



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 10, 2023
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, January 10, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 3100 Belmont Boulevard, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Kari Williams presided. Board members participating: Jill Oldson, Semi Bird, Audra Byrd, and Rick Jansons. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Todd Baddley, 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, Executive Director of Human Resources Tim Praino, and Director of Communications Ty Beaver.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:37 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS-Congressional App Challenge-Advaitha Motkuri

Ms. Williams introduced Advaitha Motkuri, Richland High School Sophomore, who explained the App she created to win the Congressional App Challenge. This was a science project using the pupil of a person's eye to warn if they are impaired by drugs or alcohol and should not be driving. She is hopeful this will become available to the public in the future.

2.2 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual)

Abby Hammond, Student, stated concern with new policies regarding controversial topics and flags. She shared 94.5% of students in the recent survey felt safe with flags and stated the Board should be focused on more important issues and are harming future generations with these limits.

Austin Couganhauer, Student, feels it is critical to discuss controversial issues and learn to handle differences in a productive and respectful manner.

Cody Link, Richland, feels the public comment period should be an open forum for discussion and shared concern that student representatives are allowed to vote, but the vote doesn't count.

Tina Gregory, Non-resident, offered Christian flags to any teachers who want them and stated local action has a national impact.

Ron Higgins, Richland, stated teachers should teach the US Constitution and that the Fourteenth Amendment protects all.

Ms. Byrd responded to students stating the controversial issues policy does not prohibit discussing controversial issues in the classroom.

3.0 NEW BUSINESS

3.1 English Language Learner (ELL) Update

Brian Moore-Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Wendy Holsten-Carmichael Middle School Instructional Specialist, and Sean Langdon-Tapteal Principal shared information on ELL support and services in the District. There are currently 900 ELL students with most attending Tapteal Elementary and Richland and Hanford High Schools. This number has increased five percent over the last year. Actions for the 2023/2024 school year include but are not limited to:

- Dual Language classrooms-start with (Kindergarten/first grade)
- Increase the number of ELL certified staff
- Increase the number of Bilingual staff
- Provide targeted professional development for all schools

Board members shared support for Dual Language classes and ELL support and professional development for all students and staff.

3.2 Early Learning Center (ELC) Report

Mr. Moore introduced Julie McDougall, ELC Director. ELC is the home of the District's Special Education Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and the State Funded Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). Ms. McDougall reported the program sent 138 students to Kindergarten last year. ELC currently serves 310 students, with 76 staff members and six family advocates, with morning and afternoon classes, and is located on the Jefferson Elementary campus. The three programs have several different funding sources. The District is researching locations to grow ELC opportunities since the waitlist far exceeds the enrollment. Board discussion followed.

3.3 Policy/RR No. 3424-Opioid Related Overdose Reversal-First Reading

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, advised the need for this policy is tragic. The District's administration has worked with the school nurse group to review and modify WSSDA's model policy and procedure. This policy is categorized as essential and is required by state law.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/RR NO. 3424 - OPIOD RELATED OVERDOSE REVERSAL FOR FIRST READING.

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

Student Representatives: Carman-yes; Wierzchowski-yes

Motion was approved.

3.4 Policy No. 6225-Electronic Signature Policy-First Reading

Mr. Pettett explained school districts, along with other local agencies, are authorized to use and accept electronic signatures, making them a good option for those agencies that can invest in the technology or service.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 6225-ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE POLICY FOR FIRST READING.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, yes; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes: and Oldson, yes.
Student Representatives: Carman, yes; Wierzchowski, yes
Motion was approved.

3.5 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger explained the importance of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds the District receives. A large portion of the District includes Federal land (Hanford) from which there are no taxes collected. In the past, PILT funds have been used for one-time expenses since the District cannot count on the amount it will receive. All audits on these funds in past years have been clear. After several years of not visiting Washington, D.C., Board members feel the need to attend in-person meetings to advocate for these funds. Meetings will be set up to meet with a variety of legislators to encourage these funds become a line item for more consistency. After discussion, Dr. Redinger, Mr. Bird, and Ms. Oldson would like to attend. Ms. Williams will follow up. Leif Carman will attend as the Student Representative.

3.6 Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Recap

Ms. Williams asked all to report on events they attended at the Annual WSSDA Conference. The student representatives stated this was a valuable experience to allow them to collaborate with other students from around the state.

Ms. Byrd attended several breakout sessions on topics including Inclusion and Dignity, Roberts Rules of Order, Dual Language, Modified Calendar, and Superintendent Evaluations.

Ms. Oldson attended the WSSDA Law Conference, a Bonds and Levies presentation, and the Student Advisory Session.

Mr. Jansons stated fully funding Special Education is still a concern and shared information from the Policy Governance Session.

Mr. Bird agreed with many of the previous comments and with transparency for the Superintendent Goals.

Ms. Williams attended the Law Conference, Policy Governance, Roberts Rules of Order, and shared information on State of the School meetings.

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

Ms. Oldson and Mr. Jansons asked to pull Item 4.4-Policy No. 2331-Controversial Issues.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.5; 4.6; AND 4.7) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Item 4.4-Policy No. 2331-Controversial Issues was discussed. Ms. Oldson stated she will vote no. Mr. Jansons stated he will also vote no, as this creates a cloud of suspicion.

Mr. Bird advised the key is that the description includes parents and will support the policy.

Ms. Byrd stated the policy is twenty years old and the only addition is the definition of “controversial” and doesn’t feel this is limiting.

Ms. Williams stated the definition is broad and does not feel this limits conversation.

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (4.4) FOR SECOND READING.

Vote: Bird, yes; Jansons, no; Williams, yes; Byrd, yes: and Oldson, yes.
Student Representatives: Carman, no; Karrin Wierzchowski feels this will limit discussion and stated students have researched this and don’t believe this is a good policy. Ms. Wierzchowski voted no.

Discussion followed. Mr. Bird Called the Question.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Edwards, Michael, Principal (Interim), Richland High School effective 1/3/2023 – 6/30/2023

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Barraza, Wendy, Paraeducator (Replacement Employee), Sacajawea, eff. 1/3/2023-6/14/2023

Dashti, Mahi, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 1/9/2023

Freeman, Jennifer, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 1/3/2023

Georgeson, Dana, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 1/9/2023

Ham, Kati, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 1/3/2023

Hurst, Ashleigh, Secretary, Transportation, effective 1/3/2023

Martinez, Vanessa, Secretary (Rehire), Early Learning Center, effective 1/4/2023

Nowlin, Tressia, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High School, effective 12/15/2022

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Dimmick, Rosemary, Paraeducator, Richland HS, (date corr.: eff. 1/9/2023-expected 4/12/2023)

Mesina, Crystal, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 1/3/2023 – expected 4/14/2023

Skinner, Sarah, Paraeducator, Badger Mtn Elementary, effective 1/3/2023 – expected 3/3/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Deleon, Mayra, Lead Secretary, Special Education, TLAC, effective 1/20/2023

Gano, Taylor, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 1/17/2023

Knutson, Haley, Secretary, Special Education, TLAC, effective 1/20/2023

Mason, Ron, Custodian, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 2/28/2023

Poe, Gregory, Custodian, Enterprise Middle School, effective 1/2/2023

Walley, Amanda, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 12/16/2022

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Jones, Robin, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/31/2023

4.2 Approval of Minutes (December 13, 2022)

4.3 Cash Grant-Sacajawea PTO-Fifth Grade Wilderness Trip

4.4 Policy No. 2331-Controversial Issues

4.5 Policy No. 2015-Curriculum Committees

4.6 Policy/RR No. 6700-Nutrition, Health, and Physical Education

4.7 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007184 through 40007192 for \$14,431.15
Nos. 54000512 through 54000514 for \$153,782.67
Nos. 40007193 through 40007197 for \$3,739.76
Nos. 54000515 through 54000516 for \$1,240.53
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001918 through 20001922 for \$20,838.89
Nos. 52000313 through 52000314 for \$98,393.88
Nos. 20001923 through 20001927 for \$86,350.66
Nos. 52000315 for \$4,895.83
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10084113 through 10084174 for \$320,790.54
Nos. 51001977 through 51001988 for \$874,686.21
Nos. 71003150 through 71003165 for \$23,850.09
Nos. 10084305 through 10084409 for \$906,241.97
Nos. 51001990 through 51002005 for \$152,728.98
Nos. 71003166 through 71003186 for \$63,881.31
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10084011 through 10084012 for \$5,795.00
Nos. 10084175 through 10084259 for \$154,207.39
Nos. 10084260 through 10084304 for \$5,065,139.10
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$10,811,487.63
Total December Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,036,629.12

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Williams suggested asking for future agenda items at one meeting per month, then prioritizing the topics. Then length of meetings was also discussed with consensus that meetings should end by 9:00 P.M. Board members were asked to email Ms. Williams if they have any topics to add before the February 14, 2023 meeting. There was consensus to conduct the Executive Session scheduled before the January 24, 2023 meeting via zoom.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE JANUARY 24, 2023 AGENDA AS AMEMNDED.

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

6.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger announced an Army Junior ROTC program has been approved starting this fall at Hanford High School. The Board requested a Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training session which will be scheduled in early February. The District also

received a \$500,000 grant for assistance with Mental Health for all students. Ryan Beard's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program has been recognized to participate, along with seven states, in a LAUNCH (Equitable and Accelerated Pathways for All) Kick-Off in New Orleans.

Semi Bird is the District's Legislative Representative and will be updating the Board on Bills during the Legislative Session.

Audra Byrd enjoyed the Discipline and Behavior Workshop and is excited for the American Sign Language class in the high school's fall catalogue. She thanked Steve Fisk for his work on this.

Rick Jansons participated on the Architect Selection Committee for the upcoming Levy.

Kari Williams attended the PTA Council meeting and shared the Reflections Award presentation is Thursday at Jason Lee Elementary.

Jill Oldson is involved on the WSSDA Legislative Committee and reported the priority of Education Bills has dropped significantly. Ms. Oldson reminded all of the ESD Regional Meeting on Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS