

Richland Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: 11/22/23
To: School Board
From: Shelley Redinger
Subject: Friday Packet

Enclosed please find the following documents:

- Board Dates to Remember
- Community Events/Activities
- Media



TO: Board of Directors
RE: Event Dates
DATE: 11/22/23

November:

- 11/28/23...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30
 - 5:30-6:30-Ex Session-(only if needed)
- TBD...Board Workshop/Bond Discussion

December:

- 12/12/23...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30
 - 6:00-6:30-Ex Session-Superintendent Check In
- 12/18/23-1/2/24...Winter Break

January:

- 1/9/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)
- 1/23/23...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)

February:

- 2/13/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)
- 2/27/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)

Upcoming Events/Activities

This list is suggestions of RSD and community events to attend as a Board Member. By no means is it a comprehensive list of all activities in the District. Future events will be added weekly.

November

Wednesday 29th:

- Choir Holiday Concert
6:30 – 8:15 PM
Hanford High School

Thursday 29th:

- Asking is Caring Presentation
6 PM
Leona Libby Middle School

Thursday 30th:

- Choir Holiday Concert
6:30 – 8:15 PM
Hanford High School
- Santa Selfie and Cookie Workshop
5 – 7:30 PM
Early Learning Center

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4DA9A922A4F85-46042729-photos#/>

December

Friday 1st:

- Santa Selfie and Cookie Workshop
9 AM - 4 PM
Early Learning Center

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4DA9A922A4F85-46042729-photos#/>

- Festive Family Night
5 – 7 PM
Jefferson Elementary
- Winterfest at Wiley
6 – 7:30 PM
William Wiley Elementary
- Choir Holiday Concert
6:30 – 8:15 PM
Hanford High School

December

Saturday 2nd:

- 40th Annual Holiday Bazaar
8 AM – 3 PM
Badger Mountain Elementary

Friday 8th:

- Carols and Cocoa
7:15 – 7:50 AM
Chief Jo Middle School

Saturday 9th:

- Hanford Holiday Bazaar
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Hanford High School

Monday 11th:

- Homelink Play “A Christmas Carol”
12:30 PM AND 4:30 PM
ACT Theatre

Friday 15th:

- Holiday Sing-Along
9:15 – 10 AM
Tapteal Elementary Commons

Neidhold steps down as Richland Bombers head football coach



DAVID MONTESINO DMONTESINO@THENEWSTRIBUNE.COM

Bombers head coach Mike Neidhold before the Woodinville Falcons and Richland Bombers 4A Washington state football championship game in the Tacoma Dome in 2017.

**BY JEFF MORROW
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD**

For Mike Neidhold, there will be no more Mondays with his football team.

The long-time head football coach at Richland High School announced his retirement on Thursday, after 16 seasons at the helm.

During the playoffs over the years, Neidhold would always talk about getting another Monday practice with his players after the Bombers would win a Friday or Saturday playoff game.

It allowed him and his coaching staff another week's worth of practices with the players — whom he always cared about the most.

“Yep. No more Mondays,” said Neidhold. “After 37 years of coaching, that’s a long time doing anything.”

He’s been thinking about making the move for awhile.

“I’ve thought about it for a year or two,” he said. “I’d go out on my morning walk and think about it. I thought about what I could do. I love to golf and I love to cook. I’m thinking about all of the things I get to do.”

There will be plenty of time. No more Saturday staff meetings, or long afternoon practices.

He and his wife, Toni, live on the golf course at Horn Rapids in Richland.

And there will be golf trips. “My future son-in-law is a Bandon Dunes nut,” he said. “My son, Kent, loves to play at Bandon Dunes.”

Neidhold himself carries a golf handicap of 8.

“But my daughter (Hope) is a 2,” he said.

Now, he’ll have time to finished school on a weekday, and still play 18 holes to try to catch Hope and her outstanding handicap.

Best of all, Neidhold leaves Richland’s football program on his own terms.

“I found the right opportunity to go,” he said. “I have no pressure to keep going, no pressure from the parents, no pressure from the administration. All of my boxes are checked. I can’t imagine one thing left that I’ve got to do. It’s time to turn this over to someone younger than me who hasn’t had all of those boxes checked.”

Neidhold believes he has a few assistants who might want to apply for the position. And he believes he’s helped them prepare for that position by having some of them plan out practices over the years.

BOMBER FOOTBALL LEGACY

Mike Neidhold is the ultimate Bomber.

He played in the mid-1970s for then-head coach JD Covington, as the team’s quarterback.

After college, he started coaching at Richland as an assistant in 1986 for Lonnie Pierson.

Except for a short stint — as an assistant at Pasco High for John Morgan from 1991-93 — he spent all of his time wearing the green and gold at Richland High.

From 1994 on, he was an assistant. One of his main jobs as an assistant was coaching the offensive line — a position he still has a love affair with, despite being a quarterback himself.

By 2008, he was named head coach at Richland High.

Over his 16 seasons as head coach, Neidhold's teams sported a 119-55 record. That also included an 81-34 record in conference contests — in either the Big Nine or Mid-Columbia conferences.

The 64-year-old led the Bombers to a Washington state football title in 2017. But he had some great seasons when his team didn't win a state title.

"I got to go to a state championship game four or five different times (as a player, assistant coach, or head coach). Most people don't get there once," he said. "But I also had a team that finished 3-6 with no one expecting us to get those three wins. I loved those relationships I had with the players."

He's not going to disappear.

While he turns 65 in another month, Neidhold is not going to stop teaching.

"I want to do one year of teaching without coaching football," he said.

From there, he'll figure things out — whether that's stepping away or still teaching.

For decades, boys basketball had been the marquee sport at Richland High — thanks to the Art Dawald years in the '50s, '60s and '70s; and Phil Neill's short stint in the late '70s and '80s. Now, Earl Steufert has built a strong program at Richland these past 20 years.

But over those last 20 years, Neidhold has helped make the Bombers football program so strong that it now has equal billing with the boys basketball program.

"The football program is really important to our school," he said. "Twenty years ago, there weren't a lot of kids playing football in the park. Now there are. Bomber football is relevant to the community now."

He'll also be the biggest booster for Richland football — with the chance to actually watch a game as a fan now.

"Now I can be an ambassador for the next head coach for Bomber football," he said.

He's ready.

"I've got a full heart and a clear head," said Neidhold. "Bomber football is on solid ground."

Jeff Morrow is former sports editor for the Tri-City Herald.

New Pasco mascot revealed. But the high school may get a different name

BY ERIC ROSANE
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Pasco, WA

If you ask 10-year-old Dane Heslop, he's not a big fan of the name that Pasco picked for its third comprehensive high school.

"When I first heard about the name, Harvest View, my first thought was an abandoned, haunted farm or village," he told the Pasco School Board this week.

Dane's perspective is an important one since he'll be among the thousands of students attending the school after it opens at 6091 Burns Road in Fall 2025.

"As a future student-athlete, I want to be able to have pride in my school and its name. The name Harvest View doesn't inspire me or make me proud to be from Pasco — it makes me feel like I'm in a retirement home," Dane said, asking the board to reconsider.

After more than a dozen community members, students and parents voiced similar disapproval with the name and frustration with the accelerated naming process, the board agreed to consider two other choices: Sageview and Desert Vista.

School district staff also unveiled preliminary mascot, colors and branding concepts, which were met with more enthusiasm from community members at the meeting.

Students from Pasco's eight middle schools and high schools led the way in choosing the Lobos as the future school's mascot, with shades of greens, grays and blues.

Lobos — Spanish for wolves — is a nod to the school district's 74% Latino population.

"The selection of Lobos serves as resounding testament to our commitment to cultural and linguistic inclusivity," said Planning Principal Raquel Martinez. "It resonates with our dual language programs, each day underscoring the value of multilingualism. In choosing Lobos, we embrace diverse representation. It's a visual and symbolic testament to our dedication in celebrating the backgrounds, languages and cultures that thrive within our schools and community."

The Lobos mascot is fairly uncommon among Washington state schools. However, it is already [the mascot for Fuerza Elementary in Kennewick](#).

Athletic programs at the new Pasco school will compete in the mixed [3A-4A Mid-Columbia Conference](#).

HARVEST VIEW? MAYBE NOT

Pasco's third high school might not be named Harvest View after all.

After hearing from the public, the school board chose to incorporate the names Sageview High School and Desert Vista High School into the Lobos branding discussions.

Designs for Sageview and Desert Vista could be finished in time for the Dec. 12 school board meeting, and the board could pick a different name as early as Jan. 9.

The school district contracted DLR Group to design the school's mascot and branding. The Omaha-based design and architecture firm has worked with several global brands, including Nike.

Pasco School Board President Amy Phillips said this recent naming process has had the most feedback of any new school in the district. She said she hopes more people will continue to give their ideas and remain engaged in the process.

"Even though it seems rushed and it seems like we didn't have a lot of choices, we had a lot of choices (and) we had a lot of community input. Could we have had more? Absolutely. Can we make this better next time? We will, we promise," Phillips said.

In a split 3-2 vote, the school board decided to approve Harvest View as the school's new name at its Oct. 24 meeting. It selected the name among five suggestions provided by a community naming committee:

- Desert Vista High School
- Great Forks High School
- Harvest View High School
- Sageview High School
- Sunset High School

A poll voted on by the readers of the Tri-City Herald showed that many [favored the "Rattlers" mascot for Harvest View](#) and the "Archers" mascot for Orion High School, the district's future career and college academy.

The district has yet to consider mascot choices for Orion.

Both schools will open in Fall 2025.

VOTER BOND

Voters earlier this year approved a 21-year, \$195.5 million bond to build a third comprehensive high school to serve 2,000 students and a technical high school to serve 600 in-district students.

These new schools aim to ease crowding and give more program options for high school students.

Fowler General Construction already is working to build the 300,000-square-foot Harvest View High School on a 65-acre campus.

Construction of the college and career high school near Marie Curie STEM Elementary will begin in spring 2024. In addition to a high school diploma, students there also will graduate with workforce-ready credentials, industry certifications and hands-on experience.

The school district has begun the process of redrawing its attendance boundaries to assign students among its three primary high schools — Chiawana, Pasco and the new school.

Richland High locked down, student arrested after tip about gun on campus



JENNIFER KING • TRI-CITY HERALD

The lockdown at Richland High was lifted and classes resumed by 10:45 a.m. Monday. No one was reported injured.

BY ERIC ROSANE
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Richland High School was locked down for nearly a half-hour Monday morning while police arrested a student outside on a tip they had a gun. Police found the student was concealing a “very realistic” BB gun in his pants.

The lockdown was lifted and classes resumed by 10:45 a.m. No one was reported injured.

“We are really appreciative of the quick actions of our school staff, our students and for our ongoing collaboration with the Richland Police Department,” district Spokesperson Shawna Dinh told the Tri-City Herald.

Dinh said the student made no threats before being detained.

School staff contacted police around 10:15 a.m. after receiving an anonymous tip and went into a lockdown a couple minutes later.

Police contacted the student outside the building and arrested them.

“Officers removed a very realistic BB gun from the suspect’s waistband at the time of arrest,” read a statement from the Richland Police Department.

The student was booked into the Benton Franklin Juvenile Justice Center on suspicion of possessing a dangerous weapon on school property and was expelled from Richland High School, police said.

Classroom Makeover: Congratulations Mrs. Diaz!

Laynie Erickson NonStop Local Morning Anchor
Nov 20, 2023

RICHLAND, Wash.- Susanne Diaz is a second grade teacher at Marcus Whitman Elementary School. She was awarded November's Classroom Makeover from Toyota of Tri-Cities because of the example she sets for students.



"Not only watching them gain confidence in their academic ability in the classroom, but also watching them be kind," says Mrs. Diaz. "I think kindness is really important in today's society."

Mrs. Diaz says the money will go towards her student's hands-on STEM buckets.

[You can nominate a deserving teacher here.](#)

Toyota of Tri-Cities believes that education is a strong component to a healthy community. There are teachers in the community who strive to go a step further than just opening the books and presenting the curriculum. They go above and beyond to ensure that their students get the most possible in a classroom setting. These are the Teachers that Toyota of Tri-Cities would like to honor. Each Month throughout the School year, a deserving Teacher is selected from nominations by the community and given a check for \$250.00 to help in furthering the positive classroom experience.

MORE INFORMATION



Classroom Makeover: Congratulations, Mr. Sites!



Mrs. Diaz's 2nd grade students playing with STEM buckets.

Deadly car crash indefinitely closes SR 240 in Richland at milepost 34

Laynie Erickson
Morning Anchor

POPULAR STORIES

KPD investigating shooting, BCSO
recovers stolen car and highs in the 40's

Kennewick Police are investigating a possible assault
with a weapon after a shot was fired on Quinault in
Kennewick.

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