



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 23, 2024
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, January 23, 2024, 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, Chelsie Beck, and Katrina Waters. 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 Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, Executive Director of Special Education 6-12 and Behavioral Health Robert Sorensen, and Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-5 Zach Carpenter.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 P.M. to discuss acquisition of real estate, if public knowledge might increase the price 42.30.110 (1) (b), and 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 sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:29 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:33 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here-Jill Oldson participated via zoom.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS - (Cancelled due to weather.)

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Karrin Wierzchowski and Sheila Dehkordi, Student Representatives to the Board, reported on last week's meeting where students shared input on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Advisory options and bond project priorities.

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

Renaee Yecha, Michelle Fickle, and Jessica Fife, all teachers, shared information regarding Universal Design for Learning (UDL) *All Kids Every Day*. This is the third year of professional development for staff.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared some films he felt should be used for HIV/AIDS trainings.

Jeff Dennison, Richland, shared concern regarding a student incident. Mr. Jansons asked Mr. Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, to meet with him.

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger shared how District weather delays/closures are determined with student and staff safety in mind.

Karrin Wierzchowski stated finals are this week. She is meeting with principals to share ideas for student involvement and is excited for the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C.

Sheila Dehkordi is excited to participate in the Legislative Assembly Conference.

Chelsie Beck participated in the balanced calendar zoom and studied the project list for bonds.

Bonnie Mitchell has been spending time on Board information.

Katrina Waters participated in the balanced calendar zoom and is interested in feedback.

Jill Oldson participated in the zooms for balanced calendar and will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to advocate for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds.

Rick Jansons expressed interested in the balanced calendar parent input.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Bond Projects-Priority Discussion

Mr. Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, shared the complete project list in the Board packet from the last meeting with cost estimates and descriptions. Mr. Krasner was asked to bring details for building a third high school with a phase-in approach at the last meeting and shared three options to drive the design:

- maximize core space-(build for total number of students-1800)
- maximize number of classrooms (easier to add classroom space later)
- funding driven design (build what funds allow)

Discussion on Early Learning Center (ELC) expansion:

- interest list of 100 students who would qualify
- second ELC location? annual operating cost for additional building
 - transportation issues to second location
- ELC classrooms at neighborhood schools-open classrooms at some schools
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)-comes with many regulations

Board discussion followed with priorities mentioned below:

- Hanford High School roof (need before bond)
- Innovative High School
- Education and Operations Center

- Bond refunding-will not change safety and security projects
- Chief Joseph replacement
- Land acquisition
- Hanford High School scene shop and stadium

More information needed for:

- Three Rivers HomeLink (grade level numbers, out of district student numbers)
- Pool options (partner with City of Richland?)
- Chief Joseph Middle School-State match?
- Possible increase in square footage requirements by Legislature/would help with unhoused student numbers for state matching funds
- 20-year plan is needed

Mr. Krasner asked for input on the timeline for running a bond. If a bond is run in November, the bond project package would be needed by July/August. Mr. Jansons preferred February 2025 while others preferred November 2024. All agreed much more feedback is needed before a final decision is made.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Behavioral Health Update-Hazel Health

Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Secondary Special Education and Behavioral Health, Angie Withers and Michelle Sorensen, District Wellness Coordinators, shared information on Hazel Health (telehealth services) for students. Mr. Sorensen advised 131 student referrals had been made between July 1, 2023 and November 1, 2023. These referrals resulted in 433+ counseling visits which included both intake and mental health therapy sessions. From July 1, 2023 to January 11th, 2024, 217 students have been referred resulting in 786 visits. So far this year, the top reasons for a referral include anxiety, family concerns, sadness, and peer relationships. Third through eighth grade have the highest percentages of students served, with sixth grade being the highest at 14%. Board discussion followed. Future updates to include:

- School-Wide Information System (SWIS)
- Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
- Universal Screening

4.2 School Calendar Discussion

Dr. Redinger explained making a decision for next year doesn't make sense since the timeline for a *draft* calendar to staff is February 1st each year. The plan is to follow the template the District has used for recent years for the upcoming school year (2024/2025). There was consensus from Board members that any changes being discussed would be not be for the 2024/2025 school year. Dr. Redinger stated there has been good community input from the survey. She advised a study group has been meeting over the past year to share ideas for better student learning outcomes. Mr. Jansons shared this is the first time the Board members have discussed this topic. Board discussion followed including:

- later start times for students or other options
 - trimesters/start in August/end in May/early June
- need community and student input
- include students on the committee

- survey will be sent to students
- need data/how changes would increase student outcomes

Staff members will continue to work on calendar options and bring back to the Board for further discussion.

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

It was moved by Bonnie Mitchell and seconded by Katrina Watson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.6) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Vote: Waters, yes; Mitchell, yes; Beck, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes
Motion was approved.

5.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

DePalma, Dana, 0.2 FTE (now 1.0 FTE) non-continuing, effective 1/24/2023

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Allred, Angelina, Resource Room, Jefferson Elementary School, effective 8/29/2023

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Nelson, James, 1.0 FTE, Science, Richland High School, effective 12/31/2024

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Pool, Amy, 1.0 FTE, Kinder, Jefferson, effective 1/23/2004 (non-continuing, coming from sub)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Lettau, Jasmine, Secretary, Nutrition Services from Kitchen Manager, Desert Sky, eff. 1/22/2024

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Daos, Tiare, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 1/10/2024

Escamilla Largarde, Jose, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/8/2024

Leighty, Jarid, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/10/2024

Marlin, Dominique, Secretary (Replacement Employee), Sacajawea, effective 1/23/2024-6/14/2024

McShane, Heidi, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 1/23/2024

Randles, Kayla, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 1/23/2024

Spurgeon, Jennifer, Paraeducator (Temporary), Lewis & Clark effective 1/16/24 – 6/12/2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Manning, Anna, Secretary, Sacajawea Elementary School, effective 1/23/2024 – 6/14/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

McCreight, Jordan, Building Foreman 3, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 2/2/2024

Moyers, Kasi, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary School, effective 01/05/2024

Nolan, Kristin, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 1/16/2024

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Henderson, Breanna, Secretary, Badger Mountain Elementary School, effective 1/4/2024

EXTRACURRICULAR PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Jelinek, Josh, Head Coach Football, Richland High School, moving from assistant

5.2 Approval of Minutes (January 9, 2024)

5.3 Policy/RR No. 3207-Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Cyber Bullying

5.4 Enrollment Monthly

5.5 Budget Monthly

5.6 Warrant Information

- ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007617 through 40007633 for \$23,925.68
- Nos. 54000652 through 54000656 for \$114,406.60
- Nos. 40007634 through 40007637 for \$2,443.24
- Nos. 54000657 through 54000658 for \$1,066.76
- Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002104 through 20002112 for \$525,845.16
- Nos. 52000372 through 52000374 for \$166,501.76
- Nos. 20002113 through 20002117 for \$77,954.83
- Nos. 52000375 for \$6,280.00
- General Fund Warrant Nos. 10088484 through 10088490 for \$9,798.07
- Nos. 51003128 through 51003184 for \$595,809.47
- Nos. 10088491 for \$3,679.17
- Nos. 51003185 through 51003202 for \$6,450.93

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

No additions were requested for the February 13, 2024 Board meeting agenda. Student Representatives asked to survey students to gather input on SEL Advisory periods. Board members agreed. Dr. Redinger asked students to work with Mr. Christensen and Shawna Dinh, Public Information Officer, then send to Nancy Mayer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, to distribute to the Board for review.

Mr. Jansons advised a Board Workshop/Special Meeting will be held on February 6, 2024 at from 4:00-6:00 P.M. to discuss Board Governance. Several topics suggested for discussion included:

- Student Representative onboarding
- Mentorship w/Board members
- Communications-public comment, response to board email
- Complaints, process for phone calls
- Superintendent/staff relationships
- Board member onboarding
- School visits
- Meeting protocols
- Board/superintendent relations
- Yearly Board calendar

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS