



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 26, 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 26, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members participating: Jill Oldson, Lindsay Lightner, Bonnie Mitchell, and Brianna Watson. 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 6:33 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 Oath of Office

Superintendent Redinger administered the Oath of Office to Bonnie Mitchell (Position 1) and Brianna Watson (Position 4). All welcomed them to the Richland School District Board of Directors.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS-LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)

Derek O’Konek, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, introduced Kristina Tucker, Coordinator of English Language Arts/Social Studies, who shared information regarding LETRS training. The trainings involve a two-year commitment of about three hours per week. 225 staff are involved in the training. 73 have completed the program, 75 in year two, with 77 staff in year one. This is a total of 66 percent of K-5 teachers. Many stated this is the best training they have ever completed. Mr. O’Konek thanked all who made this commitment and thanked Kristina Tucker and Deannie Sullivan, Early Learning Specialist, for their leadership.

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Marisa Dunfee, Hanford High School Student, reported on recent topics at the Student Advisory meeting including the Capital Projects Levy, Safety and Security measures planned at schools, and the new Social Emotional Learning (Character Strong) curriculum.

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

Katie Geldmacher, West Richland, requested an indoor pool be included in any upcoming bond. Ms. Geldmacher stated the pool could be a source of revenue with proper scheduling.

Linda Stevenson, Kennewick, shared information regarding “Math is Cool”. She stated the number of groups from Richland has dropped off and encouraged more students to participate.

Ron Higgins, Richland, spoke regarding the Oath of Offices given earlier and encouraged all to read the Constitution.

Stewart Mosley, Richland, shared concern regarding bussing for Delta High School students. Mr. Krasner was asked to follow up.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger reported the District is having issues with transportation due to a shortage of bus drivers. She asked that families reach out if they have concerns.

Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representative, met the new group of students at the recent Student Advisory meeting. She reported the annual Suicide Prevention Walk (Take Strides Tri Cities) will take place September 27, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. beginning at Fran Rish Stadium. She also shared the need for a pool for local swim teams to practice and compete.

Sheila Dehkordi, Student Representative, reported meeting with several principals to discuss events throughout the year.

Lindsay Lightner attended the “Back to School” night at Libby Middle School and will attend the “Take Strides Walk”. She thanked the students for promoting this event.

Brianna Watson stated this has been a busy week for PTA and it is great to see so many people getting involved.

Jill Oldson attended the Washington State School Directors’ (WSSDA) General Assembly. Board members from across the state worked to prioritize legislative positions. The topic of weighted votes (larger districts receiving more than one vote) was discussed. A vote was taken, and the measure passed to assure all districts have one vote. Ms. Oldson also attend a session regarding highly capable students.

Bonnie Mitchell thanked all who shared words of encouragement and is excited to get started on the Board of Directors.

Rick Jansons also attended the WSSDA General Assembly and stated conversations were civil and respectful with people listening and learning.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Capital Projects Levy and Security Updates

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, and Caren Johnson, Capital Projects Director, shared updates on the final layouts for the secure vestibules and additional safety and security measures to be implemented from the levy passed in February of 2023. Information was also presented on the design status including plans on potential future bond projects. Ms. Johnson explained security updates at Hanford and Richland High Schools, as well as Jason Lee, White Bluffs, and William Wiley Elementaries. Middle Schools include Carmichael, Chief Joseph and

Enterprise. Updates will also be completed at Three Rivers HomeLink, Lynx Campus, River's Edge High School, and Pacific Crest Online Academy. Ms. Johnson also shared some details of schematic design for a third high school. Administrators have been very involved in the process to determine the needs of each building and wayfinding signage. Discussion followed.

3.2 Future Bond Planning

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, reported in the fall of 2022, the Board directed staff to proceed with a levy instead of a bond in February 2023. The levy included funds for some pre-design work with the goal of progressing project phases without losing time until a bond package could be developed for February 2024.

Mr. Krasner stated bond projects and long-term planning needs to begin again since time is short, with only three Board meetings to finalize projects if a bond is to be run in February 2024. He reported staff members compiled a complete list of all future projects developed by the Facilities Planning Committee, the Study and Survey report, and new District projects that need to be considered. Since enrollment has been flat, priorities need to be reassessed. Board discussion followed including:

- Hanford High School Roof project
- Land acquisition
- Partnership with Richland/West Richland for a pool
- Optimize state matching funds-timeline for projects
- Crowding at both large high schools
- Updated Demographic report ready-mid-October/needed for planning
- Large property tax assessment increase
- Need for third high school? Need cost estimates
- Delay bond until April or November? give new Board members time for input

There was consensus from the Board members to wait until April at the earliest to run a bond. A list of priorities with cost estimates, tax rates, and demographic information will be presented at the October 17, 2023 meeting.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Policy No. 2004-Accountability Goals / Policy No. 2106-Program Compliance

Galt Pettett, District Counsel, explained both policies are new and designated as essential. Policy 2004-Accountability Goals requires the Board to approve the District's performance improvement goals annually. These goals are currently tied to the District's Strategic Plan. The District and each of its schools are required to establish English language arts and mathematics improvement goals.

Under Policy 2106-Program Compliance, the Superintendent will determine if the District is in compliance with several program requirements. These include the supervision of instructional practices that current basic instructional materials are available for required courses of study, that the physical facilities of each building are adequate and appropriate for the educational program offered, and that there is adequate provision for the health and safety of all students within the custody of the school district.

Mr. Jansons will approve both for first reading but asked to meet with staff for specifics to be included in Policy 2106.

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; Mitchell, yes; Watson, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes
Student Representatives: Wierzchowski, yes; Dehkordi, yes
Motion was approved.

4.2 Performance Audit Update

Superintendent Redinger shared information on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum implementation. This is a seven-year plan (Character Strong/Purposeful People) with support throughout the process. She emphasized there are benchmarks and check points to be sure the curriculum is implemented with fidelity. Each school has a coach to help with this implementation.

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

After discussion Item 5.3 Policy No. 2414-Community Service, was pulled for discussion.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5.1; 5.2; 5.3-(POLICY 3140); 5.5; 5.6; AND 5.7, INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Board members and Student Representatives shared discussion on volunteer opportunities available for community service credits. No changes were made to Policy No. 2414.

It was moved by Lindsay Lightner and seconded by Brianna Watson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5.3-POLICY 2414-COMMUNITY SERVICE.

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

5.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Amundson, Sarah, 1.0 FTE, 1st Grade, Badger Mountain, coming from sub, non-continuing)
Haselrig, Cinda, 1.0 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education, effective 10/9/23
Payne, Susan, 1.0 FTE, Structured, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 9/18/23 (non-continuing)
Steinert, Brent, 0.2 FTE, Music, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 9/22/23 (non-continuing)

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

McDowell, Jodi, 0.12 FTE (non-continuing) and .04 FTE (continuing) (Now 0.72 FTE), Spanish and English Language Arts, Three River's HomeLink

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Williams, Samantha, Secretary (from para), Special Programs, effective 9/19/2023

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Astells, Andrew, Custodian, Support Services, effective 9/18/2023

Burnett, Jessica, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 9/19/2023

Carter, Russell, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 9/13/2023

Dillard, Marissa, Paraeducator (Temporary), Jason Lee, effective 9/26/2023 - 6/12/2024

Ezra, Carrie, Paraeducator (Rehire), Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 9/25/2023

Luzzo Gilmour, Dori Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 9/13/2023

Mahbub, Mumu, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 9/18/2023

Morin, Kathryne, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 9/19/2023

Moyers, Kasi, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 9/14/2022

Rhode, Steven, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 9/13/2023

Sturza, Jacqueline, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 9/14/2023

Torres, Vanessa, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 9/26/2023

Vallez, Janiffer, Nutrition Services Team Member, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/14/2023

Watson, Jalen, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 9/19/2023

Waymire, Brenda, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 9/27/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Barrios, Susanne, Nutrition Services Team Member, Chief Joseph MS, effective 10/18/2023

Brannon, Heather, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 9/28/2023

Eaton, Denise, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/20/2023

Klein, Nancy, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 9/29/2023

Whitney, Rhea, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 9/29/2023

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Tupper, Trina, Nutrition Services Team Member, Richland High School, effective 9/13/2023

5.2 Approval of Minutes (September 12, 2023; September 20, 2023)

5.3 Policy No. 2414-Community Service / Policy No. 3140-Release of Resident Students

5.4 Nutrition Services Contract

5.5 Enrollment Monthly

5.6 Budget Monthly

5.7 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007467 through 40007476 for \$15,428.64

Nos. 54000606 through 54000609 for \$54,252.32

Nos. 40007477 through 40007491 for \$42,942.54

Nos. 54000610 through 54000613 for \$2,744.00

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002030 through 20002040 for \$169,874.38

No. 52000351 for \$2,002.81

Nos. 20002041 through 20002046 for \$93,808.70

No. 52000352 for \$6,475.77

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10087410 through 10087412 for \$169,159.69

Nos. 51002618 through 51002637 for \$521,258.13

Nos. 10087413 through 10087414 for \$8,185.62

Nos. 51002638 through 51002649 for \$282,535.47

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

Topics included on the upcoming agenda include a Bond update and Cybersecurity update. All were reminded to attend the suicide prevention walk tomorrow, beginning at 5:00 at Fran Rish Stadium. Mr. Jansons advised the next meeting will be held on October 17, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS