

Richland Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: 1/19/24
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: 1/19/24

January:

- 1/23/23...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30 PM
 - **Ex. Session-5:30 PM**

February:

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

March:

- 3/12/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)
- 3/26/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)

April:

- April 1-5...SPRING BREAK
- 4/9/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30 PM
 - Ex. Session-(only if needed)
- 4/23/24...Board Meeting-Board Room-6:30 PM
 - 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.

January

Monday 22nd:

- NO SCHOOL

Thursday 25th:

- HIV and Growth & Development Instructional Materials Parent Preview Night
6 – 8 PM
<https://rsd400.zoom.us/j/82181585656#success>

Monday 29th:

- Parent/Guardian Advisory Meeting
6 – 7:30 PM
ZOOM

Tuesday 30th:

- STEAM Night
6 – 8 PM
Orchard Elementary Gym

February

Friday 2nd:

- Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (*Rated PG-13*)
7 PM
Richland High Auditorium
- Hello, Dolly!
7:30 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
https://hanford.booktix.net/cart.php?action=show_pers&show_id=7&show_sec=2d7c47af4d4e4da7

Saturday 3rd:

- Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (*Rated PG-13*)
2 PM AND 7 PM
Richland High Auditorium
https://gofan.co/app/school/WA25367?fbclid=IwAR0KvUGaFP_owskWKb_2p5wIKYtJEQSwD8KsKDURPqGuhphey2INI3KJZf0

**Hanford + Richland High School
Athletics Calendars**

<https://hanfordathletics.com/events>
<https://bomberathletics.com/events>

February

Saturday 3rd:

- Hello, Dolly!
7:30 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
https://hanford.booktix.net/cart.php?action=show_pers&show_id=7&show_sec=2d7c47af4d4e4da7

Wednesday 7th:

- Hello, Dolly!
6 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
https://hanford.booktix.net/cart.php?action=show_pers&show_id=7&show_sec=2d7c47af4d4e4da7

Thursday 8th:

- Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (*Rated PG-13*)
7 PM
Richland High Auditorium
https://gofan.co/app/school/WA25367?fbclid=IwAR0KvUGaFP_owskWKb_2p5wIKYtJEQSwD8KsKDURPqGuhphey2INI3KJZf0

Friday 9th:

- Hello, Dolly!
7:30 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
https://hanford.booktix.net/cart.php?action=show_pers&show_id=7&show_sec=2d7c47af4d4e4da7
- Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (*Rated PG-13*)
7 PM
Richland High Auditorium
https://gofan.co/app/school/WA25367?fbclid=IwAR0KvUGaFP_owskWKb_2p5wIKYtJEQSwD8KsKDURPqGuhphey2INI3KJZf0

https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/richland-school-district-considering-new-2024-2025-school-year-schedule/article_ce870bec-b403-11ee-a4bd-f701f523c5f0.html

Richland School District considering new 2024-2025 school year schedule

Morgan Huff
Jan 15, 2024



Richland School District

RICHLAND, Wash. -- The Richland School District announced it is considering shortening summer by two weeks for the 2024-2025 school year.

In an email sent to parents of the district, RSD stated, "Since many students experience a loss of learning and continuity during the extended (summer) break in a traditional calendar, we started exploring options around including additional shorter breaks during the school year while reducing the longer summer break."

The proposed schedule change would modify the current summer break schedule from 10 weeks to 8 weeks. RSD said research showed that reducing summer break made students engage more and be more academically successful.

An example schedule the district included showed:

First day of school: August 27th, 2024

Fall break: October 21-25, 2024



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Winter break: December 23, 2024 - January 3rd. 2025

Mid-Winter break: February 18-21, Presidents day off - February 17

Spring break: March 31-April 4, 2024 *or* April 7-11, 2025

The last day of school would be moved from early to mid June to June 23, 2025.

The district is wanting feedback from parents with kids in the district. A zoom meeting will be held Wednesday, January 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

If you would like more information or where to join the meeting, click [here](#).

MORE ON APPLEVALLEYNEWSNOW.COM



Prepare for a Winter Wonderland: Brace Yourself for Snow and Ice Across the Region.
Stacy Lee, Weather Anchor

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Richland, Kamiakin pull away in Mid-Columbia Conference

BY JEFF MORROW
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Mid-Columbia Conference has almost reached the halfway point of conference play, and things are starting to shake out.

Here are a couple of observations when it comes to MCC boys basketball:

Richland has started to come on. Earl Streufert's squad is unbeaten at 7-0 in MCC play. That includes a 65-57 home win over Kamiakin last Friday night.

First thing noticeable was that Art Dawald Gymnasium was packed. Someone said it's the first time the gym was that packed since 2014.

Streufert said the gym's capacity is about 3,800. But it sure seemed like more than that.

In that boys contest, Bombers senior Josh Woodard was outstanding, scoring 22 points, grabbing 7 rebounds, and adding 6 assists and 6 steals.

The steals that Woodard had were key in the victory.

"We need to show we're a defensive team," said Woodard. "I am always on the lookout to pick the ball for a steal. Coach Streufert has had me doing that since I was a freshman."

Woodard provided some key moments in the third quarter.

At one point in that quarter, Kamiakin senior Peter Dress sank two free throws for a 41-39 Braves lead.

But after that, Richland put together a big run — a 10-0 blitz, and a 17-5 explosion to pull away for good.

Richland's Jack Forbes scored eight of the first 10 points in that run, but the key turning point was an 8-0 run that was led by Woodard. Richland only led 45-41 at the time.

And then Woodard:

- Tipped a pass that Forbes turned into a steal and a breakaway dunk.
- Stole a pass on the next possession and found Forbes for a layin.
- Followed up a Dress trey by making a driving layup of his own.
- Took a pass from Landon Northrop on the next possession and buried a 3-point field goal.

That was it. Richland led 54-44 and never was threatened again.

"He's been doing this since August (when football season started)," said Streufert. "He sets the bar high for himself."

The bottom line was Richland outscored Kamiakin 24-9 on points off of turnovers.

The Bombers forced the Braves into 16 turnovers.

"You can't turn it over 16 times and win," said Kamiakin coach Brian Meneely.

• Kamiakin is better than maybe I thought they'd be. My fault.

Dress — who has committed to playing next year for NAIA Embry-Riddle University in Arizona — led all scorers with 28 points on Friday in Richland, and he added 8 rebounds.

What I wasn't sure about was whether Dress — who will always get his points — had enough of a supporting cast around him to make the Braves successful.

Trust me. There is plenty of talent on Meneely's team.

Senior James Kinsey and sophomore Nicholas Malisani are pretty talented athletes themselves. And senior forward Zae'Vion Gladney, who was hurt during football season, is just starting to get his basketball legs under him.

By the postseason, Gladney will be a big piece of the Braves' run.

This Kamiakin-Richland series never seems to have a blowout anymore.

"It's always a battle between these schools," said Woodard. "It's always a great atmosphere."

Streufert and Meneely agreed. And the crowd Friday night knew it too.

"Before the game, I told some of our guys to look around at this crowd," Streufert said. "Some of our guys were on the floor smiling out there. It was nice to see." Meneely says it's two programs that have had a bit of success, "and they take a lot of pride in themselves. Look at the crowd that shows up. It was nice to see. What a cool environment for the kids."

Round two is at Kamiakin on Feb. 2.

A possible round three might be on hand in the postseason.

While Richland and Kamiakin (both Class 4A schools) are in the upper echelons of the MCC boys standings, the next four teams in the standings are 3A schools — Walla Walla, Southridge, Hermiston and Kennewick.

Just two games separate the four schools, and here's something to keep in mind: only three of those teams will advance to the District 8 tournament. That's because the Greater Spokane League has many more Class 3A schools than the MCC does.

But the MCC has more Class 4A schools than the GSL does. And what that means is all five Class 4A schools in the MCC have already qualified for the District 8 tournament.

According to MCC statistician Parker Hodge, Southridge's Jesse Tijerina should be the next boys player to cross over the 1,000 career points mark.

As of Jan. 2, Hodge said that Tijerina has 858 total points, and he should get to 1,000 sometime this month.

Tijerina is a big reason the Suns are 4-3 in MCC play — although there is a strong supporting cast that includes senior Kellen Walford and sophomore Nick Williamson.

Biggest game this weekend is Walla Walla at Richland on Friday. Blue Devils coach Adam Berg has a three-headed monster of Ken Higgins, Dane Gardea and Will Sullivan doing a lot of damage.

All three are seniors, and Higgins leads the team in scoring at 18.0 points a game.

Gardea (12.4 points) and Sullivan (10.8) also average in double-figure scoring.

Standings through Jan. 9

Richland (4A) 7-0 MCC, 8-2 overall

Kamiakin (4A) 6-1, 10-2

Walla Walla (3A) 5-2, 7-5

Southridge (3A) 4-3, 6-6

Hermiston (3A) 3-4, 4-7

Kennewick (3A) 3-4, 4-7

Hanford (4A) 2-5, 3-8

Chiawana (4A) 2-6, 2-11

Pasco (4A) 0-7, 0-11

Jan. 5 — Chiawana 71, Hanford 66; Richland 65, Kamiakin 57; Southridge 71, Pasco 36; Walla Walla 68, Kennewick 60

Jan. 6 — Hermiston 58, Chiawana 56; Kamiakin 72, Pasco 20; Richland 84, Kennewick 46; Southridge 56, Hanford 54

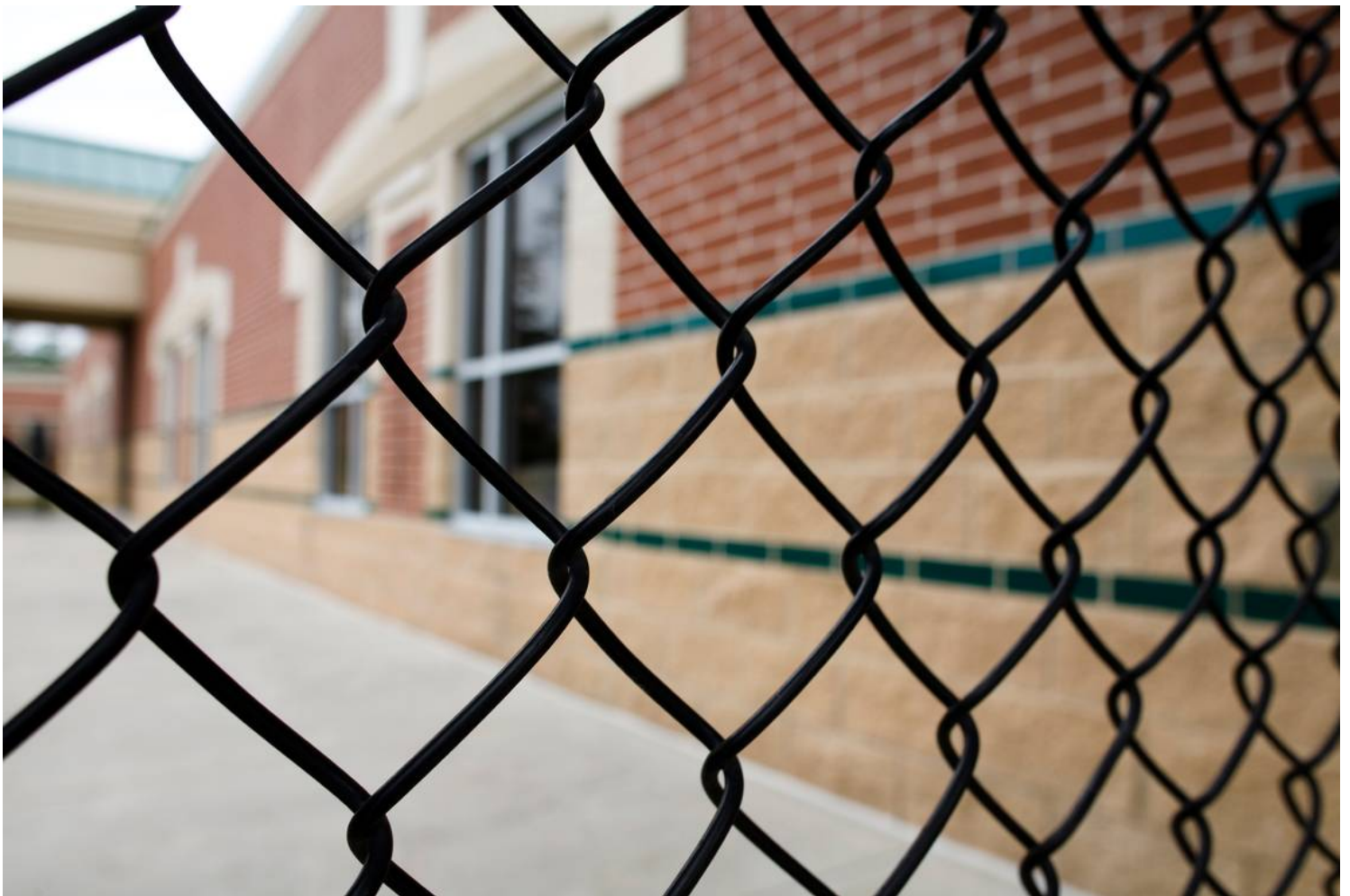
Jan. 9 — Hermiston 85, Eisenhower 56

Jan. 12 — Kamiakin at Hanford, 7:30 p.m.; Kennewick at Pasco, 7:30 p.m.; Southridge at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m.; Walla Walla at Richland, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 — Chiawana at Southridge, 5 p.m.; Hanford at Kennewick, 5 p.m.; Hermiston at Kamiakin, 5 p.m.; Walla Walla at Pasco, 5 p.m.

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

If bond passes, Richland schools may cancel \$23M safety levy approved by voters



ISTOCK • GETTY IMAGES

The Richland School District is considering canceling a \$23 million taxing levy voters passed to pay for security improvements in schools.

BY ERIC ROSANE
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The Richland School District is considering canceling a \$23 million taxing levy voters passed to pay for security improvements in schools — but only if a bond measure with similar projects passes in the coming year or two.

The proposal is part of ongoing discussions by the school board and top district staff on how and when to seek funding for new school construction projects over the next two decades.

New demographics data recently released shows enrollment isn't growing as fast as it was before the COVID pandemic, which means [construction of a third comprehensive high school in West Richland](#) might not be needed for another decade.

A 2020 enrollment forecast showed the number of high schoolers in Richland could hit 5,500 by 2035. But [new projections show that number might be](#) about 250 students fewer.

That would total about 700 more high schoolers than today's enrollment.

Last year, voters approved [a six-year, \\$23 million capital improvement levy](#) to pay for safety and security projects across the school district. The measure passed in February 2023 with 55% approval.

The tax starts this year, with property owners taxed 31 cents on every \$1,000 of assessed value. The rate will see a gradual decrease over the next five years.

But if voters approve a new multi-million dollar bond in November, the school district could stop collecting the levy money for the final five years. That would save the district time and money, officials say.

"Over time, it's just a better deal for the taxpayers," said Clinton Sherman, Richland School District's executive director of financial services.

Richland School District is the smallest of the Tri-City “Big 3” school districts, serving more than 14,000 students and employing nearly 1,500.

By 2035, the medium-sized district could see an increase of 2,000 more K-12 students.



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Converging hallways at Richland High School create congestion for students as they head home from classes.

Levy cancellation

In Washington state, [bonds are for building schools and facilities](#), while levies are mostly used to pay for learning and education programs.

Bonds are sold to investors who are repaid with interest over time by property tax collection, generally from 10 to 20 years. The funding measures require a 60% super majority support from voters living in the district in order to pass.

Levies are short-term property taxes passed by voters — at least 50%, plus 1 — that pay for programs and services Washington state doesn’t deem “basic education,” such as extra school nurses or athletic departments. Some levies can be used to pay for capital improvement projects, like security upgrades.

Last year, after voters passed the capital levy, Richland took out a \$13 million loan to start work on the security projects it plans to begin this spring. It was planned that the debt and interest on that loan would be paid off as the levy was collected.

With a third high school out of the picture in the near term, district staff feel a bond measure may be a more prudent funding model because the money could be collected faster and projects could start sooner.

“It’s not super common, but it’s not completely unique. It’s just the circumstances of where we’re at,” Sherman said. “We just want to be good financial stewards of our taxpayers’ dollars.”

In a statement, Benton County Auditor Brenda Chilton said she can't recall in the past 25 years any local municipalities canceling a levy.



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The Richland School District Administration building on Keene Road in West Richland.

Safety and security upgrades

[Richland's safety and security upgrades](#) are set to begin construction this spring, and many will likely finish in time for students returning in Fall 2024.

District officials say the possible funding shift is not expected to interrupt the timeline for completion.

The district plans to modernize older schools with secure entrances, including at Richland and Hanford high schools; Carmichael, Chief Joseph and Enterprise middle schools; and Jason Lee, White Bluffs and William Wiley elementary schools.

Surveillance cameras and advanced security systems also will be outfitted in the schools.

Staff also will be trained on new systems and best practices in threat assessment and crisis response. The district plans to partner with outside security experts to identify and address building vulnerabilities.

The capital levy also included planning work for a third high school, a new joint building for River's Edge High School and Pacific Crest Online Academy and an expansion at the Three Rivers HomeLink campus. Initial designs for those projects are already done.

Early plans show the district may seek funding to build the new River's Edge building and HomeLink expansion in its next bond package.

After that bond, the school district wants to start looking at another package that would include new buildings for Chief Joseph, Carmichael and William Wiley. The district is also planning for a new middle school.

Classes at Hanford and Richland high schools are already overcrowded, but the school district says it could mitigate those current issues by moving student programs around and installing portable buildings.