



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 13, 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, February 13, 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, and Chelsie Beck. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, 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 Secondary Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, Executive Director of Special Education 6-12, Behavioral Health Robert Sorensen, and Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning Derek O’Konek.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g))-Superintendent Check-in

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 P.M. to discuss 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 6:26 P.M.

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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Ms. Oldson participated via Zoom. Ms. Waters was excused.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS-Dream Builders Education Foundation-STEM Innovation Grant

Jen Klauss, Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning and Derek O’Konek, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, introduced Jerry Hollaway and Bev Abersfeller from the Dream Builders Education Foundation. Six Richland Teachers were awarded “STEM Like ME” grants including Liz Crider and Brittany Hampton-Chief Joseph Middle School, Crystal Silvia-Jason Lee Elementary, Caitlin Calahar-Jefferson Elementary, and Randy Fairfield and Veronica Kenney-HomeLink. Over \$6,000 was awarded.

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Daniella Guillen, Richland High School Student, reported on topics at the recent Student Advisory meeting including the school calendar, start times for high schools, sleep habits, Special Education classes and the need for more healthy snack choices in schools.

2.3 Parent Guardian Advisory Report

Toni O'Connor shared information at the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting including topics for next month's meeting: mental health, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and bullying. Parents, staff, and community members were invited to attend a professional development opportunity on February 5, 2024, provided by the Benton/Franklin County Special Education PTA regarding inclusionary practices.

2.4 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual-30 minutes total)

Cooper and Maci-both students at Three Rivers HomeLink, shared concern that HomeLink might be merging with River's Edge High School. Both shared reasons they liked the format, smaller class sizes, activities, and relationships at HomeLink.

Christine Horner, Richland, has four students in the District and shared concern regarding the three Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE's) being combined in the same building. Ms. Horner feels these programs need to be separate and tailored for each student.

Francine Warner, Richland, shared concern regarding HomeLink and the talk of merger. Ms. Warner feels that HomeLink should be treated as other hybrid schools in the area such as Columbia Basin College and Tri Tech. She stated plans were included in the levy and should be continued.

Anna Kessie, Parent, shared HomeLink has a close-knit family atmosphere with older students serving as mentors. Ms. Kessie is concerned with separating students with using the Lynx campus and felt this was just a temporary plan.

Ron Higgins, Richland stated "Diversity" is the word of the month and shared his concern regarding some individuals' definition of the word.

Susan Moe, Bus Driver, shared Bus Drivers and Attendants have no support for the Director of Transportation and feels the District should hire new leadership.

Shelly Burt, via Zoom, shared concern with getting information on elementary Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funding and progress monitoring. Ms. Burt feels this information should be posted on the District website.

Brianna Watson, Richland, shared safety concerns regarding the parking lot at Chief Joseph Middle School. Ms. Watson would also like to have a Board member participate at PTA Council meetings. She asked Board members to be mindful of those living on pensions or multi-family homes when planning bond projects for a successful bond.

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Sheila Dehkordi, Student Representative, attended the "Day on the Hill" in Olympia where she met with state officials and student representatives from other parts of the state. She also met with several principals and attended the Board Workshop.

Karrin Wierzchowski, Student Representative, shared it was an honor to visit Washington D.C to advocate for transportation and Special Education support as well as Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds.

Shelley Redinger attended the drama production at Hanford High School, announced that James Jones was voted Teacher of the Year for the District, and stated Richland High School Boys' Basketball team is in the playoffs.

Jill Oldson shared information regarding the visit to Washington D.C. meeting with Senators and Representatives to advocate for funding as mentioned earlier. Ms. Oldson advised Richland is the only district in the areas not receiving free meals for all students. She also attended the Board Workshop regarding Board Governance.

Bonnie Mitchell shared the winter sports seasons are wrapping up with many teams/individuals competing at the state level. Ms. Mitchell attended the Hanford High School drama production and is responding to emails sent to the board feedback email.

Chelsie Beck attended "Hello Dolly" and completed the Open Public Meeting Act training.

Rick Jansons attended "Hello Dolly", the Board Workshop, met with the WSSDA Legislative Committee, and invited all to attend the Chief Joseph Middle School Science Fair next week.

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Chief Joseph Middle School-Physical Condition Report

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, advised a school building must be at least 30-years old to be considered for School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) funding. Chief Joseph will reach the 30-year mark in 2026. The SCAP funding formula is based on total unimproved square footage for grades K through 8 District-wide.

Mr. Krasner shared improvements made to the building totaling \$6M including but not limited to:

- exterior of building was painted
- HVAC system replaced
- total roof replacement
- first floor corridors-new flooring
- gym updates-floor painted, basketball backboards
- irrigation systems being replaced currently
- second floor updates-this summer
- safety and security updates-this spring/summer (secure vestibule at entrance, reconfiguring workstations, etc.)

3.2 Future Career Pathway Options

Ryan Beard, Career and Technical Education Director, shared information regarding a proposal for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) – International Baccalaureate (IB) blended program that could be developed in partnership with the proposed new Education Operations Center (EOC) and a proposed Sustainable Agriculture Science program. Based on student population growth projections showing lower than expected high school growth, staff began considering alternatives to the planned third high school.

Mr. Beard explained two current realities that could provide an opportunity for the District:

- Planning for a new Operations Center
- Well-documented need for capacity relief at high schools: both Richland and Hanford High Schools over ideal capacity by approximately 300 students each.

Mr. Beard detailed the proposal for consideration as follows:

- Create an International Baccalaureate Career-Related Program (CP) to be housed on an educational campus connected to the planned Operations Center, with career focus areas in Clean Energy and related fields.
- Utilize the variety of Richland School District Operations programs that will be housed at the Operations Center to expand Work Site Learning (WSL) placements for students. *The IB Career-Related Program is not intended to be a stand-alone school; students would continue to be enrolled in their home school and would access these courses as part of their school.

Mr. Beard shared details of each program. 200-300 students would attend half days at this campus to help alleviate overcrowding at both high schools. This program would not compete with Tri-Tech. Board discussion followed.

3.3 Bond Project Update

Mr. Krasner stated at the last Board meeting, a request for an estimate on a possible scope for an early learning project was requested. The project could be a modular building that includes (12) classrooms, (4) enclosed offices, (4) group offices, and a 2,000 SF multi-purpose room. The building will also need to include the necessary support spaces. The building would total roughly 20,000 square feet with the estimated total project Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost at \$22.4 million.

Mr. Krasner updated the complete project list for the Board packet, along with a long-range plan, and elections deadlines. \$20M will need to be included in the next bond for land acquisition and future bonds will need to contain funds for safety and security. Information was also shared on matching funds for recent projects and the importance of timing projects to maximize these funds. There would be no state matching funds available if it was decided to replace Chief Joseph Middle School at this time.

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, shared information on current tax rates. Projected rates with additional amounts from several bond project scenarios over time were discussed. He expressed the importance of a predictable tax rate in the future. The Legislature is also looking at increasing the square footage requirements for projects which could increase state matching funds. The District received over \$91M in state match over the last ten years. Board discussion followed including:

- new comprehensive high school not needed at this time (due to future enrollment prediction)
- run several bonds over time to keep tax rate predictable (2024; 2032; 2040)
- maximize state match
- Thought Exchange survey to staff, students and community to gauge interest in projects

Mr. Jansons stated there has been no discussion to merge HomeLink with River’s Edge High School. He advised lots of brainstorming is taking place, but nothing regarding a change to the HomeLink K-8 program.

3.4 Policy/Procedure No. 3420-Student Safety

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, stated currently the District has Policy 3420-Student Safety in place, adopted in 1983. After a review of policies, WSSDA policy specialists recommend referring to WSSDA Policy and Procedure 4311-School Safety and Security Services Program. The district has Policy 4250- School Safety and Security Services Program, adopted in October 2022. The administration is proposing to delete Policy 3420, since the language in policy 3420 is captured in district policy 4250.

It was moved by Bonnie Mitchell and seconded by Chelsie Beck –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE DELETING POLICY NO 3420.

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

3.5 Policy/Procedure No. 3220-Student Publications

Mr. Christensen stated the District last updated Policy 3220 in March 1989. The District has proposed several changes to be in alignment with WSSDA’s most updated version of Policy and Procedure 3220. The first update is to change the title of the policy from “Freedom of Expression” to “Student Publications” which represents a more accurate depiction of what the policy and procedures entail. The next update is to change the title of “Rules and Regulations 3220” to “Procedure 3220”. This change aligns with WSSDA titling. The updated policy also includes definitions of “school-sponsored media”, “student journalist”, and “student-media adviser” as defined in statute. The policy has been updated to include sections on Student Publications and Distribution of Materials.

It was moved by Bonnie Mitchell and seconded by Chelsie Beck –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PROCEDURE NO. 3220-STUDENT PUBLICATIONS.

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

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

It was moved by Chelsie Beck and seconded by Bonnie Mitchell –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.6) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Leseberg, Michael, Executive Director, Information Technology, effective 5/31/2024

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Caslin, Lauren, 0.2 FTE (now 0.8 FTE) non-continuing, effective 1/24/2024

DePalma, Dana, 0.2 FTE (now 1.0 FTE) non-continuing, effective 1/24/2024 (date correction)

Eilefson, Hannah, 0.2 FTE (now 0.6 FTE) non-continuing, effective 1/24/2024

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Jisa, Marta, Kindergarten, Orchard to Kindergarten, William Wiley eff. 2/12/2024 – 6/12/2024

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Hall, Pamela, 1.0 FTE, CTE Business and Health, effective 8/31/2024

Nelson, James, 1.0 FTE, Science, Richland High School, effective 8/31/2024 (date correction)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

LaHaie, Alyssa, 1.0 FTE Preschool, ELC, effective 2/12/2024 (non-cont., coming from sub)

Pool, Amy, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Jefferson Elementary School, effective 1/23/2024 (non-continuing, coming from sub – date correction)

Strickland, Hunter, 1.0 FTE, Developmental Preschool, Early Learning Center, effective 2/12/2024 (non-continuing, coming from sub)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Baumgarten, Kurt, 1.0 FTE, JROTC Army Instructor, Hanford High School

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Rashed, Riad, Custodian, Hanford High School to Building Foreman 3, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 2/12/2024

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Curry, Colton, Paraeducator (Temporary), Carmichael Middle School, eff. 1/24/2024-6/12/2024

Dalbeck, Alyssa, Paraeducator, Libby Middle School, effective 1/26/2024

DeFever, Avery, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 2/20/2024

Haddox, Patrick, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 2/5/2024

Howard, Jessica, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 2/1/2024

Jones, Rebecca, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 1/29/2024

Kingsley, Yuko, Nutrition Services Team Member, Enterprise Middle School, effective 2/7/2024

Main, Rickey, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/26/2024

Mendez, Elmer, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 2/12/2024

Peterson, Margaret, Paraeducator, Libby Middle School, effective 2/1/2024

Seadore, Jaida, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 2/20/2024

Skahan, Chloe, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 1/26/2024

Slack, Debra, Paraeducator (Temporary), Tapteal Elementary, effective 1/25/2024-6/12/2024

Sliva, Vincent, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/29/2024

Spurgeon, Jennifer, Paraeducator (Temporary), Lewis & Clark Elementary eff. 1/11/2024 – 6/12/2024 (date correction)

Teeple, Natalie, Paraeducator (Temporary), Badger Mountain, eff. 1/25/2024-6/12/2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Harrison, Julie, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 2/5/2024-6/12/2024

Stewart, Cheri, Paraeducator, Pacific Crest Online Academy, effective 10/2/2023–6/12/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Blumenkranz, Julie, Paraeducator, Libby Middle School, effective 1/5/2024
Burnett, Jessica, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 1/24/2024 (will sub)
Cotter, Brittany, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary School, effective 2/16/2024
Ferguson, Deserea, Paraeducator, Libby Middle School, effective 2/19/2024
Smith-Wierman, Terri, Nutrition Services Team Member, Richland HS, effective 2/7/2024

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Leseberg, Robyn, Accounts Payable/Purchasing Supervisor, Financial Services, effective 5/31/2024

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Hinkley, Ma Leila, Nutrition Services Team Member, Enterprise MS, effective 1/26/2024
Leighty, Jarid, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/26/2024
Rhode, Steven, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 2/7/2024

EXTRACURRICULAR PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Powers, Joe, Head Coach Football, Hanford High School,

4.2 Approval of Minutes (January 11, 2024; January 23, 2024)

4.3 Load Limits-Student Transfers

4.4 CASH GRANT-Building Changes-McKenney Vento Student Support

4.5 CASH GRANT-Lamb Weston-Special Education-Field Day

4.6 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007638 through 40007647 for \$20,649.71
Nos. 54000659 through 54000660 for \$910.18
Nos. 40007648 through 40007656 for \$5,491.47
Nos. 54000661 through 54000662 for \$4,885.61
Nos. 40007657 through 40007682 for \$17,161.56
Nos. 54000663 through 54000667 for \$7,713.93
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002118 through 20002120 for \$19,967.98
No. 20002121 for \$63,524.29
Nos. 20002122 through 20002128 for \$112,639.83
Nos. 52000376 through 52000378 for \$166,650.48
General Fund Warrant Nos. 51003204 through 51003211 for \$9,965.98
Nos. 10088595 through 10088742 for \$1,847,295.22
Nos. 51003212 through 51003230 for \$448,375.50
Nos. 10088744 through 10088747 for \$149,619.74
Nos. 51003231 through 51003294 for \$125,100.92
Payroll Warrant No. 10088483 for \$970.00
Nos. 10088492 through 10088548 for \$98,643.90
Nos. 10088549 through 10088594 for \$4,900,592.31
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,126,258.82
Total January Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,126,465.03

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

Thought Exchange results will be placed on a future agenda. Mr. Jansons restated that no one wants to change the HomeLink program. It is a great program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS