as presented but would like to see a policy in the future describing how members are chosen. Ms. Williams stated the committee needs to be parent driven. Ms. Byrd shared that consistency of participation is important.

Brianna Watson, Co-President of the committee, would like to see participants committed to attending regularly. There is no effort to exclude participants, but consistency is important. There was discussion as to whether the member would be the liaison to report back to their schools. After discussion, Board members stated they would like the group to make that decision.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Performance Audit Update

Superintendent Redinger is working with Mr. Pettett to expediate the “required” policies for Board approval.

4.2 Policy/RR No. 5265 – Staff Recognition

Mr. Sherman stated this policy is not required but recommended.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/RR NO. 5265-STAFF RECOGNITION FOR FIRST READING.

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

4.3 Policy No. 6000-Program Planning, Budget Preparation, Adoption, and Implementation

Mr. Jansons questioned dates in the policy and will contact Mr. Pettett to make the necessary change for second reading at the next meeting. Mr. Sherman stated much of the update codified current practices by the District and the Financial Services Department. The District has a long-standing tradition of maintaining a five percent fund balance.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 6000-PROGRAM PLANNING, BUDGET PREPARATION, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.6) 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

Reddinger, Denise, Counselor, Richland HS to Assistant Principal, Hanford HS, eff. 10/11/2022

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Johnson, Kathleen, 1.0 FTE, 2nd Grade, White Bluffs Elementary (effective 10/21/22)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Barrera, Maria, Nutrition Services, Lewis & Clark to Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark, eff. 10/12/2022

Dockendorff, Kasia, Bookkeeper, Hanford HS to HR Contract Specialist, TLAC, effect. 10/10/2022

Knoblich, Laura, Secretary, Badger Mountain to Para, Special Education, effective 9/30/2022

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Barrios, Susanne, Nutrition Services, Carmichael Middle School, effective 10/10/2022

Brower, Amy, Secretary, Pacific Crest Online Academy, effective 9/26/2022

Brown, Tiffany Lee, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 9/29/2022

Carroll, Hanna Jo, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 9/30/2022

Chapman, Lisa, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 8/31/2022

Dale, William, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 9/29/2022
Del Carlo, Jacy, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 10/3/2022
Landsman, Julianne, Nutrition Services (Rehire), Chief Joseph MS, effective 10/24/2022
Martin, Nick, Paraeducator, Hanford High, effective 10/3/2022
Palm, Danika, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 10/3/2022
Pavlicek Vermeire, Mercedes Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 10/15/2022
Schadler, Johnna, Secretary, Hanford High School, effective 10/10/2022
Serven, Jessica, Nutrition Services (Rehire), Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/10/2022
Spooner, Sue, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 9/29/2022

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Baslee, Paula, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/1/2022 (move to Substitute Driver)
Foster, Madasyn, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 9/22/2022
Gunale, Usha, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 10/06/2022
Holdren, Jayme, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 10/11/2022
Ireland, Katherine, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 10/20/2022
Kim, Kyung, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 10/03/2022
Mendoza, Joanna, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/30/2022
Schrank, Gina, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/11/2022
Steilling, Jeannie, Secretary, Enterprise Middle School, effective 10/14/2022
Zirker, Elaine, Paraeducator (Replacement Employee), Sacajawea Elem., effective 9/28/2022

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Gray, Jessica, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 10/05/2022

5.2 Approval of Minutes (September 27, 2022)

5.3 Policy/RR No. 5515 – Workplace Secondary Traumatic Stress

5.4 Policy/RR No. 6112 – District Lease Agreements

5.5 Policy/RR No. 4250 – School Safety and Security Services Program

5.6 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos.

Capital Projects Fund Warrant

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10083082 through 10083125 for \$461,197.70

Nos. 51001843 through 51001845 for \$58,609.40

Nos. 71003002 through 71003011 for \$22,210.98

Self-Insurance Fund Warrant Nos.

Transportation Vehicle Fund Warrant No.

Payroll Warrant No. 10082812 for \$686.95

Nos. 10082957 through 10083033 for \$147,419.49

Nos. 10083034 through 10083077 for \$4,920,321.12

Nos. 10083078 through 10083081 for \$3,427.76

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$9,996,279.53

Total September Payroll approved in the amount of \$15,068,134.85

6.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Approval of October 25, 2022 Agenda

- Board members asked for a Transportation update in a Friday packet.
- The English Language Arts (ELA) adoption cycle was discussed. Dr. Redinger is meeting on this topic tomorrow and will discuss moving this up in the curriculum adoption cycle.
- Curriculum committee-put this on a future agenda (in 3-6 months)

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE OCTOBER 25, 2022 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

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

7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger attended Cane Quest Pacific Northwest and Special Olympics with Richland High School Volleyball players.

Audra Byrd has been working on policies.

Jill Oldson attended several schools, the Suicide Walk and the Buddy Walk.

Kari Williams has been working on policies and visiting schools with Mr. Moore.

Semi Bird participated in the WSSDA General Assembly as the voting member for the District. He promoted a resolution stating “Parents and families play an important role in children’s education” and it was passed on a second vote.

Rick Jansons Pacific Regional WSSDA Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS