



Board of Directors, Special Meeting/Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, May 9, 2023
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a Special Meeting/Regular meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 5:30 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 Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, Executive Director of Special Education 6-12 Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-5 Zach Carpenter, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services Tory Christensen, and Executive Director of Finance Clinton Sherman.

The Special Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

1.0 Topic: 2023/2024 Budget Workshop

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, stated student enrollment was 13,600 before COVID. There was a sharp drop off, but enrollment numbers are now within 40 students pre COVID. Mr. Sherman is budgeting for 13,720 students in the 2023/2024 school year.

Melissa Gombosky, Legislative Advocate, stated the Legislature adjourned on time this year. Some topics discussed included:

- no new taxes
- \$371M increase in special education funding state-wide (unfunded special education still close to \$900M)
- \$60M state-wide added to Community Eligibility Program (CEP) (free school meals)
- Regionalization decreased (now a stairstep rather than total completely removed)
 - Richland will lose \$750k in fiscal year 2024 and again in fiscal year 2025
- Transition K-funding available

Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 6:08 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M.

2.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.2 Roll Call-All Here

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Williams reminded all to reach out to a Board member or through the board feedback email if you wish to contact a student representative.

3.1 GOOD NEWS

3.1.1 National Board Certification Facilitator-

Derek O’Konek, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, introduced Karen Bryant, National Board Facilitator, who is retiring this year after 27 years of teaching. Dr. Redinger stated Ms. Bryant has been leading the National Board Certification work since 2009 and has been dedicated to the program.

3.1.2 Certificated Recognition

Tim Praino, Executive Director of Finance, advised last week was Certificated Appreciation Week. Mr. Praino recognized all teachers for building relationships and playing a critical role in education.

3.1.3 Longevity Recognition

Mr. Praino also recognized staff members for their dedication to the District. Years of service ranged from 104 staff members receiving five-year pins, to ten staff members recognized for 30 years of service.

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

Chris West, Parent, shared concern regarding poor communication during the recent lockdown. Mr. West suggested a Townhall to share safety and security plans.

Rochelle Wilcox, Parent, shared concern regarding the lack of responses to emails. Ms. Wilcox feels students are failing and should not have to attend summer school to catch up, as this should be done during regular hours.

Ron Higgins, Resident, shared concern regarding teachers promoting sexual orientation.

Cody Link, Richland, shared concern regarding gender issues, number of administrators, and feels the recall will be wasting school funds.

3.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Karrin Wierzchowski shared information regarding the mental health awareness survey, receiving 551 responses. This data will be presented at the next meeting.

Leif Carman stated graduations will be taking place soon (June 9, 2023).

Shelley Redinger advised the District will be moving to a new vendor (ParentSquare) to improve lockdown communications. Dr. Redinger reported security staff members have been added at the middle schools and she meets monthly with both Richland West Richland Police Department leaders.

Jill Oldson suggested parents/guardians be sure to update all contact information to assure accurate communication. Ms. Oldson attended the NAC planning community meeting, the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum meeting and visited Desert Sky Elementary.

Audra Byrd attended Board Leadership, several track meets, and is receiving many questions regarding a swimming pool. Dr. Redinger stated the need for community partnerships and will reach out to several organizations to discuss this possibility.

Rick Jansons also shared the importance of updated contact information for better communication.

Semi Bird shared information from meeting with Brian Moore and Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendents, and Brian Ace, Boys and Girls Clubs of Benton/Franklin, to discuss a comprehensive tutoring program. This program will help at-risk students. Work has already begun at Chief Joseph Middle School.

Kari Williams reported this week is the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum community feedback week. She encouraged parents to review materials. Ms. Williams visited Desert Sky Elementary and likes the idea of Townhalls for the community.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 District Goals Summary-2022/2023

Dr. Redinger shared a summary of the District Improvement Goals developed by the Board and Superintendent last year. These topics have been focus areas throughout the school year. Superintendent Redinger shared details of each and advised many tasks have been completed. Staff members will continue this work as well as plan areas for improvement in the coming year. Goals include:

- Long Term Facilities Planning
- Maintain Clear, Consistent Communication
- Data Dashboard/Early Warning System
- Superintendent Stakeholder Interactions
- Career and Technical Education
- K-3 Literacy
- Richland School District Strategic Plan
- K-12 Behavior/Discipline
- School Safety and Security

A Board Workshop will be planned to create goals/objectives for the upcoming school year in the future. Board discussion followed.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Highly Capable Program-End of Year Review

Derek O’Konek, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, introduced Amy Kohn, State and Federal Programs, and Enid Flynn, Instructional Technology, who shared the annual report with the Board. Approval of the plan is necessary to access funding allocated by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Improvements included:

- Streamline assessment practices
- Referrals-utilized several platforms to notify stakeholders
- Moved towards local norms
- Growth opportunities: equitable identification

- Professional development
 - Continuum of services
 - Universal design for Learning (UDL)
 - Parent partnerships
- Supporting student needs
- Classroom-based services
- Quest Program

The detailed needs for professional development were discussed. A Highly Capable Coordinator will be hired for the upcoming school year to focus on supporting families, the community, and multidisciplinary selection committee. Board discussion followed.

Ms. Williams would like to see concrete plans and regular Board updates and called for a first reading on this topic. Others suggested approval was needed to move forward with Grant funding. Board members were asked to send concerns to Ms. Kohn or Ms. Flynn. This topic will be placed on an agenda after the hiring of the Highly Capable Coordinator.

It was moved by Semi Bird and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM END OF YEAR REPORT.

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

5.2 Policy/RR No. 3205 (Students) / 5011 (Staff) - Sexual Harassment (replace 8700)

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, stated several updates to policies addressing Nondiscrimination and Affirmative action are needed. First, the updating of Policy and Procedure No. 3210 - Nondiscrimination relates to students and updates include language around auxiliary aids and services that will be provided to students with disabilities upon request.

Second, the administration is recommending the Board adopt Policy and Procedure No. 5010 – Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action. The addition of Policy and Procedure No. 5010 allows the District to combine and update Policy 5011 – Affirmative Action and Policy and Procedure 8900 – Nondiscrimination. This action will bring the Richland School District’s policies in line with the Washington State School Directors’ Association’s numbering system and will also update the relevant language.

One of the larger updates to Policy and Procedure No.5010 will make the language consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, clarifying that school districts cannot use an employment test that excludes a disabled person unless there are no other options available, and the test is specifically job-related. Mr. Pettett reported with the deletion of Policy No. 5011, the new language in the Exhibit 5010 addresses Affirmative Action.

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Audra Byrd –

Discussion:

Mr. Jansons asked if the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) format had been used. Mr. Pettett stated it had, but the policy presented was simplified.

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/RR NO. 3205 (STUDENTS) / 5011 (STAFF) - SEXUAL HARASSMENT (REPLACE 8700) FOR FIRST READING.

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

Student Representatives: Carman, yes, Wierzchowski, Yes; Sheila

Motion was approved.

5.3 Performance Audit Update

Superintendent Redinger reported the nutrition services audit is complete. Auditors praised the “Breakfast After the Bell” program, currently at five schools based on free/reduced lunch numbers. Four more schools will be added next year. Auditors stated the documents were well done and audit results will be available on the website when finalized. Two areas that need addressing are tied to policies:

1. buying American produced products-need a policy that deals with the need to purchase products from other countries when American products are not available.
2. updating the wellness policy-add assessment tool to evaluate

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (6.1) THROUGH (6.7) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Motion was approved.

6.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE UPCOMING 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Hughes, Dawn, 1.0 FTE, English/Language Arts, Carmichael Middle School

White, Lonnie, 1.0 FTE, BESST, Chief Joseph Middle School

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Dowson, Marci .6 FTE (Now .5 FTE), Nurse, Jason Lee Elementary School

REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Rehm, Carol, Kindergarten, Jason Lee Elementary School to Preschool, Early Learning Center

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Becker, Stephanie, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, PCOA (2nd Year Leave)

Hancock, Amy, 0.6 FTE, Math, Hanford High School (2nd Year Leave)

Metcalf, Sarah, 1.0 FTE, Art, Badger Mountain Elementary School

Ostboe, Wanda, 1.0 FTE, Math, Carmichael Middle School

Riley, Sheila, 1.0 FTE, 1st Grade, White Bluffs Elementary School

Zylinski, Jessica, 1.0 FTE, Language Arts, Chief Joseph Middle School

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Baker, Bailey, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Marcus Whitman Elementary School

Messenger, David, 1.0 FTE, Music, Badger Mountain Elementary School
Plata, Bartolome, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, Tapteal Elementary School
RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Bozzi, Angie, Math, Enterprise Middle School
Deniston, Rhonda, Librarian, William Wiley Elementary School
Watson, Pamela, 3rd Grade, White Bluffs Elementary School

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Barajas, Lilandra, Paraeducator (Temporary), Sacajawea Elementary, eff. 5/1/2023 – 6/14/2023

Lopez, Christina, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 5/1/2023

Mayeau, Stephen, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 5/8/2023

Mitchell, Carol, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 4/26/2023

Willborn, Ashlee, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High School, effective 5/8/2023

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Arquette, Jordan, Custodian to Security, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 4/27/2023

Wilkerson, Jennifer, Sec. to Student Information Systems Analyst I, Information Technology, eff. 5/8/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Hanson, Jakob, Security, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 4/25/2023

Schultz, Caitlin, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 5/04/2023

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Deen, Julie, Secretary, River's Edge High School, effective 6/30/2023

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Hurst, Ashleigh, Secretary, Transportation, effective 5/9/2023

6.2 Approval of Minutes (April 25, 2023)

6.3 Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Agreement

6.4 Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) Member Approval

6.5 Policy/RR No. 3210-Nondiscrimination;

***Add Policy/RR and Exhibit 5010-Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action;**

***Delete Policy No. 5011-Affirmative Action;**

***Delete Policy/RR No. 8900-Nondiscrimination**

6.6 Policy No. 5001-Hiring of Retired School Employees

6.7 Payroll and Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007342 through 40007351 for \$17,361.89

Nos. 54000561 through 54000562 for \$4,598.46

Nos. 40007352 through 40007353 for \$5,989.61

Nos. 54000563 through 54000567 for \$96,136.14

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20001962 for \$1,087.00

Nos. 52000329 through 52000331 for \$83,076.45

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10086052 through 10086105 for \$644,280.86

Nos. 51002176 through 51002201 for \$124,639.87

Nos. 10086108 through 10086177 for \$331,008.66

Nos. 51002202 through 51002227 for \$768,954.92

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10085717 through 10085718 for \$3,339.60

Nos. 10085935 through 10086007 for \$154,198.58

Nos. 10086008 through 10086051 for \$5,176,244.28

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$10,981,588.76

Total April Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,315,371.22

7. 0 AGENDAS

7. 1 Future Agenda Items- Planning/Prioritize

- Discussion regarding townhalls/interactions
 - come with ideas for townhalls
- Shelley will contact organizations to visit the possibility of a pool with community partnerships
- Behavior update-timeline for updates-Board leadership will decide on dates
- Policy No. 4311-Visitor policy update-summer

7. 2 Approval of May 23, 2023 Agenda

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE MAY 23, 2023 BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

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

Motion was approved.

Ms. Williams reminded all of the Executive Session on May 11, 2023 to complete the Superintendent evaluation. Members were asked to bring their completed evaluations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS