



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, November 8, 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, November 8, 2022, at 6:30 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 Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Special Education 6-12 Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-5 Zach Carpenter, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services Tory Christensen, and Director of Communications Ty Beaver.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:33 P.M.

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

### **1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.2 Roll Call-**Ms. Oldson participated via zoom. All others were in attendance.

## **2.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

### **2.1 Student Representative Report**

Max Schuster, Richland High School, reported on topics at the recent Student Advisory meeting including mental health, BIMAS testing, Hazel Health, safety and security, and the Capital Projects Levy.

### **2.2 GOOD NEWS-Cane Quest**

Linda McFall and Mandy Carpenter, Orientation/Mobility Specialists, shared information from the Cane Quest event at Libby Middle School. This event was sponsored by Pacific Northwest Cane Quest. Many students participated in this event allowing them the opportunity to meet others with similar issues. Several students shared their experience.

### **2.3 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual)**

Dusty Howard, Richland, shared concern with the Race and Curriculum policy on the agenda and feels sexism should be addressed as an equal issue.

Shelly Burt, West Richland, shared concern regarding the lack of after school activities for her student and feels funding is available.

Sara Flores, Kennewick, shared concern with the Race and Curriculum policy and feels this will be detrimental for teachers in many subjects.

Ron Higgins, Richland, read the Mayflower compact and stated all should follow the law.

Tina Gregory, non-district resident, shared concern with flags in schools and asked all to stand for freedom of speech.

Kayla Coyne, West Richland, shared concerns regarding student behavior issues and safety in schools.

Alice Orrell, Richland, stated inclusiveness benefits everyone and encourages a nurturing environment.

Carly Coburn, Pasco, shared concern for LGBTQ+ students and feels these students should be able to feel safe in school.

Sara Watson, Richland, shared concern about hate speech at board meetings and asked for a student survey to gather input on policy issues.

Mikey Beary, Richland, shared concern regarding the Race and Curriculum policy and believes teaching that is true prepares students for the future.

Cassidi Gaul, Richland, was involved in *Asking is Caring* at Carmichael Middle School, wears pride pins daily, and asked for a cold weather clothes stipend and a living wage for Paras.

### **3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Resolution No. 951-Capital Projects Levy-First Reading**

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared details of a proposed Capital Projects Levy to include safety and security upgrades across the District and high school facilities evaluation and design. This would be a six-year levy for \$23M with the average tax rate of 29 cents/\$1,000 assessed value.

Ms. Williams questioned the value of running a bond vs a levy. Discussion followed.

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

#### *Discussion:*

Ms. Oldson asked for interest rates on non-voted debt. Mr. Sherman stated this will be fully communicated at that time.

**THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 951-CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY FOR FIRST READING.**

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

Motion was approved.

#### **3.2 Strategic Plan-Second Reading**

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, stated *Richland Ready* is a Strategic Plan that outlines the District's shared vision and mission, core values, a portrait of a ready graduate, and defines five common shared priority areas. The document further unpacks each priority into specific focus areas with connected progress benchmarks that the District will use to

develop metrics for measuring success and growth. Mr. Bird requested one minor change to the document and there was consensus from Board members to approve the one-word change.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT’S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SECOND READING WITH THE CHANGE FROM “~~SCHOOL~~ TO STUDENTS” UNDER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/PARENT PARTNERSHIPS (PAGE 11).

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

Motion was approved.

#### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Policy No. 4210-Dangerous Weapons on School Premises**

Mr. Sherman advised the District recently deleted the 10,000 series in its policy manual. Therefore, Policy 10,020-Firearms and Dangerous Weapons was deleted. Policy 4210-Dangerous Weapons on School Premises is classified as “essential” by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA).

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 4210-DANGEROUS WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES FOR FIRST READING.

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

Motion was approved.

##### **4.2 Performance Audit Update**

Superintendent Redinger shared that additional finance audit reports have been added to the District’s website. Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services, is also working on an Emotional/Behavioral Distress Plan and ongoing threat assessment planning and training with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Dr. Redinger advised the District has strong programs in place.

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

Ms. Oldson asked to pull Item 5.3-Policy No. 2360-Race and Curriculum.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5.1; 5.2; 5.4; AND 5.5, INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

Ms. Oldson asked to remove words she felt were inflammatory-Replace “*indoctrinate*” with “*taught*” in the second paragraph, add “*free of all forms of indoctrination*” and delete “*rather than indoctrinate*” in the third paragraph. Also to add “*Culture*” back into the title.

Mr. Bird stands by the policy as presented.

Mr. Jansons doesn't believe teachers indoctrinate and has valued discussions with his children regarding classroom discussions and critical thinking. He does not see the need for this policy.

Ms. Byrd is indifferent to the changes by Ms. Oldson but feels the word "culture" brings confusion. Ms. Byrd asked to bring Policy 8900-Nondiscrimination to a future meeting to address changes needed. She does not want to prohibit or restrict discussions if they show all positions but not a teacher's viewpoint.

Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representative, feels opinions and debates further a student's thinking and wants to hear and discuss all sides of a topic. She feels this policy may silence some students.

Leif Carman, Student Representative, does not support this policy and feels it is not supported by many other students. He appreciates the ability to ask teachers questions and feels this might not be good for teachers.

Ms. Oldson stated students are interested in teachers' opinions and feels this promotes critical thinking. Mr. Bird doesn't see anything that restricts discussion.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2360 WITH THE ADDITION OF MS. OLDSOON'S CHANGES, (REPLACE "INDOCTRINATE" WITH "TAUGHT" IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH, ADD "FREE OF ALL FORMS OF INDOCTRINATION" AND DELETE "RATHER THAN INDOCTRINATE" IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH), BUT NOT THE ADDITION OF "CULTURE" IN THE TITLE.

Discussion:

Ms. Williams added an amendment to the motion to change "Race and the Curriculum" to "Bias and the Instruction". There was no second.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, no; Byrd, yes; Oldson, no; and Williams, yes.

Motion was approved.

## **5.1 Personnel Actions**

### CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

#### NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Monks, Kirah, .40 FTE, French, Richland High School, effective 11/14/2022

#### RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Borms, Torrey, 1.0 FTE, Physical Education, Marcus Whitman, effective 08/30/2022

#### INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Caslin, Lauren, .20 FTE (now 0.6 FTE) Science, Richland HS, effective 8/30/2022 (non-cont.)

### CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

#### RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Berry, Shelley, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary

**NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

- Bailey, Wendy, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/9/2022
- Cziglenyi, Kimberly, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elem. eff. 10/27/2022 (corrected from 10/26/2022)
- Funderburk, Lana, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 11/8/2022
- Gibson, Ryan, IT Technician I, Information Technology, effective 11/2/2022
- Hansen, Makali, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/9/2022
- Hughes, Noah, Custodian, Richland High School, effective 11/3/2022
- Kreitzer, Jacob, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 11/8/2022
- Lawton, Dana, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 11/1/2022
- Messenger, Lydia, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 11/16/2022
- Payne, Shauna, Paraeducator (Temporary), Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 11/2/22-6/14/23 (corr. from 10/28/22)
- Ramsay, Devin, Secretary, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 11/14/2022
- Stillman, Aleece, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 10/26/2022
- Stegen, Molly, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/8/2022
- Swinburnson, Casey, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elem. effective 10/27/2022 (corrected from 10/27/2022)
- Tarasenko, Liana, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/4/2022
- Taylor, Derek, Custodian, Richland High School, effective 11/1/2022

**NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

- Torres, Maria, Custodian, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/1/2022
- Turner, Tracie, Paraeducator (Rehire), Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/7/2022
- Warren, Shonna, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/9/2022
- Zarate, Esteban, IT Technician I, Information Technology, effective 10/31/2022

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

- Espiritu, Paula, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 11/17/2022 – 8/31/2022

**REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

- Alexander, Dale, Bus Driver, Trans. to Grounds Applicator, Support Services, eff. 10/28/2022

**RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

- Arthur, Samuel, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 12/16/2022
- Bullock, Mari, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 11/10/2022
- Dunfee, Treasurer, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 11/10/2022
- Johnson, Susan, Secretary, Teaching & Learning, effective 12/2/2022 (corrected from 11/23/2022)
- Martinez, Vanessa, Secretary, Early Learning Center, effective 11/23/2022
- Travis, Denise, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 10/31/2022

**5.2 Approval of Minutes (October 25, 2022)**

**5.3 Policy No. 2360-Race and the Curriculum**

**5.4 Policy No. 4130-Title 1 Parent Involvement**

**5.5 Payroll and Warrant Information**

- ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007132 through 40007136 for \$8,629.75
  - Nos. 40007137 through 40007142 for \$3,914.10
  - Nos. 54000491 through 54000495 for \$14,136.01
  - No. 74000157 for \$1,142.94
- Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001890 through 20001894 for \$14,770.75
  - No. 52000306 for \$3,395.40
  - Nos. 20001895 through 20001901 for \$280,231.85
  - No. 52000307 for \$5,061.23

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10083489 through 10083563 for \$440,541.99  
Nos. 51001892 through 51001902 for \$90,152.60  
Nos. 71003060 through 71003074 for \$34,077.28  
Nos. 10083567 through 10083645 for \$520,989.53  
Nos. 51001903 through 51001921 for \$181,394.42  
Nos. 71003075 through 71003087 for \$17,736.59  
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10083126 through 10083126 for \$333.00  
Nos. 10083357 through 10083442 for \$176,119.62  
Nos. 10083443 through 10083488 for \$5,163,457.17  
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,036,216.10  
Total November Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,376,125.89

## **6.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1 Future Agenda Items**

- dress code and cell phone policies

Ms. Byrd requested a report on student discipline/behaviors. Mr. Bird agreed.

Board discussion followed and a Board Workshop on Policy 3200-Student Conduct Expectation and Reasonable Sanctions, was requested for discussion to share information before a discipline policy be placed on an agenda. Dr. Redinger stated trainings are ongoing and asked to invite principals and teachers as well. Nancy Mayer will look for dates when all members are available.

### **6.2 Approval of November 22, 2022 Agenda**

Mr. Jansons asked to move Items 3.2 and 4.2 to the December 13, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Byrd suggested bringing forward an anti-bullying policy. Mr. Bird will work on this and bring to the next meeting under future agenda item. Ms. Byrd also asked for Policy No. 2333-Flags in Schools. Dr. Redinger advised the District is waiting for several state and federal decisions that will be coming shortly. More discussion followed.

Karrin Wierzchowski and Leif Carman, Student Representatives, would like to survey students on this topic and asked for extra time to get this feedback. Board discussion followed.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 22, 2022 AGENDA WITH ITEMS 3.2 AND 4.2 MOVED TO DECEMBER 13, 2020.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, no; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes; and Oldson, yes.  
Motion was approved.

## **7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Shelley Redinger complimented students on the Superintendent/Student Advisory Committee on openly sharing input.

Semi Bird attended the Hanford High School Equity Club meeting.

Audra Byrd shared work on a dual language program is continuing and as well as a sign language class. She also attended the Hanford High School Student Equity meeting.

Rick Jansons attended a drama production at Richland High School, Veterans Day Assemblies, and WSSDA projects.

Kari Williams attended a Veterans Day parade, drama productions, and is excited for the WSSDA Conference next week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS