

Richland Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: 9/8/23
To: School Board
From: Shelley Redinger
Subject: Friday Packet

Enclosed please find the following documents:

- Board Dates to Remember
- “What Does it Mean to Be HiCap?” Event-9/25-6:00-Hanford HS
- 8th Annual “Take Strides” Suicide Prevention Walk-9/27-5:00-Fran Rich
- Media



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "HICAP"?

A Portrait of Gifted and Talented Learners in the New Generation

*Come learn from renowned expert in
Gifted and Talented Education, Dr. Jann
Leppien*

- *What is HiCAP Education?*
- *What are the Nature and Needs of Highly Capable Students?*
- *Why is Equitable Identification important?*



DR. JANN LEPIEN

Professor Emerita,
Graduate Studies in Gifted
Whitworth University

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25**

**Who should attend?
Everyone!**

6:00-7:30 PM

**HANFORD HIGH AUDITORIUM
450 HANFORD ST, RICHLAND**



Registration link: bit.ly/3sEX42S

Questions: Contact Enid Flynn,
Director of Assessment &
Instructional Technology
enid.flynn@rsd.edu

Crisis hotline:

988

Crisis Response:

(509) 792-1747



Crisis Text Line:

Text HEAL to 741-741

For more info:

Chandra.Markel@rsd.edu

8th Annual "Take Strides TC" Suicide Prevention Walk

Hosted by the Richland School District and the Tri-Cities Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition (YSPC)

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 5:00 PM

Begin & End: Fran Rish Stadium Parking Lot

Gathering: HAPO Community Stage for food, music, t-shirts, speakers, and community vendors!

Attire: **Wear Yellow for Suicide Prevention or represent your school or business**

Use hashtag #TakeStridesTC on Social Media!

Use pictures of the walk!

Remembrance, Community Awareness and Prevention

Richland School District pays nearly \$1M for 10 acres of WA state land



JENNIFER KING • JKING@TRICITYHERALD.COM

The Richland School District has purchased 10 acres next to Tapteal Elementary in West Richland.

BY ERIC ROSANE

EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Richland School District has purchased 10 acres north of Tapteal Elementary from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The district will pay the land's appraised value of \$961,000.

The Board of Natural Resources approved the transfer of the West Richland property on Tuesday.

The parcel lacked the water rights necessary for agricultural uses.

And with development surrounding the parcel on multiple sides, the state decided agriculture was no longer the highest and best use for that land.

It will be used for “future development opportunities,” said Richland’s Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner in a provided statement.

The land is north of the Tapteal school site and is adjacent to it along North 62 Avenue.

“The district is playing around with several different ideas for the land use, but nothing is set in stone at this time,” said Shawna Dinh, the district’s public information officer.



BOB BRAWDY • BBRAWDY@TRICITYHERALD.COM
The new Tapteal Elementary School building in West Richland.

“This transaction demonstrates that the Department of Natural Resources supports public education in Washington state in many ways, and I am proud that this transaction will have an impact locally and allow us to purchase lands that will better serve our schools across the state,” said Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz in a statement.

Washington state originally received the parcel from Congress after its statehood was ratified in 1889.

Money earned from the site have historically benefited the state’s Common School Trust, which funds K-12 public school construction. Schools are the top beneficiary of state land trusts.

DNR will use money from the purchase to buy another piece of property elsewhere in the state that is better suited for long-term management for the Common School Trust.

In blow to small school districts, Washington Supreme Court rules for state in building costs case

BY SHAUNA SOWERSBY
SSOWERSBY@MCCLATCHY.COM

The Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously Thursday that the state is not solely responsible for covering the costs of construction in the state's public school districts.

"The Washington Constitution treats capital construction costs differently from other educational costs, provides local districts with greater flexibility to raise funds for capital construction costs than for other educational costs, and allocates shared responsibility for school capital costs to the state and the local districts," Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud wrote. "As a result, school capital construction costs are not a component of the 'education' that the State, alone, must amply fund. ..."

Wahkiakum School District had filed the lawsuit against the state after being unsuccessful in passing a school bond for construction for 22 years, according to reporting from The Seattle Times.

The district noted in court filings that 57% of students in Wahkiakum are from low-income households, and that the per-capita income hovers around \$29,000 a year. The district has been unable to pass school bonds, as voters don't want to pay additional taxes. The construction costs would be "burdensome" for taxpayers even if the district were able to pass the bond, it contended.

The district's only option, justices wrote, is to apply for a small school district modernization grant, but that "the existing fund distribution system does not offer relief to Wahkiakum."

The school district tried to argue that education construction costs were included in the Washington State Constitution and reaffirmed by the 2012 McCleary decision, which ruled that the Legislature had failed to fulfill its constitutional duty to fully fund education in the state.

The Wahkiakum case will be remanded to a lower court where justices have instructed both parties to discuss how much the state can offer in capital construction costs as well as to determine if Article 9, Section 3 of the state's constitution "creates an obligation that

the common school construction fund be distributed in a manner that is accessible to the low income, rural districts.”

Some lawmakers were concerned about the ruling.

Rep. Joel McEntire, a legislator from the 19th district covering parts of Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum and Thurston counties, told McClatchy in an interview Thursday that he was surprised and disappointed by the state Supreme Court’s decision.

“I just have to say I’m disappointed because now I feel like we’re totally lost with Wahkiakum and other schools that have nowhere to go,” McEntire said. “They have no path forward in modernizing and upgrading their schools.”

McEntire, who sits on the House Capital Budget Committee and is the Assistant Ranking Minority Member on the House Education Committee, said that school construction funding is actually a topic that takes up the “lion’s share” of his attention since he has been in the Legislature.

He said he will be going back to the drawing board in the 2024 legislative session, after introducing a bill last session that would have provided a “safety parachute” for the ruling as it would have prioritized school construction funding from a more objective view.

Others had different ideas.

State Superintendent Chris Reykdal with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction said in a press release Thursday that he respected the court’s decision, and that OSPI would be submitting a proposal to the governor and Legislature later this month that would “encourage the state to uphold their share of school construction costs.”

That proposal for the 2024 session would include continuing investments in grant programs to support schools in rural communities, investments in clean air and energy efficiency for school buildings, and asking the Legislature to adjust school construction funding formulas, Reykdal said.

Additionally, he noted, OSPI would again request lowering the local school bond threshold from 60% to 50%.