



Board of Directors-Special Meeting-Workshop
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a Workshop/Special Meeting Friday, February 10, 2023, via Zoom, West Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board President Kari Williams presided. Board members participating: Semi Bird, Jill Oldson, Rick Jansons, and Audra Byrd.

Topic-Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. Ms. Williams introduced Kristina Tucker, Coordinator of English Language Arts, and Derek O’Konek, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, who shared their enthusiasm for the LETRS methodology and training involved.

Presenters included Lori Ann Toth, Lexia Learning-Account Executive, and Bettina Garcia Brown, LETRS District Success Manager, who shared information on the LETRS approach including:

- OSPI 2018 Dyslexia Initiative HB6162-clear state focus on structured literacy and best practices which include training for teachers
- Richland School District started partnership with LETRS in 2019
- Academic Success: students learn best with high-quality and effective instruction aligned with their goals.
- Focus Areas: implementation of evidence-based and proven literacy practices to ensure students in grades K-3 develop a strong foundation in reading.

Board members shared their support for this program and discussion followed including:

- began with a small group of teachers (Deannie Sullivan and others) who shared their success
- should this be required for all teachers? (districts vary on this)
- principals are participating
- onboarding new staff-expectation for new hires?
- develop comprehensive timeline-stipend? professional development days?
- help for secondary students
- set realistic expectations

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS