



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 28, 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, February 28, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, 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 Elementary Education Brian Moore, Executive Director of Information Technology Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klaus, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning Derek O'Konek, Executive Director of Special Education 6-12 Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-5 Zach Carpenter, and Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services Tory Christensen.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 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-All Kids Every Day

Instructional Coaches Renee Yecha and Michelle Fickle, and Jessica Fife, Richland High School Teacher, shared a broad overview of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). 900 staff members in the District have been participating in this training, with 118 currently involved in first year trainings. A Community Night *All Kids Every Day* will take place on April 27, 2023 at the Teaching, Learning and Administrative Center. All are welcome!

2.2 Student Representative Report

Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representative to the Board, reported on topics at the recent Student Advisory meeting including middle to high school transition, how to encourage participation in school activities and athletics, projects included in the recent Levy, and a lengthy discussion on suicide.

2.3 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Sara Egbert reported the topic of the recent meeting was discipline and behavior. Lee Collye, from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services, were speakers. Mr. Collye expressed support for the District's overall plan. Ms. Egbert shared recommendations to the Board including eliminating isolation and chemical restraint, access to proactive mental health/trauma informed behavioral supports, de-escalation training, and improving data collection for decision making.

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

Shantay DeBell, West Richland, voted for the three Board members under recall and feels they are a voice for her family.

Shelly Burt, West Richland, shared concern regarding the number of parents on the facility planning committee, iReady test scores, and the Strategic Plan.

Janice Haney, West Richland, is opposed to the recall, feels constitutional rights were violated, and student learning was hurt.

Hayley Hoyt, Non-Resident, feels the recall represents two kinds of people, those who value thinking for themselves and those who enjoy being told what to do.

Evelyn Menzel, Richland, supports the Board members under recall, feels Mr. Jansons and Ms. Oldson need to resign, and that no laws were broken.

Eugene Nemeth, Richland, shared concern regarding Ms. Oldson's leadership and the lack of accountability for the Special Education program and declining achievement.

Nino Kapitula, West Richland, stated she is here for her children and will join the fight for freedom.

Scott Gonser, Richland, shared information on Board member elections and feels the recall will cost the people \$250,000.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared information on Black History Month and an example of a person who became politically active in the Constitution Party.

Sally Mack, Richland, Early Learning Center (ELC) Teacher, shared concern with staffing, number of students on the waiting list, classroom space, and the lack of a counselor on staff at the ELC.

Mr. Jansons asked Mr. Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, the cost of running the recall election on the August primary ballot. Mr. Sherman stated the cost to be \$75,000-\$100,000. Mr. Jansons stated an item to pay the personal attorney fees for the Board members under recall had been removed from tonight's agenda. He asked for the amount of those fees and if the item would be placed on a future agenda. Discussion followed.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOVE THIS DISCUSSION TO ITEM 7.0-BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS.

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

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Capital Levy Update

Superintendent Redinger thanked the community for support of the recent Capital Projects Levy which passed by 55.13%. Meetings between facilities staff and architect firms selected are underway to design a third high school, a new campus for River's Edge High School, Three Rivers' HomeLink expansion, and various secure vestibule remodels.

3.2 Student/Parent-Financial Literacy Results/Board Discussion

Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representative, shared results from the recent Financial Literacy surveys, one for juniors and seniors, and one for parents. 205 students and 220 parents responded. Discussion followed regarding a required class, an elective class, or embedding instruction into already provided classes. Jen Klauss, Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Ryan Beard, Director of Career and Technical Education, will review the data and present recommendations at the next meeting.

3.3 Resolution No. 955-State Bond Guarantee Program

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, introduced Cory Plager, D.A. Davidson, and Jim McNeill, Foster Garvey PC Law Firm, who shared information on the State Guarantee Program and Bond Refunding. Mr. Plager shared interest rates have risen slightly since the topic was discussed a month ago, therefore decreasing the amount of savings to be seen by taxpayers. Savings were projected to be \$1.9M several weeks ago but have lessened to \$1.3M. He explained Bond refunding is similar to refinancing a home mortgage. Refunding benefits taxpayers, not the District. The Resolution presented requires a 3% threshold to begin the refunding process. Board discussion followed and there was consensus to lower the threshold for refunding to 2.25%.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 955-STATE BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

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

3.4 Resolution No. 958-Refunding Delegation

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 958-REFUNDING DELEGATION WITH A MINIMUM 2.25% THRESEHOLD.

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

This Resolution gives authority to District administration to move forward with refunding once the savings target is reached.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 District Improvement Goals Update

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, introduced Cabinet members who shared details of each District Goal.

Tory Christensen, spoke on Goals Three and Eight:

- Goal 3 - Complete all components of implementing a data dashboard and early warning system for the district by spring 2023.
 - District is on track to have tools launched before the end of school.
- Goal 8 - Develop & Implement a plan for K12 behavior and discipline improvement by the Spring of 2023. Develop an action plan for RSD headed into the 2023/24 school year.
 - Details of various staff trainings were presented regarding student behavior.

Dr. Redinger shared information on Goal Two and Goal Four:

- Goal 2 - Maintain consistent, clear communications with internal and external stakeholders using various tools and channels throughout the 2022-23 school year.
 - Updating school websites; consistent practice of providing communications in multiple languages. Survey will be sent to staff and community in May.
- Goal 4 - Increase opportunities for internal and external stakeholders to interact with the Superintendent.
 - All Staff Kickoff; *Redinger Roundtable* community meetings; Superintendent Chats at all schools for staff; Monthly Advisory Groups: Community Advisory, Student Advisory, Board Parent Advisory, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Dereck O’Konek reported on Goal 6:

- Goal 6 - By Spring of 2023, the percentage of K-3 students reading on or above grade level will increase by 3% in domains as measured by the iReady Spring Benchmark Assessment.
 - Elementary Specialist hired-LETRS year 1 - 80 teachers currently, year 2 - 78 teachers, 13 principals in LETRS training

Ryan Beard presented Goal Five:

- Goal 5 - Grow student interest in STEM and Computer Science (CS), Sustainable Energy/Technology, Agriculture Science, and Health Science in alignment with regional and national labor market data-Career and Technical Education (CTE)
 - Focus for 2022-2023 on increasing CTE interest/offerings in Sustainable Technology, Computer Science, and Ag Science.

Richard Krasner reported on Goal One and Goal Nine:

- Goal 1 - Develop a Long-Term Facility Planning Document to identify and guide future facility and bond planning needs.
 - Long term planning-100% complete, architect services chosen, Study and Survey-on consent agenda tonight.
- Goal 9 - Assess and improve security processes, procedures, and facilities to maximize safety and minimize risks at school sites.
 - School site walks completed mid-February. Preplanning with District Operations staff has begun. Will provide updates monthly.

Mr. Moore ended with information on Goal Seven-the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 7 - Complete all components for a comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Richland School District for publication and implementation in the fall of 2022.
 - Completed in the fall of 2022 and has been publicized to stakeholders and available on the district's webpage.

Board members discussed timing for workshops to update these goals as these will continue to change. Dr. Redinger reported on March 14, 2023, the Superintendent quarterly check in will take place and updated goals will be shared.

4.2 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger reported the yearly audit by the Washington State Auditor's office has begun. This year the audit areas are Open Public Meetings Act requirements, financial conditions, professional learning District days, and Levy funding. Dr. Redinger stated after the Exit Conference, the full report is posted on the District website.

4.3 Board Representatives on District Committees

Board members shared their involvement as members of District Committees. Only two members can participate on each.

- Facilities: Oldson, Williams...there will be multiple sub committees in the future)
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health Assistance Team (MHAT): Oldson
- Career and Technical Education: Oldson
- English Language Arts/Curriculum Adoption: Williams
- PTA: Williams
- Parent/Gaudian Advisory Committee: Byrd
- Discipline/Behavior: Byrd
- Modified Calendar: Byrd, Wierzchowski
- Construction: Jansons
- Comprehensive Tutoring: Bird, Wierzchowski
- Student Representative Committee: Bird, Oldson
- Safety and Security: Bird, Wierzchowski

Please contact Nancy Mayer with any other committee information.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.8) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

5.1 Personnel Actions

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Hinrichs, Jessica, Secretary (Replacement Employee), Special Education to Secretary, Support Services, effective 2/27/2023

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Ayling, Margret, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 2/21/2023
Barrows, Michael, Security, Carmichael Middle School, effective 3/1/2023
Coder, Rodney, Custodian, Enterprise Middle School, effective 3/8/2023
Danilyuk, Daniel, Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 3/1/2023
Garcia, Adan, HVAC/Electrician, Support Services, effective 3/6/2023
Harrington, Robin, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center (ECEAP), effective 2/16/2023
King, Onie, Lead Secretary, Special Education, effective 3/1/2023
Meyer, Heather, Paraeducator (Temporary), White Bluffs, eff. 2/21/2023 – 6/14/2023
Mosqueda, Maria, Secretary, Transportation, eff. 2/13/2023 (corr. from PERS action 2/14/2023)
Najarro Capote, Jennie, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 2/21/2023
Rodriguez, Angel, Grounds Applicator, Support Services, effective 2/24/2023
Woodall, Patrick, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 2/21/2023
LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR
Hogan, Stephanie, Paraeducator, Three Rivers HomeLink, eff. 2/27/2023- expected 5/29/2023
RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR
Turner, Michelle, Kitchen Manager, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 3/3/2023
Walling, Amanda, Nutrition Service Team Member, Tapteal Elementary, effective 2/17/2023

5.2 Approval of Minutes (February 10, 2023; February 14, 2023)

5.3 Long Range Facility Study and Survey Approval

*Resolution No. 956-Acceptance of Completed Study and Survey

*Resolution No.957-Available Space in Adjacent School Districts

5.4 Policy/RR No. 3421-Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect

5.5 Resolution No. 959-Closure of Self-Insurance Fund

5.6 Enrollment Monthly

5.7 Budget Monthly

5.8 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007247 through 40007262 for \$28,461.52

Nos. 54000535 through 54000538 for \$8,171.93

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001936 through 20001938 for \$37,690.75

Nos. 52000319 through 52000320 for \$285,937.96

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10084893 through 10085014 for \$245,241.47

Nos. 51002076 through 51002087 for \$84,955.39

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Approval of March 14, 2023 Agenda

Ms. Byrd asked to add term limits for Board Members to the March 14, 2023 agenda. Board discussion followed. Ms. Byrd was asked to bring this item to the next meeting to add to future agendas to be prioritized. Future agenda items will also be added to each meeting instead of once per month.

Ms. Williams suggested moving Item 7.0-Board/Superintendent Reports earlier on the agenda.

Ms. Wierzchowski asked Board members for permission to work with administrators on introducing STEM opportunities at the elementary level. There was consensus from Board members to begin this work. She will report back at the next meeting. Student Representative Reports will be added to the Superintendent/Board Reports agenda item.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2023 BOARD MEETING AGENDA WITH 7.0 MOVED UP UNDER 2.0-COMMUNICATIONS.

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

7.0 BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Shelley Redinger shared a book for the Dignity Training Workshops in March. Superintendent Redinger also attended the Poetry Slam at Hanford High School.

Karrin Wierzchowski attended the Day on the Hill in Olympia and shared information from the conference.

Jill Oldson also reported on the conference in Olympia and meetings with Legislators. She stated funding has dropped to levels before the McCleary decision. She encouraged all to get involved.

Ms. Williams added the Superintendent Check in/Evaluations timeline has been added to the Future Agenda/Board Planning document.

Audra Byrd shared information on the new Family Launch Pad to bring all District Apps into one portal to be rolled out during conferences. Ms. Byrd mentioned items she would like to discuss at future meetings including: a term limit policy, District organizational chart on the website, District succession plan, hiring a Deputy Superintendent, summer school, comprehensive tutoring, and hiring an independent financial auditor to look at all departments for cost savings. Ms. Byrd attended basketball games at several elementary schools, a middle school wrestling tournament, a Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting, a HomeLink music performance and Board Leadership.

Rick Jansons had several questions regarding the Recall including: rules for staff wearing buttons and signing petitions since there is confusion. He asked for clarity and questioned whether rules are the same for students and citizens. Ms. Williams stated a message had been sent out by Dr. Redinger that is very clear. Mr. Bird suggested directing further questions to the District Attorney. Dr. Redinger stated Mr. Pettett could interpret the law and stated she recommended not wear buttons. Board discussion followed.

Mr. Jansons stated there are different versions of what is and is not allowed. He believes staff can wear buttons, that there are protected areas where staff can have petitions, that students can have petitions at school, and that citizens can collect signatures on school grounds. He would like that clearly delineated so that staff don't get their jobs threatened by wearing buttons or passing petitions on school grounds as was mentioned in a Board member's email. Ms. Williams feels the email sent by Dr. Redinger addressed all the issues mentioned by referencing the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) guidelines.

It was moved by Rick Jansons that-

THE BOARD APPROVE DR. REDINGER TO PROVIDE CLEAR DIRECTION FOR STAFF, FOR STUDENTS, AND FOR CITIZENS ON WHAT THEY CAN AND CAN'T DO IN REGARD TO THE RECALL ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Mr. Bird asked to amend the motion.

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACTION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, BASED ON HER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS SUPERINTENDENT, IN REGARD TO THIS DISCUSSION, AND CLOSE THE DISCUSSION.

Ms. Williams seconded the amended motion.

Discussion:

Ms. Oldson wants to protect the District from lawsuits by providing clarity to District staff. Ms. Oldson also stated she was not working with the Recall people.

Mr. Bird Called the Question. Vote on Call the Question:

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

Board members voted on the amendment above by Mr. Bird:

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

Vote on the original motion by Mr. Jansons (above) as amended by Mr. Bird (above) –

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

Ms. Williams stated the message previously sent by Dr. Redinger will stand.

Semi Bird attended the Day on the Hill in support of Special Education and Transportation funding. Local legislators are very supportive of education. He also met with Mr. Moore to discuss comprehensive tutoring.

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

THAT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023 BOARD MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS