



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 31, 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 31, 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, 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, and Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner,

The Board meeting was called to order 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 Student Advisory Report

Karrin Wierzchowski and Sheila Dehkordi shared information from the last Student Advisory meeting including information on safety and security updates, possible projects to be included in a future bond, and how to motivate students to complete surveys.

2.2 Parent Guardian Advisory Report

This was rescheduled to the November 14, 2023 meeting.

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

Ron Higgins spoke regarding banned books and reported today was Reformation Day.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger stated students at the recent Student Advisory meeting had great ideas for the safety and security projects. She shared the District has a shortage of bus drivers which is causing delays. Recently eight drivers have been hired but are still in training. Communication improvements through Parent Square were also mentioned. Free bus passes through Benton Franklin Transit are available for students. Dr. Redinger also shared information regarding upcoming drama productions at schools.

Karrin Wierzchowski shared district and regional athletic competitions are taking place.

Brianna Watson attended several events including Parent Nights and volunteered for the district cross-country meet.

Jill Oldson visited with Special Education staff and Teaching and Learning department heads.

Bonnie Mitchell attended the College and Career event at Richland High School where representatives from local trade organizations presented information.

Lindsay Lightner attended a band concert and was pleased with the number of students involved. Dr. Lightner is hosting Teacher Academies at Washington State University Tri Cities (WSUTC).

Rick Jansons attended the Washington School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Board meeting. Mr. Jansons reported the budget looks good and there was discussion regarding the WSSDA Legislative and General Assemblies.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Bond Planning

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, reviewed the timeline for possible bond election dates. He shared three packages for discussion and consideration:

Package A is based on all the projects included in the pre-design work outlined in the 2023 Levy. The projects listed in package A include updated full project costs including escalation based on each project's construction timeline. (\$428M)

Package (A.1) includes only the comprehensive third high school projects. The comprehensive school project includes the school building, typical athletic fields and facilities as well as an auditorium. This package also includes enhanced features for the auditorium, which would be a fly loft and the associated rigging in the theater. It also includes enhanced features for a varsity level stadium that would allow the school to host regional and state competitions instead of using the District Fran Rish Stadium. (\$268M)

Package (A.2) includes just the comprehensive third high school. This package includes the school building, the typical athletic fields and facilities and the auditorium without the extra enhanced features. (\$246M)

A forecast from Dr. Jones, Demographer, showed student enrollment K-12 to increase by 1,000 by 2030, then another 1,000 by 2035. According to this forecast, a new high school would not be needed in the near future. A more detailed report will be shared in December. Board discussion followed including:

- recent large increase in property assessments
- bond cost is too prohibitive at this time
- River's Edge High School-high priority
- options for Richland and Hanford High Schools to reduce crowding
 - innovative high school could reduce crowding at Hanford and Richland High Schools
- prioritize District projects-need 20-year facility plan based on need/i.e., Hanford High School roof replacement
 - take full advantage of state match when available
- need tax rate information/election date information/bond counsel advice
- 4A high schools would move to 3A high schools

- Maintenance and Operations/Career and Technical Education (CTE) Campus
 - mentorships/dual credit classes/career pathways
- three Rivers HomeLink enrollment/large out of District population
- partner with City of Richland for a pool-discussion ongoing

Detailed information requested for the November 28, 2023 meeting included a long-range facility plan, high school student projections, project list without a third high school, career and technology operations center estimates, bond projects (\$180M-\$200M without a third high school). Information on tax rates and best dates for running bonds will be presented at the November 14, 2023 meeting. There was consensus from Board members that no bond would be on the ballot February 2024.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 District Data

Dr. Redinger shared iReady and Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) results are now live on the District website. An in-depth presentation will take place at the next Board meeting on November 14, 2023.

4.2 Performance Audit Update

Superintendent Redinger reported Benton Franklin Health Department regularly performs safety audits on District playgrounds including fall surfaces, footings, standing water, etc. The District Grounds Team does a great job of staying on top of this with monthly inspections. Dr. Redinger thanked Mr. Krasner and the Operations staff for their work.

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

Mr. Jansons asked to Pull Item 5.2-Approval of Minutes-October 17, 2023 for a separate vote since he was not in attendance. A further update to the Personnel Action: Todd Baddley changed from “Resigned” to “Retired.”

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Bonnie Mitchell –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.8) INCLUDING UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTIONS.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 5.2-APPROVAL OF MINUTES-OCTOBER 17, 2023.

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

5.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Pettett, Galt, District Counsel, Administration, effective 06/30/2024

RESIGNATION CHANGED TO RETIREMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Baddley, Todd, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, effective 1/31/2024

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Spinetta, Peter, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, Jefferson Elementary School, effective 11/3/2023

CHANGE IN FTE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Wietsma, Margaret, 0.2 FTE (Now 0.8 FTE), Math, Richland HS, effective 8/29/2023 (Correction)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Peters, Diane, Language Arts, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 8/31/2024

DECEASED

Klug, Steven, Math, Hanford High School

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Manship, Helen, Paraeducator, HomeLink, effective 8/31/2023 (from LOA)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Bekhazi, Elie, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary School, effective 10/26/2023

Krieg, Isaac, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, effective 10/25/2023

Renz, Laura, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 10/11/2023 (corrected)

Schweighardt, Elizabeth, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary School, effective 10/20/2023

Williams, Stephanie Rey, Nutrition Services Team Member, Chief Joseph MS, eff. 10/30/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Gass, Gary, Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 10/31/2023

Postras, Michelle, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/13/2023

Zarate, Esteban, Information Technology Tech 1, Information Technology, effective 10/31/2023

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Jackson, Victoria, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 8/28/2023-2/12/2024

Payne, Maggie, Paraeducator, 2nd year LOA effective 8/28/2023-6/12/2024

Premel, Crystal, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 5/01/2023–11/6/2023

Vargas, Jayden, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 9/26/23-02/29/2024

5.2 Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2023)

5.3 Affirmative Action Plan 2023/2024

5.4 Highly Capable Report

5.5 Policy No. 3141-Non-Reidnet Student/Policy No. 3130-Pupil Attendance Areas

5.6 Enrollment Monthly

5.7 Budget Monthly

5.8 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007514 through 40007522 for \$12,276.53

Nos. 54000623 through 54000625 for \$5,133.98

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002064 through 20002069 for \$47,965.33

No. 52000356 for \$92.42

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10087683 through 10087687 for \$28,249.25

Nos. 51002739 through 51002762 for \$17,445.15

Transportation Vehicle Fund Warrant No. 90000130 for \$181,269.51

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

- District Data Update
- Special Education Update
- Hazel Health
- Policy Committee-possible Friday packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS