



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 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, March 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, 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 Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, 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 6:32 P.M.

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

### **1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Williams called for a moment of silence for the Tennessee shooting victims.

**1.2 Roll Call**-Mr. Bird was absent. Ms. Oldson participated via Zoom.

## **2.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

### **2.1 GOOD NEWS-Benton/Franklin Retirees Association**

Mr. Praino introduced Victoria Russell, Retired Hanford High School Teacher/President of the Benton Franklin Retirees' Association, and thanked all Retirees for their service, both past and present. Ms. Russell shared the Retirees advocate for schools, provide both student scholarships and teacher grants, as well as provide school supplies for students.

### **2.2 Student Advisory Report**

Karrin Wierzchowski reported on recent topics at the Student Advisory meeting including safety and security improvements included in the recent Capital Projects Levy and a "Cookie for Conversation" suicide prevention event at both Richland and Hanford High Schools.

### **2.3 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report**

Ms. Byrd reported on topics discussed at the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting. Topics discussed included: how the committee can come to consensus and bring information to the Board, summer school recommendations, and recovery services.

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

Dusty Howard, Resident, stated the three Board members under recall broke the law and students need to learn how to have controversial conversations.

Mike Curtis, Non-Resident, shared concern regarding Dr. Redinger's hiring. He stated the Superintendent's job is to answer to the Board and feels she should resign.

Nino Kapitula, West Richland, stated the community is divided and the three Board members are being blamed. Ms. Kapitula feels the Superintendent should carry out the orders of the Board.

Shelly Burt, Parent/Guardian, feels Mr. Jansons took time away from a parent when speaking during the public comment portion of the last meeting and asked Mr. Jansons to resign.

Jamie Heijams, Resident, shared concern that the recall is a waste of funds and feels it would be best to wait for the November election. Ms. Heijams stated the Board members thought they had the authority to vote for "no masks".

Gene Nemeth, Resident, shared concern regarding the lack of consistency on how Extended School Year (ESY) qualification is determined. Mr. Nemeth feels the process needs to be personalized.

Scott Gonser, Resident, referenced a memo from December 2017 detailing the executive search process and feels selecting a successor is a good plan.

Tina Gregory, Non-resident, shared concern regarding religion being taken out of schools and teachers' unions.

Evelyn Menzel, Resident, stated the recall is taking money from schools and feels the Board members under recall did not break the law.

Ron Higgins, Resident, stated parents have not turned their children over to the school and schools have limited authority.

David Anderson, Resident, stated COVID is still very real but was called a hoax by then President Trump. He asked not to endanger the lives of children.

#### **2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports**

Shelley Redinger reported going to several community events including the Latino event honoring girls in the community, the Boys and Girls Club benefit breakfast, and Superintendent Chats at all schools.

Karrin Wierzchowski reported several more "Cookie for Conversation" suicide prevention events will take place at Delta and River's Edge High Schools as well as Three Rivers HomeLink after the break. She attended the Elementary Principals' meeting.

Leif Carman attended a meeting with Evergreen Associates and several Board members to further advocate for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds and is helping organize the suicide prevention events.

Jill Oldson attended the Board Workshop Dignity Training to fulfill the diversity training required by Board members. Ms. Oldson also attended the meeting to advocate for PILT funds and is

working with staff and the County Assessor's office to gather needed information. She also attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting.

Rick Jansons will be attending the Boy and Girls Club fundraiser, stated both Hanford and Richland High School bands are traveling during spring break, and recently made a motion to withdraw from the National School Boards Association (NSBA).

Audra Byrd attended the Dignity and Belonging Board Workshop, the modified calendar inquiry meeting, and the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting. Ms. Byrd shared information regarding the powers of the Board received in a recent Friday Packet. Ms. Byrd also reported sending a draft Resolution that was forwarded to Board members regarding Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) weighted vote removal. Members felt this needed discussion and should be brought up during future agenda items later in the meeting.

Kari Williams attended the Dignity Training and reminded all that part two will take place on March 30, 2023. Ms. Williams attended the English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Adoption Committee meeting and reported receiving several calls from parents regarding bullying in elementary classrooms. She thanked principals for enforcing Policy No. 2331-Controversial Issues.

Student Representatives advised the applicants for next year's Junior Student Representative look very strong and will be reviewed this Friday.

### **3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Capital Projects Levy Update**

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, reported architects have been chosen for the safety and security projects including elementary, middle, and choice school entry improvements (ALSC-Spokane), the Richland High School entry improvements (CKJT-Kennewick), and the Hanford High School entry improvements (Design West-Kennewick). Core staff teams have also been chosen to work with architects.

Mr. Krasner shared planning and timelines for projects involved in a future Bond including a third high school, new River's Edge High School, HomeLink High School expansion, Hanford High School scene shop and stadium, and a new operations campus. The process begins with educational specifications, then schematic design, design development, construction documents, bidding and finally, construction administration. Board discussion followed including:

- look at local buildings available for HomeLink expansion/cost analysis
- expediate timeline for new high school

#### **3.2 Summer School**

Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services, shared information regarding summer school for secondary students. Middle school offerings will be similar to last year with two-week camp sessions focusing on STEM. Camps will take place in June and July. High School students will have the option to make up credits or work ahead earning credits with online courses to allow more flexibility with schedules in the fall. Financial Literacy will also be offered.

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, explained elementary offerings are for students needing intervention and are determined by school site. Offerings will take place

three-four days per week with a focus on small group instruction. Mr. Moore stated the District is excited to offer four sessions of one-week enrichment camps with a STEM focus this summer. Discussion followed including the ability to offer to all students, availability of staff to fill positions, Extended School Year (ESY) offerings, and data to see academic growth.

### **3.3 District Growth Profile Goals**

Dr. Redinger reviewed District Improvement Goals and shared completed and on-going topics for each. Goals included:

- Long term facilities planning
- Maintain clear, consistent communication
- Data Dashboard/Early Warning System
- Superintendent stakeholder interactions
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- K-3 Literacy
- Richland School District Strategic Plan

### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Budget Preparation 2023/2024**

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared projected enrollment information. Current enrollment is 13,640 with a projected enrollment of 13,700 for the 2023/2024 school year. Final budget information will be available after the Legislative Session ends on April 23, 2023. Mr. Sherman explained budget workshops will be held in May with budget adoption planned for the second meeting in June.

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

Superintendent Redinger advised the auditors will be visiting school kitchens near the end of April focusing on Chief Joseph, Enterprise, and Leona Libby Middle Schools. Auditors will be evaluating breakfast, lunch, and after school snack procedures. Auditors will evaluate the free/reduced lunch program, financials, and dietary restriction processes. Leif Carman will participate on the Request for Proposal (RFP) committee this spring.

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

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

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

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

Motion was approved.

### **5.1 Personnel Actions**

#### CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

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

Kenney, Michelle, 1 FTE, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Sacajawea Elementary School (effective 3/31/2023)

Duncan, Licia, 1 FTE, Kindergarten, PCOA (effective 11/25/2022) (non-continuing)

#### RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Hatch, Kevin, 1 FTE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Leave of Absence

Hull, Jennifer, 1 FTE, Nurse, Richland School District

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Leedy-Laws, Christine, Paraeducator (Temporary), Jefferson, effective 3/22/2023 – 6/14/2023

Miner, Sarah, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 3/27/2023

Olvera, Maria, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman, effective 3/20/2023

Warnick, Gracie, Paraeducator (Temporary), Jefferson, effective 3/22/2023 – 6/14/2023

Wayman, BreAnna, Nutrition Services Team Member, Carmichael MS, effective 3/20/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Castillo, Adrianna, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark, resigning from Leave of Absence, eff. 3/28/2023

Comstock, Brenda, Attendance Secretary, resigning from 2<sup>nd</sup> year Leave of Absence, eff. 3/21/2023

Espiritu, Paula, Paraeducator, ELC, resigning from Leave of Absence, eff. 3/17/2023

Gebhart, Gayle, Kitchen Manager, William Wiley Elementary, effective 6/15/2023

Gosney, April, Lead Secretary, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 6/28/2023

Greer, Emelita, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High School, effective 4/7/2023

Nelson, Victoria, Paraeducator, Taptal Elementary, effective 3/17/2023 (will Cert Sub)

Thomas, Sandra, Nutrition Services, resigning from Leave of Absence, effective 3/23/2023

Trevino, Kelli, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 3/31/2023 (will Cert Sub)

Westover, Judi, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 3/9/2023 (will Sub Bus Aide)

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Gaca, Jeffrey, Security, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 3/27/2023

Hecht, Sandra, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 3/24/2023 (will be allowed to sub)

EXTRACURRICULAR PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

David, Alexa, 0.5 FTE Athletic Director, Chief Joseph Middle School

Price, Kimmi, 0.5 FTE Athletic Director, Chief Joseph Middle School

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Lomax, Deanna, 1.0 FTE Athletic Director, Chief Joseph Middle School

Gall, Coco, 1.0 FTE Head Coach Girls Basketball, Hanford High School

**5.2 Approval of Minutes (March 14, 2023)**

**5.3 Instructional Materials Committee Teach Membership**

**5.4 Policy No. 2005-School Improvement Plans**

**5.5 Policy/RR No. 2195-Academic Acceleration**

**5.6 Enrollment Monthly**

**5.7 Budget Monthly**

**5.8 Payroll and Warrant Information**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007300 through 40007311 for \$20,586.81

Nos. 54000546 through 54000548 for \$2,732.22

Nos. 40007312 through 40007316 for \$3,521.06

Nos. 54000549 through 54000550 for \$462.38

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001951 through 20001952 for \$5,041.51

Nos. 20001953 through 20001954 for \$30,926.25

No. 52000326 for \$2,752.88

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10085339 through 10085436 for \$131,370.36

Nos. 51002117 through 51002123 for \$48,166.05

Nos. 10085437 through 10085518 for \$332,918.16

Nos. 51002124 through 51002134 for \$191,589.48

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**6.0 AGENDAS**

**6.1 Future Agenda Items-Planning/Prioritize**

Friday packets requested:

- policy list identified (essential, encouraged, discretionary)
- update on Hazel Health (future)
- needs assessment for a Deputy Superintendent (future)

Ms. Byrd asked to place Policy No. 4311-Visitors, on an agenda before summer. The Board Workshop before the regular meeting on April 11, 2023 is planned to review the Superintendent Evaluation document approved last September.

**6.2 Approval of April 11, 2023 Agenda**

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE APRIL 11, 2023 BOARD MEETING AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION (WSSDA) WEIGHTED VOTE PROCESS RESOLUTION.

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

Motion was approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS