



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 12, 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, September 12, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members participating: Jill Oldson, and Lindsay Lightner. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Finance Clinton Sherman, 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 and Behavioral Health 6-12 Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-5 Zach Carpenter, and General Counsel Galt Pettett.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h)-Review Candidate Applications
The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 P.M. to discuss qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office (interviews and final appointment must be in public) 42.30.110 (1) (h). The executive session was projected to last thirty minutes, with action expected. Executive session ended at 6:26 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting 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-Where Everybody Belongs (WEB)

Eric Davis, Chief Joseph Middle School Principal, introduced Julio Chaves Camp, Kameron Lewis, and Annabelle Pettett, Students and Flight Crew members. This group of eighth grade students helped with the orientation of sixth graders entering middle school. Thirty members participated in two days of trainings during the summer and learned activities to keep students engaged and feel comfortable entering a new school environment.

2.2 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual/30 minute limit)

Rebecca Petersen, Teacher, complimented the Flight Crew Students for their work. Ms. Petersen also shared her enthusiasm for the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training and felt it was the best training in years.

Shelly Burt, West Richland, requested a report on iReady and SBA scores. Ms. Burt also feels the Board should wait to fill the vacant Board of Director seats until the election in November.

Ron Higgins, Richland, while subbing in Pasco, showed videos of the 911 attack and feels it is the responsibility of schools to teach students this history.

Superintendent Redinger advised the local Educational Service District (ESD) and the Richland School District sought information from the State Attorney General's Office, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) to fill the vacant Board positions. To wait for the certification of the election in November would not conform to the ninety-day window to fill the seats. Dr. Redinger explained the differences between resignations and recalls. ESD 123 completed the application and interview process for Board Position No. 3. This allows the District to have a quorum to move forward with business. This position was filled by Lindsay Lightner.

2.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger reported a great start to the school year. Dr. Redinger attended the high school principal's meeting today and attended a Reading Foundation Fundraiser.

Jill Oldson reported meeting with several administrators on several topics, is working on support for PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funds and attended the Reading Foundation Fundraiser.

Lindsay Lightner shared meeting with Cabinet members to gain information on each position. In talking with students and parents, Ms. Lightner is hearing optimism regarding the school year.

Karrin Wierzchowski reported meeting with a middle school principal for ideas to motivate students to be involved. She is excited for the new Social Emotional Learning (SEL) focus.

Shelia Dehkordi reported meeting with high school principals regarding recycling opportunities and leadership involvement.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Candidate Interview Selection-Board Position No. 1 and Position No. 4

Mr. Jansons thanked all who applied for Position No. 1 Position. This term will expire November 2025. Board members received application packets on Friday and met in executive session before the meeting to discuss applications.

Ms. Oldson advised, after reviewing applications, she would like to give the community the opportunity to hear from all the applicants. Mr. Jansons agreed and asked to interview all applicants for Positions No. 1 and 4. Ms. Lightner appreciated the range of applicants and agreed to interviewing all applicants as well. Student Representatives were also in agreement.

Mr. Jansons announced the following candidates will interview for Position No. 1:
Ronald Higgins, Heather Cleary, Bonnie Mitchell, and Tony Gonzalez

Mr. Jansons announced the following candidates will interview for Position No. 4:
Jeffrey Dennison, Katrina Waters, Richard Raymond, Katrina Waters, and Gary Wargo

Board members will discuss candidates in executive session, then vote on candidates in open session, with new Board members receiving the Oath of Office at the September 26, 2023 meeting. Mr. Jansons thanked all who applied.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Policy No. 8300-Risk Management Program

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, stated risk management is broken down into four main areas: student safety, emergency preparedness, staff safety, and district wide insurance coverage. Mr. Sherman advised emergency preparedness drills and walk arounds are completed to prepare students and staff for emergencies. Inflatables (Bouncy houses) are excluded from coverage and are not allowed in the District due to student safety concerns. Staff Worker Compensation reports are generated monthly with the highest percentage of claims related to slips, trips, and falls. Board discussion followed.

4.2 Policy No. 2414-Community Service; Policy No. 3140-Release of Resident Students

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, explained both policies are classified as essential by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) and need updating. Major changes to the Community Service policy include the option for students to earn a varsity letter for their community service. For a student to be eligible for a community service varsity letter, the student must have a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), complete 145-hours of community service, and submit a verifiable log of the volunteer time to the high school's activities director. Board members asked for several minor changes for the September 26, 2023 meeting including allowing incoming freshman to participate and reporting to be done to Activity Directors.

Mr. Pettett advised Policy No. 3140-Release of Resident Students was last updated in 1995. Updates include reasons for the release of a resident student, the process by which students will be released, notice to the enrolling district and the right of parents to appeal the denial to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Board members asked to allow an appeal to the Board of Directors as well. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Lindsay Lightner –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2414-COMMUNITY SERVICE AND POLICY NO. 3140-RELEASE OF RESIDENT STUDENTS FOR FIRST READING.

Vote: Lightner, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes;
Motion was approved.

4.3 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger shared Greg Pipkins, Director of Information Technology, applied and received a grant funded by FEMA for \$88,000. This is an Incident Response Retainer to help with systems and trainings.

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

It was moved by Lindsay Lightner and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.7) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Vote: Lightner, yes; Oldson, yes, Jansons, yes.
Motion was approved.

5.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Fulton, Raegan, 1.0 FTE, Art, Badger Mountain, (eff. 9/5/23, coming from sub, non-continuing)
Howes, Makenzie, 1.0 FTE, Library, Orchard Ele., (eff. 8/31/23, coming from sub, non-continuing)
Smith, Megan, 1.0 FTE, Instructional Specialist, Orchard Ele., (eff. 8/31/23, non-continuing)
Smith, Laura, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, Carmichael Middle School (eff. 9/11/23, non-continuing)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Gomez, Christian, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, eff. 9/11/2023
Gomez Eraso, Emily, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 8/31/2023
McGinnis, Kacie, Paraeducator, River's Edge High School, effective 8/30/2023 (corrected date)
Naef, Kassidy, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 8/31/2023
Nolan, Kristin, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 9/6/2023
Pfau, Rose Ellen, Paraeducator, Speech Language Pathology, Special Education, eff. 9/6/2023
Rhineheart, Kayla, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/8/2023
White, Jennifer, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 9/6/2023
Yang, Lucy, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 9/11/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Callaghan, Helen, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 9/1/2023 (will sub)
Forsythe, Dawn, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 8/31/2023
Meyer, Heather, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 9/12/2023 (will sub)
Nondorf, Adam, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 9/15/2023
Teslow, Kayla, Paraeducator, Hanford High School (from LOA), eff. 8/31/2023

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Hill, Wendy, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 9/12/2023
Mitchell, Carol, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 9/8/2023

5.2 Approval of Minutes (August 31, 2023)

5.3 Carl Perkins Federal Grant

5.4 Policy No. 6605-Student Safety Walking, Biking and Riding Buses

***(Delete Policy No. 8123-Student Conduct on Buses)**

5.5 CASH GRANT-Crossfit Foundation-Carmichael Middle School-Gym Equipment

5.6 Leona Libby Middle School Constitution and Bylaws Update

5.7 Payroll and Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007449 through 40007461 for \$26,577.21
Nos. 54000603 through 54000604 for \$27,203.47
Nos. 40007462 through 40007466 for \$3,462.50
No. 54000605 for \$3,330.03

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002019 through 20002026 for \$492,490.68
Nos. 20002027 through 20002029 for \$183,978.02
Nos. 52000348 through 52000350 for \$16,075.59

Debt Services Warrant No. 30000139 for \$1,550.00

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10087238 through 10087289 for \$432,746.82
Nos. 51002544 through 51002548 for \$192,753.95

Nos. 10087290 through 10087403 for \$2,015,997.82
Nos. 51002549 through 51002589 for \$141,734.23
Nos. 10087403 through 10087407 for \$125,786.48
Nos. 51002591 through 51002617 for \$1,748.30
Transportation Vehicle Fund Warrant No. 90000129 for \$543,808.53
Payroll Warrant No. 10086989 for 2,000.00
Nos. 10087085 through 10087088 for \$15,776.77
No. 10087144 for \$1,600.00
Nos. 10087147 through 10087193 for \$96,104.28
Nos. 10087194 through 10087237 for \$5,225,496.32
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$10,255,969.35
Total August Payroll approved in the amount of \$15,596,946.72

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

Mr. Jansons requested the October Board meetings be delayed by one week since the month includes five Tuesdays and several Board members would be unavailable on the regular dates. This would also give new Board members more time to get oriented. October Board meetings would be moved to October 17, 2023 and October 31, 2023.

It was moved by Lindsay Lightner and seconded by Jill Oldson that -

THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 17, 2023 AND OCTOBER 31, 2023.

Vote: Lightner, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes;
Motion was approved.

Ms. Oldson asked for an update on the Special Education Task Force. This will be provided at a future meeting.

Mr. Jansons requested an update on safety and security at the September 26, 2023 meeting.

Several Board members requested a draft agenda for the upcoming meeting at each regular meeting. This agenda will not be voted on to allow for flexibility.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS