



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, November 14, 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, November 14, 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, Rick Jansons, 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 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 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 P.M. for discussion on 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 6:29 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Oldson asked to add a report from the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee later in the meeting.

1.2 Roll Call-Rick Jansons and Bonnie Mitchell participated via Zoom.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS-Alexis Romero-Washington State Association of School Psychologist (WSASP) Award

Amanda Rexford, School Psychologist-Richland High School, introduced Alexis Romero, School Psychologist-Enterprise Middle School, who was recently recognized by (WSASP) as the 2023 recipient of the first ever Best Practices Award for Early Career Professional Practices. Ms. Romero is a fierce advocate for students and a role model for all.

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

Nino Kapitula, West Richland, shared concern regarding the Special Education Task Force and requested a more detailed report.

SuSan Moe, Pasco, stated bus drivers are stressed and many have signed a “No Confidence” letter regarding Patricia Thomas, Transportation Supervisor. Ms. Moe cited a lack of camaraderie and drivers leaving the department.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern over statues of leaders in history being destroyed (i.e., Robert E. Lee).

Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Toni O’Connor, Co-facilitator shared an update from recent meetings. Members established a calendar and heard a report on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). A PBIS webpage was request on the District website for easy access to information. Ms. O’Connor advised any parent can join the group and a zoom option will be available at upcoming meetings. She reported the Anti-bullying and Harassment policy will be reviewed soon.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Karrin Wierzchowski shared information on Richland Hanford High School State Tournaments and thanked coaches for their encouragement. She is excited to attend the upcoming Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA) Annual Conference and meet students from other districts around the state.

Sheila Dehkordi attended several Veterans’ Day Assemblies and is excited for Thanksgiving Break.

Lindsay Lightner attended a Veterans’ Day parade with students from the District participating.

Brianna Watson attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and the Jefferson Elementary PTA Science Night.

Shelley Redinger reported elementary conferences will take place next week. She congratulated the football and swim teams that competed at State. Dr. Redinger also attended a drama performance at Hanford High School and visited White Bluffs Elementary.

Jill Oldson attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and visited Badger Mountain and William Wiley Elementaries.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Bond Counsel/Tax Rate Information

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, introduced Cory Plager, D.A. Davidson, and Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, who shared information regarding the differences between levies and bonds. Levies require only 50% voter approval while Bonds have a 60% threshold for approval. Mr. Plager reported support for bonds has decreased in recent years with only two out of twenty reaching the 60% approval rate. Opportunities to run elections are February, April, August, and November, with February having outperformed the other dates.

Information was shared for \$180,000,000M, \$200,000,000M, and \$220,000,000M option amounts. Considerations for running a bond include: interest rates, bond ratings, assessed value and bond structures. Board discussion followed. Mr. Krasner will bring more information requested at the last meeting to the December 12, 2023 meeting. A long-term plan with priorities was also requested.

3.2 District Data

Enid Flynn, Director of Instruction Technology and Assessment, shared the District webpage has been updated to provide up to date data from state and district level required assessments. Also included is information regarding why and how assessments are utilized, who is assessed, and links to resources for families. Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, as well as the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS), are state required assessments on the assessment webpage. The District-level assessment is the i-Ready Reading and Math. The District website will be updated to reflect achievement and growth as students are assessed over the course of the year. Ms. Flynn shared assessment results compared well to state and neighboring districts. Next steps, opportunities, and celebrations were shared. Board discussion continued.

3.3 Special Education Update

Zach Carpenter, Director of Special Education K-5, and Robert Sorensen, Director of Special Education 6-12 and Behavioral Health, shared the department has been working towards goals outlined by the Special Education Task Force. The first meeting will be held on November 29, 2023. Four main areas of focus are:

- *Instructional practices
- *Systems and organization improvements
- *Professional development
- *Data and accountability

For the 2023/2024 year, the focus will be to identify where the District is falling short of the recommendations and problem solve improvements through the consultancy protocol. Work on these recommendations is fluid based on the changing needs of students and school communities. Board discussion followed including adding more people to the group, keeping the Task Force approximately half staff/half parents, and asking volunteers to participate the entire year for consistency.

3.4 Hazel Health Update

Mr. Sorensen reported Richland School District established its partnership with Hazel Heart, Hazel Health's mental health program, in September 2022, recognizing that students and families were facing barriers to accessing local community mental health services. The District has found Hazel Health to be responsive and a great partner. Services remained available to families over the summer. From July 2023 to present, 131 student referrals have been made from 17 schools resulting in over 433 visits which include intake and mental health therapy sessions. The service is available in many languages for easy access.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Policy/Procedure No. 2022-Electronic Resources and Internet Safety-First Reading

***Replace Policy/Procedure No. 2314-Electronic Information System (Network)**

Galt Pettett, District Counsel, advised currently the District has Policy 2314-Electronic Information System (Network) in place. The first update is to change the Policy and Rules and Regulation's number from 2314 to Policy and Procedure 2022. This aligns with Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) numbering system. The administration also recommends changing the policy title from "Electronic Information System (Network) to "Electronic Resources and Internet Safety". The revisions to policy reflect that RCW 28A.650.010 now uses different terminology. The revisions also reflect new requirements for district library services and include a description of how the library information and technology programs will provide technology consultation, procurement, and training as prescribed in HB 1365. Lastly, the revisions include the District will cooperate with OSPI to provide demographic, distribution, and other data, related to technology initiatives. Board discussion followed.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Lindsay Lightner –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PROCEDURE NO. 2022-ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND INTERNET SAFETY-FIRST READING *REPLACE POLICY/PROCEDURE NO. 2314-ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NETWORK)

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

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.5) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

5.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Wallace, Nathan, 1.0 FTE, Nurse, Sacajawea Elementary School, effective 11/22/2023

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Hampton, Walt, 1.0 FTE, Music, White Bluffs Elementary School, effective 12/31/2023

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Strankman, Zachary, Custodian, Carmichael MS to Building Foreman 1, Sacajawea Elementary,
*effective 11/13/2023

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Brasker, Travis, Grounds Applicator, Support Services, effective 11/13/2023

Buckendorf, Bailee, Paraeducator (Temporary), Badger Mountain, effective 11/2/2023-6/12/2024

Camaioni, Alexa, Nutrition Services Team Member, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 11/15/2023

Crow, Dalton, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 11/2/2023

DeWett, Kevin, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 11/8/2023

Garland, Ashley, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 11/16/2023

Johnston, Angela, Secretary, Special Education, effective 11/6/2023

Palomin, Jessica, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elem. effective 11/1/2023 (see Resignations)
Spinetta, Peter, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 11/8/2023
Whitford, Banner, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 11/9/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Palomin, Jessica, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 11/3/2023
Stephenson, Paul, Temporary Grounds, Support Services, effective 11/6/2023
Todd, Elizabeth, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 11/3/2023

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Jordan, Elainna, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 10/12/23 – 6/26/2024(correct date)

5.2 Approval of Minutes (October 31, 2023)

5.3 CASH GRANT-Orchard PTO-Soccer Goals

5.4 CASH GRANT-Williams Wiley PTA-Renaissance AR/STAR

5.5 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007523 through 40007534 for \$18,886.00
Nos. 54000626 through 54000627 for \$116.14
Nos. 40007535 through 40007546 for \$15,844.53
Nos. 54000628 through 54000633 for \$116, 503.13
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002070 through 20002071 for \$15,303.20
No. 52000357 for \$105,954.00
Nos. 20002072 through 20002080 for \$689,689.54
Nos. 52000358 through 52000361 for \$52,319.00
Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000141 for \$550.00
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10087789 through 10087957 for \$2,321,388.38
Nos. 51002764 through 51002802 for \$783,208.98
Nos. 10087960 through 10087964 for \$45,389.26
Nos. 51002803 through 51002862 for \$1,022,639.34
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10087650 through 10087655 for \$5,540.00
Nos. 10087688 through 10087747 for \$104,382.90
Nos. 10087748 through 10087788 for \$5,114,222.42
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,624,373.24
Total October Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,848,518.56

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

Board members and Student Representatives will report on events from the upcoming Washington State School Directors' Association Conference at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS