



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 17, 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, October 17, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board Vice President Jill Oldson presided. Board members participating: Bonnie Mitchell, Lindsay Lightner, 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 Special Education 6-12 and Behavioral Health 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 6:02 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Personnel-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g)-Superintendent Check-in

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:02 P.M. to discuss qualifications of an applicant for employment or review of performance of an employee (final actions must be taken in public and discussions affecting employees generally must be held in public) 42.30.110 (1) (g). The executive session was projected to last thirty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:27 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:32 P.M.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.2 Roll Call**-Mr. Jansons is excused.

**2.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

**2.1 GOOD NEWS-Take Strides Tri-Cities**

Robert Sorensen, Assistant Director of Special Education 6-12 and Behavioral Health, introduced Chandra Markel, Richland High School Counselor, who serves on the District Mental Health Assistance Team (MHAT). Ms. Markel shared the annual Suicide Prevention Walk has grown over the last eight years from a District only event to an entire Tri-City community event. Sponsors purchased T-shirts for participants and a grant was received to train Richland and Hanford High School tenth graders on suicide prevention.

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

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern with the Department of Education at the Federal level and asked to defend local control.

Lorrie Reid, Richland, shared twenty-four percent of the population in Richland is under eighteen. Ms. Reid shared the previous Board made things difficult financially but is concerned the third high school may be tabled. She feels the Board will lose credibility if this happens.

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

Sheila Dehkordi, Student Representative, attended the Take Strides Walk and shared Richland and Hanford High Schools just celebrated Homecoming.

Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representative, also attended the Take Strides Event and announced Richland High School swim meets are ongoing with district competition coming soon.

Lindsay Lightner attended the Take Strides Walk, Homecoming activities, and shared information from the Ed Summit at Washington State University Tri Cities. She stated many teachers attended and the guest speaker was the Washington State Teacher of the Year.

Bonnie Mitchell attended the PTA/PTO Roundtable where Cabinet members shared information about programs available. She also attended several fall sporting events.

Brianna Watson attended the PTA/PTO Roundtable, the Special Education Family night, the Buddy Walk at Chief Joseph Middle School, and the Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee meeting.

Shelley Redinger attended the Take Strides Walk, the PTA/PTO Roundtable, the first *Cinnamon Rolls with the Superintendent* (meeting at each school during the next several months), and reported the Student Advisory meeting will take place this Friday.

Jill Oldson attended the Take Strides Walk, spent an afternoon in a Life Skills class at Orchard Elementary, attended a Career and Technical Conference (CTE) involving seven states paid for with grant funds, and the Parent/Guardian Advisory group last night.

## **3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **3.1 Bond Update**

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, stated the presentation tonight is informational. He explained the updated potential bond election timelines to include all election dates in 2024. At the last meeting Board members felt February 2024 may be too soon to run a Bond. Staff members are looking at April 2024 as the next possible election option. This timeline gives roughly six meetings between now and December 12, 2023 to discuss project packages, and two meetings to finalize the resolution prior to the filing deadline with the Auditor's office. The list includes all future projects, including the full list of projects developed by the Facilities Planning Committee in 2020-2021, the Study and Survey report generated for OSPI SCAP funding, and new District Initiative projects that need consideration.

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, shared the Schematic Design (SD) estimates do not indicate the full project costs, only the cost of construction. For the third high school, two cost estimates were completed given the volatility of the construction market in recent years (\$183,590,831 vs. \$166,445,032). A demographer's preliminary report indicated an increase in

students K-12 of 1,000 students by 2030, with an additional 1,000 students by 2035. A full report should be available by mid-November. Board discussion followed.

#### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Cybersecurity Update**

Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Information Technology (IT) and Greg Pipkins, Director of IT, shared in recent years educational institutions have become frequent targets of cyberattacks with large amounts of personal information stored. These incidents can significantly impact a school's ability to carry out its educational obligations, protect sensitive student and staff information, and provide a safe and secure learning environment for our nation's youth. A positive outcome districts have seen is an increased level of support from state and federal agencies, most offering free services. Resources include: Incident Response Plan (IRP), cybersecurity insurance/restoring services, business partner services, Safe Schools training, and multifactor authentication. Mr. Pipkins reported, through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, the District was awarded \$88,200.

##### **4.2 Policy No. 3141-Non-Resident Students/Policy No. 3130-Pupil Attendance Areas**

Galt Pettett, General Counsel, presented Policy No. 3141 and Policy No. 3130 for Board review. Mr. Pettett also asked to delete the rules and regulations that go along with each of the policies since they are redundant. The updates to Policy 3141 include the process and standards that the District will use to accept or deny an out-of-district student transfer. Also noted in the policy is the ability for full-time employees to enroll their children. Policy 3130 has been updated to only address in-district transfers. These updates include the process for in-district transfers and when such transfers will be granted. Language addressing out-of-district transfers has been deleted.

Discussion followed with several suggestions for clarity. Mr. Pettett stated the District tries to approve transfers whenever possible and clear communication is of the utmost importance. Changes requested will be made to Policy No. 3130-Pupil Attendance Areas and will be presented at the next meeting for Second Reading.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3141-NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS AND POLICY NO. 3130-PUPIL ATTENDANCE AREAS (WITH AMMENDED LANGUAGE) FOR FIRST READING.

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

##### **4.3 Performance Audit Update**

Dr. Redinger shared the District is very fortunate to have Mr. Leseberg and Mr. Pipkins who stay ahead of technology issues such as multifactor authentication and phishing email notifications.

##### **4.4 Board Housekeeping Items**

Ms. Oldson shared information with new Board members regarding communication, Board feedback emails, business cards, etc.

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

It was moved by Lindsay Lightner and seconded by Bonnie Mitchell –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.4) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

**5.1 Personnel Actions**

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Merritt, Taylor, 1.0 FTE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Tapteal Elementary, effective 10/23/23 (non-continuing)

CHANGE IN FTE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Wietsma, Margaret, 0.2 FTE (Now 1.0 FTE), Math, Richland High School, effective 8/29/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Distifeno, Audra, Librarian, Orchard Elementary School, effective 8/18/2023

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Mack, Sally, 1.0 FTE, Preschool Teacher, Early Learning Center, effective 8/31/2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

VanPelt, Gracelyn, 1.0 FTE First Grade Teacher, Orchard Elementary School, effective 9/29/2023

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Boadas, Shelley, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 10/5/2023

Brewer, Terra, Nutrition Services Team Member, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/3/2023

Caballero, Andrea, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 10/11/2023

Henderson, Breanna, Secretary, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/16/2023

Martin, Nick, Paraeducator (Rehire), Hanford High School, effective 10/16/2023

Molina, Maira, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, effective 10/9/2023

Neer, Ria, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 10/3/2023

Renz, Laura, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 10/12/2023

Stephenson, Paul, Temporary Grounds, Support Services, effective 10/01/2023

Smith-Wierman, Terri, Nutrition Services Team Member (from sub), Richland HS, effective 10/2/2023

Trevino, Nathan, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 10/2/2023

Vallez, Janiffer, Nutrition Services Team Member (from temp), Chief Joseph MS, eff. 10/2/2023

Walker, Stephanie, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/12/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Bechtol, Cathryn, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 10/20/2023

Goldman, Savina, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 10/31/2023

Klein, Nancy, Paraeducator, Carmichael Middle School, eff. 10/5/2023 (corrected date)

Lara, Dallas, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 8/8/2023 (resigned prior to starting)

Mitchell, Carol, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle, eff. 9/8/2023 (correction-Resignation not Retirement)

Olvera, Maria, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary School, effective 10/27/2023

Poff, Sarah, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary School, effective 10/17/2023

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Jordan, Elainna, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 9/30/23 – 6/26/2024  
Lawler, Trudy, Paraeducator, 2<sup>nd</sup> year LOA, effective 9/22/2023 – 6/14/2024  
Scott, Madison, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 10/16/2023 – 6/12/2024  
Stewart, Cheri, Paraeducator, Pacific Crest Online Academy, effective 10/2/2023 – 1/26/2024  
Vargas, Jayden, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 9/25/2023 – 1/2/2024

**RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**

McDonald, Debra, Building Foreman, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 10/31/2023

**TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**

Bennett, Tyson, Driver, Transportation, effective 9/29/2023  
Gomez, Christian, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, effective 10/12/2023

Grall, Deacon, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 10/16/2023

**5.2 Approval of Minutes (September 26, 2023)**

**5.3 Policy No. 2004-Accountability Goals**

**5.4 Payroll and Warrant Information**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007492 through 40007495 for \$20,977.43  
Nos. 54000614 through 54000616 for \$5,584.01  
Nos. 40007496 through 40007506 for \$49,870.58  
Nos. 54000617 through 54000619 for \$493.42  
Nos. 40007507 through 40007513 for \$9,814.60  
Nos. 54000620 through 54000622 for \$142,145.34  
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002047 through 20002052 for \$974,147.65  
Nos. 20002053 through 20002061 for \$1,098,796.27  
Nos. 52000353 through 52000354 for \$37,098.97  
Nos. 20002062 through 20002063 for \$23,458.55  
No. 52000355 for \$13,979.34  
Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000140 for \$1,075.48  
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10087504 through 10087649 for \$1,797,313.41  
Nos. 51002590 through 51002672 for \$113,907.64  
Nos. 10087656 through 10087675 for \$727,827.30  
Nos. 51002673 through 51002712 for \$42,953.09  
Nos. 10087676 through 10087682 for \$68,827.34  
Nos. 51002713 through 51002738 for \$623,079.52  
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10087408 through 10087409 for \$2,557.49  
Nos. 10087415 through 10087460 for \$91,053.77  
Nos. 10087461 through 10087503 for \$5,2000.746.69  
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$10,976,677.73  
Total September Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,271,035.68

**6.0 AGENDAS**

**6.1 Future Agenda Items**

Future topics mentioned:

- Bond Planning
- Hazel Health Update
- iReady and Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Update

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS