



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 24, 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 24, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom (due to water damage in the Administration Building), West Richland, Washington. School Vice Board President Audra Byrd presided. Board members participating: Jill Oldson, Semi Bird, Kari Williams, and Rick Jansons.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Personnel-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g)-Quarterly 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 6:28 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 present-Ms. Williams was only available for portions of the meeting.

**2.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

**2.1 Student Representative Report**

Izaiah Evangelista, Hanford High School, reported on topics discussed at the recent Student Advisory meeting including Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program offerings, the new Junior ROTC program beginning this fall at Hanford High School, the American Sign Language class (ALS), and the Capital Projects Levy on the ballot February 14, 2023.

**2.2 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report**

Brianna Watson reported on topics at the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting including a CTE report from Ryan Beard, CTE Director, a Board report, and a report on the upcoming Capital Projects Levy. Ms. Watson stated the topic for the month was “Student access for learning opportunities”. There was also discussion regarding an International Baccalaureate program, project-based classrooms, and highly capable/quest programs. Discipline and behavior will be discussed at the February meeting. Ms. Byrd reported some schools are not represented so volunteers are welcome.

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

Debbie Savino, Teacher, spoke to the need for Financial Literacy classes at the middle school level and feels one class in high school is not enough.

Ron Higgins, Richland, stated students need to be taught how to disagree without being disagreeable and how to improve without being disruptive.

Tina Gregory, non-resident, feels the only flag in the classroom should be the United States flag and that students should be taught the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. She shared concern regarding teacher unions and the National School Board Organization.

### **3.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Bond Refunding**

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, explained bond refunding is a process that reduces the debt payments of a district by issuing new bonds with lower interest rates to be used to pay off the old bonds with higher interest rates. He explained the savings from a bond refunding directly reduces the tax paid by local taxpayers. Mr. Sherman will be bringing a resolution to the Board in February and stated this will save taxpayers approximately two million dollars.

#### **3.2 Middle School Financial Literacy**

Jen Klauss, Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Ryan Beard, Director of Career and Technical Education, explained Senate Bill 5720 calls for school districts to adopt one or more goals for expanding financial education instruction to students. Currently, the Richland School District requires Careers and Financial Literacy for graduation. This tenth grade course offers a quarter of financial literacy combined with a quarter of career exploration, with both serving to inform students' High School and Beyond Plans. In addition, financial literacy education is offered at both elementary and middle schools through Junior Achievement which reaches approximately 1,000 students, as well as GESA, HAPO and STCU Banks' free programs in high schools. Mr. Beard explained the process and extensive timeline for adding a new course. Four options were presented:

1. Stand Alone Course (Elective)
2. Stand Alone Course (Required)
3. Integrated into Core Classes (Social Studies/Math)
4. Stand Alone Financial Math (Replaces Core)

Discussion included:

- community engagement needed
- elective vs. required course-pros/cons for each
- preference for options that include all students-equity

There was consensus from Board members to create a survey for juniors and seniors, as well as parents, to gather feedback and add this topic to the February 28, 2023 meeting agenda.

#### **3.3 Summer School Planning 2023**

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, and Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services, reported on summer school programs:

Elementary:

- all elementary schools will offer summer tutoring services to students
- two specific target groups will be invited to elementary summer school this year
  - students reading below grade level (as identified by school assessment)
  - students that are most at risk for summer regression. (e.g., ELL students, high-poverty populations, or students with disabilities)

- comprehensive tutoring model focusing on structured literacy-2-4 days a week for 30-45 minute sessions throughout six weeks

Middle School:

- “Choose Your Own Learning Adventure Camps”- with a STEM focus consisting of three two-week sessions with six different opportunities at all four middle schools. Over 600 students participated last summer.

High School:

- students entering ninth grade-opportunity to earn .5 health and .5 PE credit
- APEX (online school)-students can make up credits and/or earn additional credits. Earning credits opens up student schedules for other classes they wish to take. Over 1,100 students participated last year with over 1,200 credits earned.

K-12 Special Education:

- Extended School Year (ESY) services delivered at four elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Special Education teams will develop an ESY plan for each student determined eligible.

Discussion followed regarding transportation, staffing, equity, and tutoring services. Ms. Byrd will add comprehensive tutoring to the future agenda discussion at the next meeting.

### **3.4 Policy No. 2411 – High School Equivalency Certificate**

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, stated this policy details eligibility criteria for students to take the high school equivalency test and the process they need to follow.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2411-HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE FOR FIRST READING.

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

### **3.5 Policy No. 3124 Removal-Release of Student During School Hours**

Mr. Pettett advised this policy details when students may be released from school during the school day. This policy is required under state law.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3124 REMOVAL-RELEASE OF STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS FOR

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

### **3.6 Performance Audit Update**

-----  
Superintendent Redinger shared the Benton-Franklin Health District is working with the District to inspect all science labs and classrooms. The inspection is 75% complete with only minor recommendations. The report indicates science classroom chemical storage was the best the Health District had seen.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.11) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

**4.1 Personnel Actions**

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Mannucci, Mykael, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, Carmichael Middle School

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Frank, Laura, .40 FTE (Now 1.0 FTE), Math, Pacific Crest Online Academy, effective 1/24/2023

Monks, Stephanie, 0.2 FTE (Now 0.8 FTE), Intro. to Marketing, Richland HS, effective 1/24/2023

(non-continuing)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Diaz, Alex, Paraeducator (Replacement Employee), Badger Mountain Elem., eff. 1/20/23 – exp 3/31/23

Gilmore, Rachel, Secretary (from Paraeducator), Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 1/20/2023

Hinrichs, Jessica, Secretary (Replacement Employee), SPED, eff. 1/17/2023 – expected 6/28/2023

Kane, Richard, Security, Enterprise Middle School, effective 3/1/2023

Lewys, Alexys, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 1/17/2023

Maine, Cheyenne, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 1/20/2023

Trevino, Carlos, Security, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 3/1/2023

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Elizondo, Courtney, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, eff. 2/1/2023 – expected 5/24/2023

Mata, Monyca, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, eff. 1/30/2023 – expected 5/1/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Ng, Chen, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 2/2/2023

**4.2 Approval of Minutes (January 4, 2023; January 10, 2023)**

**4.3 Load Limits**

**4.4 Resolution No. 953-Interfund Loan**

**4.5 2023/2024 Draft School Year Calendar**

**4.6 Architect Selection Recommendations**

**4.7 Policy No. 3424-Opioid Related Overdose Reversal-Second Reading**

**4.8 Policy No. 6225-Electronic Signature Policy-Second Reading**

**4.9 Enrollment Monthly**

**4.10 Budget Monthly**

**4.11 Warrant Approval**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007198 through 40007206 for \$111,914.68

Nos. 54000517 through 54000520 for \$120,046.38

No. 74000162 for \$2,476.76

Nos. 40007207 through 40007219 for \$24,493.33

Nos. 54000521 through 54000524 for \$8,525.77  
Capital Projects Fund Warrant No. 20001928 for \$62.50  
    No. 52000316 for \$3,900.70  
    No. 72000040 for \$1,618.01  
    Nos. 20001929 through 20001931 for \$6,024.88  
Debt Service Fund Warrant No. 30000137 for \$1,326.58  
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10084412 through 10084478 for \$298,598.48  
    Nos. 51002006 through 51002019 for \$555,949.25  
    Nos. 71003187 through 71003200 for \$22,537.06  
    Nos. 10084479 through 10084533 for \$171,951.81

## **5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5.1 Approval of February 14, 2023 Agenda**

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023 BOARD MEETING AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

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

## **7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Jill Oldson shared the Legislature is working on many Bills of importance to the District and will report on those in the future.

Semi Bird is the Legislative Representative and will continue updating on Bills related to the District.

Audra Byrd attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and reported the first day of school this fall will be August 29, 2023.

Shelley Redinger reported speaking at the Tri City Chamber meeting along with other local superintendents. She also shared the Badger Mountain Elementary Ribbon Cutting will be held later this week (January 26, 2023-5:00 P.M.).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

---

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

---

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS