



Board of Directors, Special Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2024
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a Workshop/Special Meeting Thursday, January 11, 2024, via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington, Benton County. School Board President Rick Jansons presided. Board members participating: Jill Oldson, Bonnie Mitchell, Katrina Waters, and Chelsie Beck.

Call to Order

Mr. Jansons called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

Special Meeting/Workshop Topic

1.0 Facilities Planning

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, introduced Dr. Patrick Jones, Executive Director, Institute of Public Policy and Economic Analysis-Eastern Washington University, who shared recent enrollment projections as well as future projection information. Dr. Kelley Cullen and Dr. Mark Holmgren, Eastern Washington University, also shared enrollment forecasts for the Richland School District from 2023-2024 through 20234-2035. From 2010-2020, Richland grew at a faster rate than the state average-13.85% (Richland-21.10%). The student projection for the 2034-2035 school year is an increase of 850 elementary students, 660 middle school students, and 760 high school students.

Mr. Jansons called for a short recess at 4:55 P.M. The Board Workshop was reconvened at 5:23 P.M.

Cory Plager, Managing Director-DA Davidson, provided information regarding levies and bonds, assessed valuations, school bond and election trends, and bond tax rate projections. The State of Washington requires a 60% approval rate for school bonds. Only two bonds in the state passed in the November 2022 election. Mr. Plager shared passing rates for school bonds have been higher in February and November elections in the past. Details were shared on three bond scenarios \$161M, \$174M, \$210M.

Mr. Krasner shared a list of possible projects needed, several of which are listed below:

- Hanford High School Roof
- New Innovative Secondary School (River's Edge High School/Pacific Crest Online Academy-to house 400 students)
- Hanford High School Athletic Stadium and Theatre
- Education and Operations Center
- Land Acquisition
- Safety and Security Updates

Board discussion followed including:

- decision on size of high school (small vs. larger comprehensive)-positives/negatives-which is best option for students?
- build smaller? (still would need core spaces-gym, lunchroom, office area, etc.), then enlarge building as needed for future growth
- several middle schools need replacement or updating
- partner with City of Richland for pool
- elementaries in south Richland crowded, at capacity in downtown schools
- modular classrooms vs. stick buildings
- Early Learning Center-expansion

Input from the community is needed. Further details will be discussed at the January 23, 2024 Board meeting on bond packages and timelines.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS