



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 27, 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 27, 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 Information Technology Mike Leseberg, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klaus, 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 6:28 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:35 P.M.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.2 Roll Call-All Here**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**2.1 GOOD NEWS-Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Recognition**

Dr. Redinger recognized Career and Technical Education Month and stated 4,000 students are enrolled in CTE classes this year, with 45 CTE teachers and 95 different classes. The District will be adding an Army Junior ROTC program at Hanford High School this fall. Student interns are employed by our Information Technology (IT) Department. Superintendent Redinger thanked Ryan Beard, CTE Director, for his work to develop options for this program.

**2.2 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report**

Toni O'Conner reported on topics discussed at the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory Meeting including District communication regarding the Parent Advisory committee. The District is already in compliance with a new Senate Bill regarding recess going into effect this fall. Staff also

shared the removal of recess for discipline is discouraged. The recent meeting included a Q & A from the Special Education Program regarding resources available. The next meeting will include a Q & A on Inclusion. The topic of the April 15, 2024 meeting will be bullying and harassment.

### **2.3 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual-30-minute time limit)**

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding transgender students being allowed to play female sports.

Roy Romero-Richland, Jerry Ritter-Richland, Donna Kary-West Richland, and Gabriel Moreno-Kennewick, asked the Board to add a policy to allow recognition of Maria Rios, who died in an accident, to be recognized during the Richland High School Graduation Ceremony.

Dori Gilmore, Richland, asked to consider adding Title 1 funding to cover the cost of transportation for students involved in enrichment programs, activities after school, and field trips.

Kristen Chapin, West Richland, shared concern that parents were not notified in a timely manner after a luring incident at Enterprise Middle School.

### **2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports**

Shelley Redinger stated the communication regarding the luring incident was not handled well and will not happen again.

Karrin Wierzchowski and Sheila Dehkordi have been working on the District website, started a Student Representative Instagram account, and created a survey for students.

Chelsie Beck finished the Board Governance book and checked in with Dr. Redinger.

Bonnie Mitchell attended the Badger Mountain Passion Project, volunteered for picture day at Jason Lee Elementary, and attended the Richland High School basketball game.

Katrina Waters toured River's Edge High School, Pacific Crest Online Academy, HomeLink, the Lynx Campus, and the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting.

Jill Oldson attended the Science Night at Chief Joseph Middle School and thanked the parent volunteers involved. Ms. Oldson also thanked Toni O'Conner for her work with the Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee. A zoom option is now available for the meetings.

## **3.0 BUSINESS**

### **3.1 Graduation Remembrances**

Mr. Jansons stated the District does not have a policy on this topic, nor do neighboring districts or the Washington State School Directors' Association. Mr. Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, shared research from local social service organizations in the Board packet for review. After researching this topic, there is no agreement when it comes to remembrances.

Board discussion followed including:

- need for a policy going forward to be consistent (allowing flexibility)
- read names, names in program, time for silence, if credits near completion-diploma

- empty chair at ceremony
- involve families
- concern for surviving students
- accident and suicide treated similar?
- students asked for some sort of recognition

Dr. Redinger stated a draft policy will be presented at the March 12, 2024 meeting for review. Mr. Jansons reported there was consensus from Board members to recognize the student by reading her name and have her name included in the program at the least. There will be time for public input on the draft policy at the next meeting before first and second reading of the policy.

### **3.2 Policy/Procedure No. 2145-Suicide, Intervention and Postvention**

Mr. Christensen shared the District is proposing a new Policy No. 2145-Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention. Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) has a similar policy. After discussion, staff members were asked to bring the policy back at the March 12, 2024 meeting.

### **3.3 School Wide Information System (SWIS) Update**

Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education and Behavioral Health, advised last year all schools participated in a School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (SWPBIS) with support from District Coordinators. SWIS is an in-depth information system designed to help schools and districts collect and analyze behavior and discipline data. This gives principals information to make adjustments. The SWIS dashboard gives a quick snapshot of each schools' discipline data. Sean Langdon, Tapteal Elementary Principal, Rachel Clayton, Tapteal Elementary Assistant Principal, and Eric Davis, Chief Joseph Middle School Principal, shared examples of how the tool is used in their schools. This tool is used PreK-12 in the District and allows staff to drill down on specific student behaviors

### **3.4 Early Learning Center (ELC) Update**

Brian Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, stated the purpose of the ELC is to serve families within the District with students 3-5 years old who are on individual education plans (for developmental delays) or have been identified through a risk-factor screening process. ELC provides Richland School District families an early start in services so that students do not fall further behind in the critical years before entering kindergarten. There are two different types of classrooms at the ELC: Special Education Preschool and Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) classrooms. Julie McDougall, ELC Principal, shared qualifications and waiting list information. Mr. Moore advised more seats will be requested for next year. Mr. Jansons asked for a report on future seats granted and the option to provide this service at neighborhood schools.

### **3.5 Bond Project Discussion**

Mr. Jansons explained a Thought Exchange survey is currently available for all stakeholders (students, staff, families, and the community) to share input on projects to be part of a future bond package. The survey will close March 4, 2024. With low passage rates on recent bonds throughout the state, Board members shared thoughts on the timing to place a future bond on the ballot. The need for Town Halls to share information and more community involvement was discussed. The District needs broad community support for projects included in the bond package. Student involvement will be important. Thought Exchange results will be presented at the March 12, 2024

meeting. After reviewing this information, the District will survey again with a narrower focus. Board Leadership will work on Town Hall information for the next meeting as well.

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

It was moved by Chelsie Beck and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.6) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION AND UPDATED 2024/2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR.

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

**4.1 Personnel Actions**

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Meyer, Dan, 0.6 FTE, Title I, River’s Edge High School, effective 2/28/2024 (non-continuing)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Booker, Chess, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 2/23/2024

Jalalyar, Zain, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 2/23/2024

Lukic, Marijana, Paraeducator (Temp.), Early Learning Center, effective 2/23/2024 - 6/12/2024

Moore, Xica, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 2/15/2024

Morris, Jessa, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 2/22/20024

Nondorf, Adam, Paraeducator (Rehire), Hanford High School, effective 2/27/2024

Seadore, Jaida, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 2/12/2024 (corrected date)

Watson, Sara, Paraeducator (Temporary), Desert Sky Elementary, effective 2/23/2024 - 6/12/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

DeLaPaz, Jonah, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 2/29/2024

Scott, Madison, Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary (on LOA), effective 2/20/2024

**4.2 Approval of Minutes (February 6, 2024; February 13, 2024)**

**4.3 2024/2025 School Calendar**

**4.4 Enrollment Monthly**

**4.5 Budget Monthly**

**4.6 Warrant Information**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007683 through 40007695 for \$10,515.62

Nos. 54000668 through 54000673 for \$114,314.37

Nos. 40007696 through 40007702 for \$16,067.95

Nos. 54000674 through 54000675 for \$1,759.04

Capital Projects Fund Warrant No. 20002129 for \$196,113.29

Nos. 52000379 through 52000382 for \$82,539.60

No. 20002130 for \$70,002.80

No. 52000383 for \$4,273.56

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10088748 through 10088751 for \$1,279.97

Nos. 51003295 through 51003316 for \$347,762.40

Nos. 10088752 through 10088756 for \$274,027.42

Nos. 51003317 through 51003326 for \$137,063.8

## **5.0 AGENDAS**

### **5.1 Future Agenda Items**

- Policy-Student Memorials/Remembrances
- Policy-Suicide Preventions, Intervention and Postventions
- Thought Exchange Results

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS