

Richland Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Memorandum

Date: 3/1/24
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: 3/1/24

March:

- **3/12/24...Board Meeting-Board Room – 6:30 PM**
 - **Ex. Session – 5:30 PM**
- **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**
 - **Ex. Session-(only if needed)**

May:

- **5/14/24...Board Meeting-Board Room – 6:30 PM**
 - **Ex. Session-(only if needed)**
- **5/28/24...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.

March

Saturday 2nd:

- Drama Dessert Theatre
7 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
<https://www.hanforddrama.org/>
- Bid to Buy Fundraiser (Supporting RHS Class of 2024)
5:30 – 9 PM
Meadow Springs Country Club
https://square.link/u/fhDlqt10?fbclid=IwAR3HF9mzAGaKuaTH2KmJLPNwUf0zoCdXggJFhIjlpqabDYS2_dZyu4mANU4
https://square.link/u/8Atvtnhr?fbclid=IwAR1Z_Vnvu9K9cFQHKpU4tNwkd8UozjR2cEJHBB8fLh-4M1jvfSJt_8_DrnU

Tuesday 5th:

- Choir Festival Concert
6:30 – 7:30 PM
Hanford High School

Wednesday 6th:

- Early Release (K-5) 12:30 PM
- 8th Grade Night (Incoming Freshman)
6 – 7:15 PM
Hanford High School

Thursday 7th:

- Orchestra Concert
6:30 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium

Friday 8th:

- The Addams Family
7 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Saturday 9th:

- Oedipus Performance (by Drama III)
7 – 8 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium
- The Addams Family
7PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Wednesday 13th:

- Math & STEM Night
5:30 – 7 PM
Marcus Whitman Elementary

Thursday 14th:

- The Addams Family
6 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>
- Jazz Concert
7 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium

Friday 15th:

- The Addams Family
7 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Saturday 16th:

- Spring Craft Show
9 AM – 3 PM
Chief Jo Middle School Gym
- The Addams Family
2 PM
Leona Libby Middle School
<https://gofan.co/app/school/WA85702>

Tuesday 19th:

- Band Concert
7 PM
Hanford High School Auditorium

**Hanford + Richland High School
Athletics Calendars**

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

Kennewick School Board holds a not-so-special meeting



DAN FORER GETTY IMAGES

The Kennewick School Board called a special meeting Tuesday morning to consider opposing two bills being debated by the Washington Legislature.

BY THE TRI-CITY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD

Last week, four of the five Kennewick School Board members demonstrated their contempt for the public. They held a hurriedly arranged special meeting to voice their opposition to two bills pending in the Washington state Legislature.

There was nothing special about the topic nor a compelling reason to hurry. But in doing so, they severely restricted the public's opportunity to participate.

The Kennewick School District has struggled to pass a funding levy. [Some of its schools are falling behind.](#) Where's the special meeting focused on the real issues schools are facing? Addressing low test scores, behavioral issues and anemic graduation rates is far more critical to ensure the success of young people than board members shouting impotently at Olympia.

If [House Bill 2331](#) becomes law, school boards could not reject books and other educational material because they relate to a protected class. In other words, schools couldn't ban textbooks or lesson plans just because they highlight the place of the LGBTQ community in history or discuss Black Americans' lived experience.

Districts that don't comply could lose funding or face other sanctions. The bill also would prevent anyone except parents and legal guardians from lodging a complaint about content.

[Senate Bill 5462](#) would require that schools include LGBTQ history based on consultation with the Washington State LGBTQ Commission. Other groups, including Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and people of different faiths, also would be incorporated into lesson plans.

Democrats in the House and Senate passed their respective bills earlier this month without any Republican support. Now each bill is pending in the other chamber. School board members said they needed to act quickly so they could voice their formal opposition before the bills pass. It's unlikely that Democrats in Olympia will care.

Besides, if speed was of the essence, why did the board wait until now? Legislators introduced the bills in January, and the school board had two regular meetings since then. It could have discussed a resolution at either and given the public a real chance to weigh in.

Instead, board President Gabe Galbraith, Vice President Micah Valentine and members Josh Miller and Brittany Gledhill chose duplicity. On the Friday before a long holiday weekend, [they announced a 9 a.m. Tuesday special meeting](#). At that hour, no students, working parents or teachers could attend. Almost all of the 20 who did make it on short notice and testified opposed the resolution. [On a 4-0 vote the resolutions passed.](#)

Complex issues deserve thorough public debate, but the board made sure that couldn't happen. Both sides retreated to their corners and refused to concede the other side might have a good point or two. The school board was branded Nazis and book burners. The board's critics were seen as sycophants in the thrall of progressive activism. Residents threatened meritless lawsuits and recall efforts; school board members put on an unconvincing show of pretending they cared what people had to say.

Reasonable people can disagree about the issues raised by these bills. Whether they go too far usurping local control is a legitimate question. So is the provision that would deny most taxpayers the right to petition school boards about content. Never mind that all taxpayers support schools, benefit from schools and elect the school board. They have a stake, too.

Meanwhile, there is a compelling case to be made that school districts must work harder to welcome historically marginalized and underrepresented groups and include their history and culture in curricula. If they are unwilling, some push from the state might be appropriate. After all, the state funds public education.

There was zero chance that a rushed meeting with little time to prepare would be an environment in which people of good faith could explore those issues honestly and with open minds.

Only one board member, Mike Connors, comported himself well. Unable to attend in person, like so many people, he castigated his fellows for their "complete disregard for our community." He left the meeting before the vote angrily declaring, "This is a waste of my time, a waste of the board's time and a waste of staff's time. I am pissed."

He had every right to be.

Letters to the Editor



GETTY IMAGES

The Kennewick School Board is criticized for a hurriedly called special meeting on two bills pending in the Washington state Legislature.

HASTY KSD BOARD ELIMINATED PUBLIC

The Kennewick School District board is walking dangerously close to the same line that led to the recall of three directors at the Richland School District.

The meeting on Tuesday morning, where board members passed resolutions opposing two bills in the legislature, was called on a short timeline. They did not listen to the constituents who could attend. Only one person spoke in support; 10 or 12 spoke out strongly against it. Rather than having an honest, timely discussion of this issue with locals, they seem to be moved by outside forces, namely the Washington Policy Center, a conservative, anti-public school think tank. After public comment, Mr. Connor expressed vehement opposition. Ms. Gledhill expressed reservations on the timing of the resolution, not the substance of it.

This meeting was a sham. Short of an emergency, school boards and city councils cannot bring up a new topic and then vote on it at the same meeting. First reading, public input, second reading, public input, discussion and a vote. That's how it works. The KSD board short-circuited that process.

The lack of open discussion leaves citizens wondering on what basis members made their decisions and suggests that their minds were made up before the meeting started. It was all theater. And the students will suffer the consequences.

Richard Reuther, Kennewick

Teen pushes for financial literacy requirement in schools



ERIC ROSANE • EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Southridge High School senior Ashwin Joshi is the prominent voice behind a bill in the Washington Legislature that would require a half-credit of financial education for students to graduate high school.

BY ERIC ROSANE
EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Ashwin Joshi is a seriously suave, sociable Tri-Cities high school senior.

On a recent sunny morning, Joshi, dressed in a black-and-white suit and Louis Vuitton belt, could be mistaken for a Wall Street banker or a James Bond stand-in in the halls of Southridge High School.

That's just his style.

"I believe in setting an example. I believe in being the best you can be," Joshi, 18, told the Tri-City Herald.

He also believes his peers are being short changed.

Many of his classmates don't know how to responsibly manage, invest or spend their hard-earned money, and Joshi says that needs to change.

"I feel It's a necessary skill that needs to be taught," he said.



That's why the Southridge senior is a prominent voice lobbying for passage of [a bill in the Washington Legislature](#) that would require schools to offer high school students a half credit of financial education beginning in the 2027-28 school year.

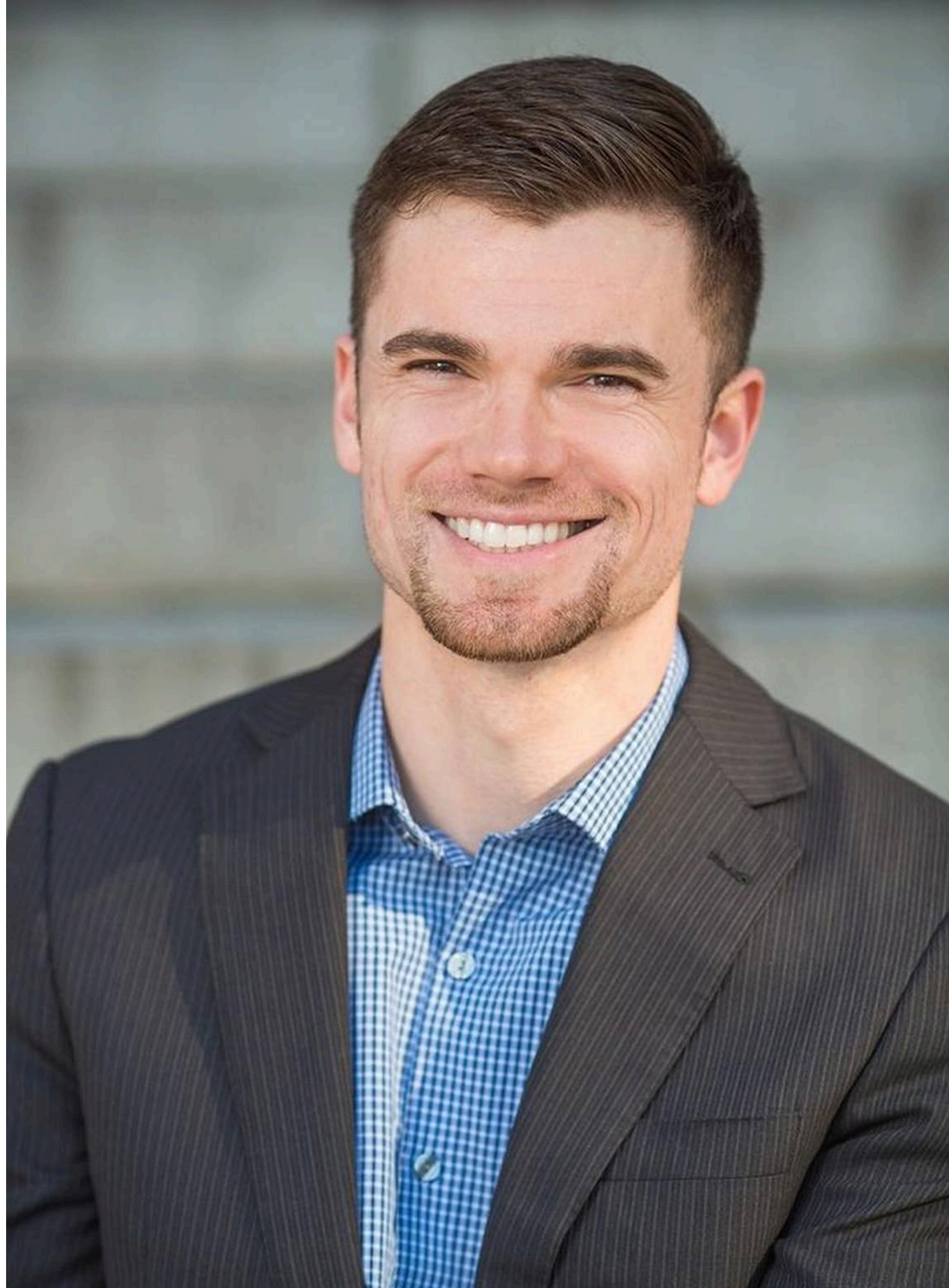
Financial education should be a fundamental right offered to every student, Joshi said. It's an idea that just makes sense.

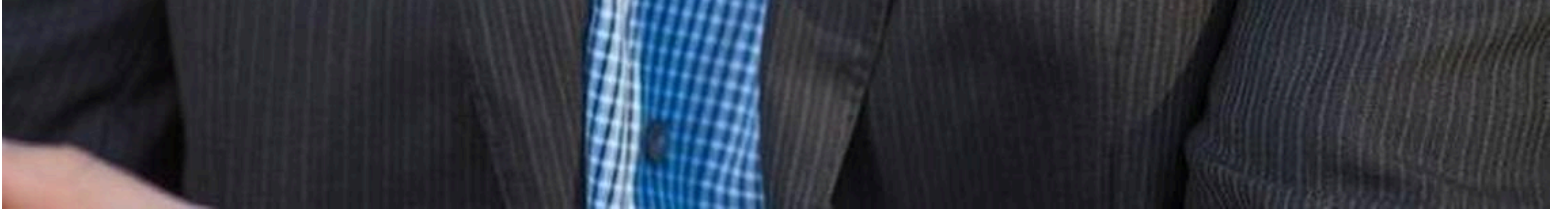
"Every single one of us spends money on an almost-daily basis or daily basis. Look at the statistics: Inflation continues to increase, cost of living continues to increase, homelessness continues to increase, the rising number of Americans living paycheck-to-paycheck continues to increase," he said.

[House Bill 1915](#) passed the House earlier this month on a unanimous and widely bipartisan 97-0 floor vote. And Wednesday it [passed out of the Senate Committee on Early Learning and K-12 Education](#), moving a step closer to a final floor vote and Gov. Jay Inslee's desk for signing.

The bill's prime sponsor, state Rep. Skyler Rude, R-Walla Walla, says the curriculum is "vital" for graduating students.

"Empowering students with a tool like financial education is a catalyst for unlocking greater opportunities and success in their futures," [Rude said in a public statement](#).





Skyler Rude

The bill also has earned the support of Washington State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti, who said the House's passage was a clear signal that Washingtonians are eager to incorporate the skills into public education.

The Kennewick School Board passed [a resolution Feb. 13 supporting the bill](#) and Joshi's work.

"In knowing Ashwin for such a short time, he has proven himself to be one of the most driven students that I have ever worked with," Southridge Principal John Griffith told the Herald in a statement. "It is no surprise that his work on this bill is going to make a difference for all the students of Washington."

Ashwin Teen Financial Academy

Joshi is the founder and CEO of the nonprofit [Ashwin Teen Financial Academy](#), which aims to offer free and essential financial education to teens worldwide through online courses. It was founded in 2022 with a mission to help "students reach their maximum potential."

The organization's courses cover topics including budgeting and saving, side hustles, cryptocurrencies, credit, stocks, taxes and 401(k) plans.

This has been a labor of love for Joshi, who is driven by a goal he's had since his freshman year — that every kid, regardless of income, race or circumstance, is able to learn critical life skills, such as budgeting and taxes, so they have a running start at life.

"It is necessary to ensure prosperity for parents, kids, students, and even their future families," Joshi said.

His love for finance began at a young age. The son of Indian immigrants, Joshi watched as his parents pursued their own entrepreneurial ambitions through investing in gas stations while his father supported the family with his work as a physician.

He remembers seeing how hard his parents worked to make a living and felt inspired by their ambition.

As most kids do, Joshi opened his own lemonade stand. By the time he was 6, he had opened his first checking account.

"The other kids called the school playground theirs, but my playground was my family's first gas station," Joshi said with a smile. "I prided myself in calling myself the world's fastest shelf restocker."

By 8th grade, Joshi's classmates began approaching him with questions about what to do with their allowances. He thought the question was peculiar because he and his family talked about money openly and frequently.

"I asked them, 'Do your parents not talk with you about money?'" he recalls. "That was a very big shock moment for me... At that moment, I realized there were so many kids who unfortunately don't get that same type of privilege that I had."

As Joshi transitioned into high school, he was baffled to learn that Southridge High didn't require personal finance as part of its core curriculum of instruction. To better understand the cultural aspects of finance, he eventually started a money-for-teens blog that would later become his nonprofit and read the popular financial book "Rich Dad Poor Dad" during COVID.

He eventually came to the conclusion that a teens-teaching-teens model could help students. So, coming out of the pandemic, Joshi hit the ground running to develop his nonprofit and get the word out.

“Kids are interested in this. I think COVID really brought about this age where kids want to be more financially independent,” he said.

HB 1915

In April 2023, he conducted a survey of 324 Southridge students with the help of teachers. Among the questions, Joshi asked them how prepared they felt facing future financial challenges. A mere 22% responded saying they felt confident at all.

“The data was extremely crushing,” he said.

He took his findings to the superintendent and eventually the school board, giving a 30-minute talk on the subject at one of their meetings. Joshi was eventually connected with Rep. April Connors, R-Kennewick, who approached Rude, the ranking minority member on the House Education Committee, about a bill.

By the holidays, Rude had prefiled HB 1915 to be considered in the 2024 legislative session. And on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Joshi was among the first to testify in support of the bill [during a hearing in the House Education Committee](#).

The biggest lesson Joshi’s taken from this process is to follow your passion and to not compare yourself with others. Stay focused and success will follow.

“It’s easy to get distracted by the white noise. But it’s even harder to follow that passion and trust the process,” he said.

https://www.nbcrightnow.com/news/meet-the-voice-of-richland-high-school-bomber-athletics/article_eefc8326-d473-11ee-aa89-fb9d0bbce9be.html

Meet the voice of Richland High School Bomber Athletics

Noel Anderson Nonstop Local Weather Anchor/Reporter

Feb 25, 2024



Noel Anderson Nonstop Local Weather Anchor/Reporter

RICHLAND, Wash.- A senior at Richland High School has elevated the school's broadcasting program.

Max Shuster is the lead play-by-play announcer for Atomic-TV, Richland's student-led broadcast. Atomic-TV started as a school announcement program but was upgraded to a live sports broadcasting service, largely due to Shuster's efforts.

"The reason why I love broadcasting so much is because you can make an impact on people that you've never met before. The dream would be to have an impact that people feel through the screen who you go into their homes, and they've never met you, you've never met them, but you leave a little bit of a positive impact on them," Shuster said.

Shuster's teacher and supervisor at Atomic-TV has watched Shuster grow through the program.

"He was really comfortable right off the bat because he's outgoing as a person and that's kind of a natural part of his personality. That really suits him well to calling games where he's a sports fan number one and he translates that knowledge into calling the game as if he were talking to a friend," Meyer said.

Shuster says his grandpa, parents and brothers all went to Richland and that Richland has a tradition like any other.

"I've said it from the beginning, the biggest reason I do is for people who can't come to the game. My grandparents who can't necessarily make it to all the games, they get to watch it from home. Bomber basketball that they've watched for the past 50 years, they still get to do it even when they can't be at the game," Shuster said.

Shuster is not only a Bomber legacy but a W.S.U legacy too. His parents Mark and Janet Shuster both played sports and graduated from W.S.U Max plans to continue that tradition after graduation by going to W.S.U in the fall.

"I'm going to try to continue broadcasting at the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication, Keith Jackson School of broadcasting, try to make a career out of it," Shuster said.

Shuster's work isn't done yet, he'll be calling state basketball games at the Tacoma Dome with the N.F.H.S crew.

Noel Anderson

Nonstop Local Weather Anchor/Reporter

Book vending machine spurs excitement among Pasco's youngest learners



ERIC ROSANE EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

The Pasco School District unveils a new book vending machine at Virgie Robinson Elementary during an event with students, staff, financial contributors and the family of the late Virgie Robinson.

BY ERIC ROSANE
EROSANE@TRICITYHERALD.COM

Pasco, WA

The first book pulled Friday from Virgie Robinson Elementary's new vending machine was about a young newspaper boy who survived the deadly 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

The book — [“Sobrevivi el Terremoto de San Francisco,”](#) written in Spanish by Lauren Tarshis — was picked by 5th grader Katelyn Garcia.

“I like, ‘I Survived,’ because it has history and I really like to learn about things that happened in the past,” said Garcia, the school's student body president.

History is Garcia's favorite subject. She said it was exciting to get the first book, and even more exciting to delve into a subject she's never read about before.

The Pasco School District unveiled the new book vending machine at a ribbon cutting event hosted by students, staff, financial contributors and family of the late Virgie Robinson. It's a project three years in the making for the east Pasco school.

It's the district's third vending machine. The goal is to promote literacy and foster a love of reading among students.

Virgie Robinson students earn Comet Bucks throughout the school day for demonstrating safe, respectable and responsible behavior. They use the paper money to redeem coins for the vending machine and "purchase" new and gently used English and Spanish K-5 books for free.

The colorful, LED-lit vending machine is chock full with more than 100 books varying in subjects and reading levels.

"To actually see that book vending machine here is special," said Robinson's eldest son, Rickie Robinson, 72, of Kent.

The Virgie Robinson Memorial Scholarship board — which includes Rickie and Reka Robinson, Virgie's granddaughter — contributed \$1,000 toward making the vending machine a reality.

They were in good company, too, as a student-led penny drive contributed \$1,006, the ASB gave \$1,000, and the Peak Partner Kiwanis of Horse Heaven Hills and J.R. Simplot Company donated \$500 each.

"Reading is important because without reading you can't do anything, you can't do math unless you can read. Reading is at the top of the list in the hierarchy of learning," Rickie Robinson said.

VIRGIE ROBINSON'S LEGACY

About 500 students attend Virgie Robinson at 125 South Wehe Ave. in Pasco.

Three-quarters of students are English language learners and only 1-in-6 students meet grade-level English reading standards, [according to a Washington state report card](#). Nearly all students are of Latino background.

Virgie Robinson Principal Maria Sandoval said young students coming out of the pandemic have been excited to engage with physical books.

Today's 4th and 5th graders were in remote learning when COVID disrupted them in kindergarten and 1st grade — years which studies have shown are some of the most formative for early reading and language comprehension.

But school wide reading initiatives, challenges, book fairs and donations have cultivated a love of reading for Robinson students the past couple years. Students are excited to take home books, and school staff are intentional about getting books in students' backpacks and hands.

"There's this excitement that I believe has been reignited where (students) don't always need to have a phone or a tablet or a computer. You can actually just read a book. And they're excited," Sandoval told the Tri-City Herald.

Next year, nearly all K-5 classrooms at Virgie Robinson Elementary will be two-way dual language, meaning native-speaking English and Spanish students will communicate and engage in subjects in both languages. All 5th grade students who graduate from the school starting next year will be fully bilingual, [a skill the school district has highlighted as highly marketable to employers](#).

Virgie Robinson Elementary opened in fall 2005, named after the beloved Pasco educator who had died just two years earlier.

Robinson was hired in 1966 as a school ombudsman and immediately showed extraordinary skill as an outreach worker serving Pasco families. Many students attributed their high school graduation and success to her intervention work.

She worked her way up to eventually become a director and retired after a 25-year career.

She was very active, influential and loved throughout the African-American and Hispanic migrant communities.

“It was because of that attitude and approach to working with people of all cultures that filtered down to the rest of us, through our whole family,” Rickie Robinson said.

Virgie Robinson Elementary is open to receiving donations of new or gently used books. For more information, donors should contact Sandoval at 509-543-6086.

The Virgie Robinson Scholarship Fund is hosting its [10th annual spring golf tournament April 20](#) to benefit student scholarships. Tee off is at 1 p.m. Cost is \$125 per player and includes 18-holes of golf, a cart, lunch, swag bags, door prizes and more.

Richland boys, Kamiakin and Kennewick girls head to Tacoma



BRIAN HAYES BHAYES@THENEWSTRIBUNE.COM

Richland celebrates their 77-59 victory over Tahoma during the 4A state regional boys game at Auburn Senior High School, on Saturday in Auburn, Wash.

**BY JEFF MORROW
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD**

Most of the Mid-Columbia region's prep basketball teams and their coaches who are still vying for a state championship realize they are just three victories away from a state title.

This is the week that everyone plays for: a championship.

So through 12 different state tournaments — six for boys and six for girls at three sites — a total of 144 high school teams all have the same dream.

Thirteen of those teams are from this region.

Here's a look how are teams qualified for their state tournaments, where and who they play:

4A BOYS

RICHLAND 77, TAHOMA 59: The visiting Bombers (21-4) dominated on the road Saturday to earn a quarterfinal berth in the 4A state tournament.

Richland, ranked seventh, outscored the No. 2 Bears 17-7 in points off of turnovers, and the Bombers defense had 11 steals.

“We’ve been playing well since we lost to Gonzaga Prep (a few weeks ago),” said Richland coach Earl Streufert. “We’ve gotten more focused. It was a really great effort against Tahoma.”

Josh Woodard led the way for Richland with 21 points, 12 rebounds, 6 assists and 5 steals; while Jack Forbes had a double-double of 18 points and 10 rebounds. Luke Westerfield also had a double-double of 11 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore Landon Northrop had 16 points and 3 steals.

“Luke took advantage of his (6-foot-10) size,” said Streufert. “And Josh really hit some big shots for us.”

Dalton Brown led Tahoma (19-6) with 16 points.

So now Richland heads to the Tacoma Dome. The Bombers will await the winner of Wednesday’s Round of 12 game — either Olympia (19-7) or Kentwood (19-7).

“They are two very different teams,” said Streufert said. “I don’t know if either one is better than the other.”

Streufert was happy to have an extra day of rest this week.

“In the last three weeks, we’ve gone Tuesday-Friday-Saturday, then Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday, then Tuesday-Saturday,” he said.

Richland’s quarterfinal game will be set for 9 p.m. Thursday.

4A GIRLS

KAMIAKIN 60, BOTHELL 48: The host Braves used a 20-8 third quarter on Saturday to beat the Cougars (20-5).

Still, Kamiakin coach Lane Schumacher had to catch himself after the victory. Seems he immediately didn’t like his No. 3 team’s performance.

“Then I thought about two things,” he said. “First, we hadn’t played a game in 10 days. And second, I’m overly critical of (our team). But we had just beat the No. 6 team in the state. We were dialed in. And we got up by 20 points in the second half. That’s a good team that we just played and we did pretty well.”

Nicole Wertenberger led Kamiakin (24-1) with 23 points and 7 rebounds, while Emaunii Smith had a double-double of 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Aubrey Herrin added just 5 points, but she also had 10 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals; teammate Liv Whitemarsh had 10 points and 5 rebounds.

Kamiakin moves into the Thursday quarterfinals in the 4A state tournament. The Braves await the victor between Wednesday’s loser-out matchup of Eastlake (20-5) and Davis (19-5).

Kamiakin’s game is set for 12:15 p.m. on Thursday.

Schumacher said his team will get to Tacoma on Wednesday early enough to watch the other teams play — including Davis and Eastlake. The Braves beat Davis early in the season, while Eastlake beat Kamiakin in last season’s semifinal game.

So the familiarity is there for Kamiakin.

“We’re going over Wednesday, scouting and taking notes,” Schumacher said.

3A GIRLS

KENNEWICK GIRLS 63, RIDGELINE 42: The No. 11-ranked Lions rolled over the Falcons easily, jumping out to a 38-15 lead and never looking back.

That knocked out 14th-ranked Ridgeline (15-11) from the 3A state tournament, and it moved Kennewick to a Round of 12 game on Wednesday in the Tacoma Dome against No. 3-seed Snohomish (17-6). Tip-off will be at 3:45 p.m., and it is a loser-out contest.

Kennewick had beaten Ridgeline in the District 8 tournament a few weeks ago, and it was by just 4 points. So what happened this time around?

“Defense,” said Lions coach Daron Santo. “The first time around, two of their girls just killed us. This time, we kept them in check. We were up by 30 points at one point.”

In Friday’s win at Richland High School, the Lions (18-7) used a double-double of 11 points and 12 rebounds from Dylun Dress, while June Fiander added 16 points.

Ashlyn Dress had 10 points, 4 steals and 3 blocked shots; senior Haylee Johnson scored 11 points.

This will be Kennewick’s first time in Tacoma in four years.

“They’re gonna have nerves,” said Santo. “It is what it is. Check the scores in the state tournament. They’re gonna be low. The floor is bigger. The depth perception of the baskets in the Dome. The lights are pretty bright.

“But everybody is in the same position.”

2A BOYS

LYNDEN 74, PROSSER 59: Kolby McClure scored 22 points and Killian Phillips added 13, but it wasn’t enough as the 8th-ranked Mustangs (16-9) lost to No. 1 Lynden (20-4) on Friday in Lynden.

So now Prosser must play No. 9 Pullman (17-6) in the Round of 12 game at 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Yakima Valley SunDome.

It’ll be a loser-out game, and the winner will take on Grandview in the quarterfinals.

GRANDVIEW 72, ROGERS-SPOKANE 63: Host Grandview (21-3), ranked No. 2 in the tournament, outscored the No. 7 Pirates (15-6) 24-9 in the third quarter to take control and win on Saturday.

The Greyhounds had three players in double-figure scoring: Lino Armendariz had 26, Cameron Draculan added 18, and Frankie Medina had 13.

The Greyhounds earn a bye into the Thursday quarterfinals in the SunDome. They’ll play the winner of Wednesday’s matchup between Pullman and Prosser. If the Mustangs win, it would mean a fourth time the two Yakima Valley rivals would play each other this season.

2A GIRLS

PROSSER 49, CLARKSTON 43: No. 4 Prosser held off the previously unbeaten and No. 5-ranked Bantams (23-1) on Saturday at Kamiakin.

Freshman Herbie Wright led the Mustangs (20-5) with 18 points, while Deidra Phillips added 17 points and 18 rebounds. Lay'lee Dixon poured in 12 points.

Now the Mustangs advance to the state quarterfinals and will play at 9 a.m. Thursday in the SunDome.

Prosser will take on either West Valley of Spokane (14-9) or WF West of Chehalis (20-4). Both teams play each other in a loser-out game on Wednesday.

1A BOYS

ANNIE WRIGHT 79, ROYAL 51: The No. 6 Knights (20-7) could not overcome the standout team from the Tacoma area last Saturday.

No. 3 Wright (22-2) had a 43-15 lead at halftime.

That sends Royal into a Round of 12, loser-out game against Riverside (18-6) at 9 a.m. on Wednesday in the SunDome.

2B BOYS

COLUMBIA-BURBANK BOYS 65, CHIEF LESCHI 53: The top-ranked Coyotes (22-0) advanced to the Class 2B quarterfinals by dominating on the boards in a big win Saturday at Kamiakin.

Junior Quincy Scott scored a team-high 23 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; while Caden Ross added 15 points and 5 steals.

“Quincy gives us so many things, even when he might be struggling to score,” said Burbank coach Todd Schumacher. “He can get steals, block shots and rebounds. Caden has put in a ton of work in the offseason. He has made a huge jump offensively.”

Tristan Frimodt and Elijah Kinsey each had 10 points, with Frimodt adding 11 rebounds and Kinsey grabbing 6 more.

Altogether, the Coyotes outrebounded the Warriors 44-27 and had 20 offensive rebounds. That translated into Burbank beating Leschi 16-6 in second-chance points, as well as outscoring it 24-13 in points off of turnovers.

Leschi is now 19-7.

“It was a good test for us,” said Schumacher. “They were quick and a tough defensive team.”

Burbank advances to the quarterfinals and won't play until 5:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Spokane Veterans Arena against the winner of the Wednesday game between Adna (17-8) and St. George's (19-7).

This tournament could be the toughest of all in the state. Three teams — Burbank, Colfax and Napavine — are all unbeaten. Lake Roosevelt (22-1) has just one loss: to Burbank a few weeks ago.

“If this is not the toughest tournament I don't know what is,” said Schumacher. “There are a lot of us out there that could contend.”

LAKE ROOSEVELT 67, TRI-CITIES PREP 64: The No. 5 Jaguars (18-4) battled to the end, but wound up short in the playoff game Saturday in Wenatchee.

Layne McClure led Prep with 26 points, while Bryson Wilde added 18, and Blake McClure had 9.

With the loss the No. 5-ranked Jaguars must play 12th-ranked Wahkiakum (18-7) at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday in a loser-out, Round of 12 matchup in the Spokane Veterans Arena.

2B GIRLS

MABTON 48, NAPA VINE 38: Alana Zavala scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the No. 8 Vikings (17-4) shocked the No. 1 Tigers (22-3) in Centralia.

Esmeralda Sanchez added 15 points and 4 steals for Mabton, which outscored Napavine 24-15 in the second half.

The Vikings now earn a quarterfinal berth, and they'll play either Davenport (14-9) or Warden (20-5) at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in Spokane..

BREWSTER 68, WARDEN 63: Freshman Makenna Klitzke scored 34 points, but it wasn't enough as No. 2 Warden fell to No. 7 Brewster (19-7) on Friday at Richland High.

The Cougars were down by 17 early and rallied back in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 51-all. But the Bears then held them off for the win.

Warden will play No. 10 Davenport at 10:30 a.m. in a loser-out, Round of 12 game Wednesday in the Spokane Arena.

DAVENPORT 50, TRI-CITIES PREP 40: Presley Smith scored 20 points and Macey Smith added 9 more, but it wasn't enough as No. 15 Tri-Cities Prep lost to No. 10 Davenport in a loser-out game in Cheney on Friday.

The Jaguars saw their season end with the loss, going 12-11.

1B BOYS

DESALES 65, NEAH BAY 60: Spencer Green scored a game-high 27 points to lead No. 4 DeSales over No. 5 Neah Bay (17-5) on Saturday at Kamiakin High School.

Carter Green added 15 points for the Irish (21-4), while teammate Daniel Balof had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

The Irish now advance to the state quarterfinals. They'll play in the Spokane Arena at 9 a.m. on Thursday, against Wednesday's winner of the Muckleshoot Tribal School (20-6) versus Cusick (19-4) matchup.

In a play-in game last Tuesday, No. 20 Liberty Christian (12-13) lost to No. 13 Sound Christian Academy (18-8) by a 66-47 score to see its season end.

1B GIRLS

SUNNYSIDE CHRISTIAN 55, PE ELL 28: Taylor Andringa scored 20 points and Natalie DeBoer added 13 as Sunnyside Christian routed Pe Ell (19-6).

SSC (22-3) outscored Pe Ell 26-12 in the first half and never looked back.

The victory gives the No. 9 Knights a shot at a Wednesday Round of 12, loser-out game against No. 8 Curlew (20-4). Tip-off for this game in the Spokane Arena is at 9 p.m.

Jeff Morrow is former sports editor for the Herald.

https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/local-news/toppenish-school-board-could-face-lawsuit-over-firing-of-former-superintendent-john-cerna/article_75b855f4-d5da-11ee-a717-737584adb29d.html

Toppenish School Board could face lawsuit over firing of former superintendent John Cerna

By Emily Goodell
Feb 27, 2024



MORE INFORMATION



TOPPENISH, Wash. — The Toppenish School Board voted Monday night to fire former superintendent John Cerna, who was put on paid administrative leave last year after reports from the state auditor's office claimed Cerna had been mismanaging the district's funds.

Local attorney Bill Pickett, who is representing the former superintendent, said Cerna doesn't agree with the board's actions and will be pursuing his own legal action in response.

"[Cerna] believes he was improperly and unfairly targeted by the school board and plans to take the board to court," Pickett said.

Toppenish teacher accused of having sex with student arrested in California

Toppenish High School teacher wanted for allegedly having sex with student

Prosser Mayor discusses decision to dismiss City Administrator

Richland's Park Reserve Fund to allocate \$40K for park or rec enhancements

Pickett said they plan to file a claim against the district, which will have 60 days to respond. He said if they don't respond to the claim in that time period, they will be able to file a lawsuit.

Apple Valley News Now's Emily Goodell reached out to Toppenish School Board Vice President Else Washines for a response to Cerna's plans to take legal action against the district.

"With regards to Cerna, I think that we want to make sure that we're taking every step necessary to comply with due process with legal matters and making sure that we're keeping the district in a good place," Washines said.

ADVERTISING

Cerna was placed on paid, non-disciplinary administrative leave over a year ago, around the same time the board hired an outside investigator to look into the concerns about Cerna's spending.

Those concerns were detailed in reports released by the state auditor's office on Nov. 21, 2022. The reports alleged, among other things, that Cerna received raises without any oversight and was significantly overpaid for district reimbursements.

The school board later ordered Cerna to repay the district for overpayments he received for his car allowance, phone and internet stipend and cashouts for his vacation leave balance — totaling more than \$20,000.

According to the reports, Cerna also paid the former high school vice principal — who was also his son — more than \$7,000 dollars for wrestling coach duties he never performed.

"What we promised the state and our citizens is to look into things and so we did do a good faith investigation," Washines said.

Washines said most of the current board members were not on the school board when Cerna was serving as superintendent and they only recently received the results of the third-party investigation into his conduct.

After reviewing the investigative reports, Washines said the board voted to terminate Cerna's employment contract.

"It's one of the goals of the school board to be transparent, so we're going to be sharing the information," Washines said.

Washines said they plan to post the investigative reports on the district's website in the coming days so the public can review the findings themselves.

In the meantime, Washines said Shawn Myers — who has been serving as acting superintendent in Cerna's absence — will continue in that role for the time being. She said the board hasn't made any decisions yet regarding the future of the superintendent role.

Washines said they're still working on the paperwork needed to finalize Cerna's termination, but expect that will be completed in the next week.

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Your IQ Is 140 If You Name 10 Of These Classic TV Shows [↗](#)

By **Healthy Gem**

Step back in time and indulge in the nostalgia of the small screen with a quiz dedicated to classic television....

Southridge High student arrested after report of explosive device



KENNEWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Richland Police Bomb Squad technicians disarmed a pipe bomb believed to have been made by a Southridge High School student.

BY CORY MCCOY
CMCCOY@TRICITYHERALD.COM

A Tri-Cities high school student has been arrested for possession of an explosive device.

Kennewick police said the 17-year-old Southridge High School student was arrested after another student reported they were concerned the boy had an explosive.

Kennewick School District's resource officer and Southridge staff worked with Kennewick police to investigate, and spoke to the student, according to a news release from Kennewick Police.

During the investigation it became clear there was no threat to the campus or any other schools in the area, and the student did not have the explosive device with him at school.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for a home in the 1400 block of South Harrison Street and found the device.

Kennewick Police Commander Isaac Merkl confirmed the device was a pipe bomb.

Richland Police Bomb Squad technicians disarmed the device and the student was booked into the Benton Franklin Juvenile Detention Center on suspicion of possession of an explosive device and manufacture of an incendiary device.

“This is a great example of, ‘If you see something, say something.’ We appreciate the courage it took for the student to come forward and report this,” Merkl said in the news release.

Stevens Middle paraeducator accused of sexual contact with student



COURTESY PASCO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Isaac Stevens Middle School is at 1120 N. 22nd Ave in Pasco.

BY CAMERON PROBERT
CPROBERT@TRICITYHERALD.COM

A Pasco middle school special education paraeducator is accused of raping a student.

Dalinda T. Cortez, 32, who worked with special education students at [Stevens Middle School](#), has been charged with third-degree child rape and two counts of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes.

Her \$50,000 bond was posted and she was released from Franklin County jail after her arrest earlier this week.

Cortez started working with the district as a substitute in 2017, and then was hired to a permanent position in 2020.

She is currently on leave while facing criminal charges, and district officials are cooperating with police, according to a district statement provided by Anna Tensmeyer, the district's director of public affairs.

“If true, these allegations represent a breach of our trust and a disappointing departure from our standards for all district employees,” the statement said. “The safety of our students is the highest priority of our school and district staff members.”

A student came forward on Feb. 23 to a staff member to say he had sexual contact with a teacher.

The student, who only knew Cortez as “D,” said they spoke to her through Instagram. He told investigators that she bought him and his friends’ food and other things, according to court documents.

Then in January 2024, she gave him a ride home from school. Instead, she brought him to a parking lot and had him get in the back of her vehicle. She touched him inappropriately, according to court documents.

He said the vehicle had curtains in the windows.

Afterwards, she offered him a marijuana vape pen, and then dropped him off at his house.

She later sent a message to the student saying they “can do more things,” and he declined.

Cortez told police she had contacted a student who was a girl through social media in the past, but had never done anything more. She said she had bought items for students at Albertsons when she ran into them there, but didn’t make any other purchases.