



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 12, 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, March 12, 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 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 5:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:00 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 ninety minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:20 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Ms. Waters participated via Zoom.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 GOOD NEWS

2.2.1 Club 40 Endowment

Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, introduced Ron Holeman and Duke Mitchell, both Columbia High School graduates (now Richland High School). Mr. Holeman shared information about the Club 40 Endowment. This was started when a group of alumni got together at a reunion and started a scholarship fund for current Richland High School students. Over 50 students have been awarded these scholarships. The group decided to shut down after 35 years and gift the remaining funds to the District for further scholarships.

2.2.2 Future Chefs

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, introduced Nutrition Services staff members Dawn Trumball-Director, Cathy Albertson-Assistant Director, and Wendy Marske-Manager. Ms.

Albertson shared the Future Chefs event is sponsored by Sodexo. Fourth and fifth graders submit recipes and each elementary school chooses one finalist to compete at the event. Each competitor is paired with a Tri Tech Culinary student mentor to help prepare their recipe. The grand prize winner was Aria Torrez from Marcus Whitman Elementary. Others in attendance were: Hunter Wintczak-Badger Mountain, Joe Volmer-Jason Lee, Kiptyn Beaman-Desert Sky, and Harper Heilman-William Wiley Elementary.

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

Ronald Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding some disparaging speech about Christian Nationalism in a book he read.

Shelly Burt, West Richland, shared concern that a Special Education update was not on the upcoming agenda and stated paras without special training were instructing children with reading and writing disabilities.

Nino Kapitula, West Richland, shared concern regarding an incident several weeks ago and asked the Board to create a policy to use in the future for similar events.

Roy Romero, Pasco, thanked the Board for work on a policy to address memorials at graduation ceremonies.

2.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger reported spending half-days in each school and will visit Richland High School tomorrow. Dr. Redinger also participated in the Richland Fire Department Strategic Planning meeting.

Karrin Wierzchowski shared a student survey is currently active and asked students to participate. She is also working with other students on end of year events.

Shelia Dehkordi shared all responses to the student survey are anonymous and asked for as much feedback as possible.

Bonnie Mitchell attended the Libby Middle School drama production and other District events.

Jill Oldson met with staff for State and Federal funding information, attended the Boys/Girls Club meeting, the Libby Middle School drama production and worked with Katrina Waters to update the superintendent evaluation process.

Chelsie Beck attended elementary conferences, visited HomeLink and Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA).

Katrina Waters met with Jill Oldson to review frameworks for the superintendent evaluation and will visit Chief Joseph Middle School next week.

Rick Jansons attended the Libby Middle School drama production and the Hanford Dessert Dash fundraiser.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Policy No. 2405-Student Memorials/Remembrances

A draft policy was presented for first reading. Several options were listed in the memo for Board review. Board and Student Representatives discussion included:

- work with family of deceased to understand their wishes for recognition
- read name of the deceased aloud (with family approval)
- include name of the deceased in the graduation program (with family approval)
- private ceremony (case by case)
- empty chair or flowers “in memory of”
- protecting other students/families from sorrow
- honoring deceased students at other senior events

All agreed there is no correct or easy answer on this topic. There was Board consensus on using the term “in memory of”, but no consensus on flowers or a chair on stage. A sentence will be added dealing with diplomas given when graduation credits are completed (only in rare occasions with incident happening shortly before graduation). This policy will be placed on the March 26, 2024 agenda under “Business” for further discussion and possible amendments.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2405-STUDENT MEMORIALS/REMEMBRANCES FOR FIRST READING AS AMMENDED.

Vote: Waters, yes; Mitchell, yes; Beck, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes
Student Representatives: Wierzchowski, yes; Dehkordi, yes
Motion was approved.

3.2 Policy/Pr. No. 2145-Suicide Prevention, Interventions and Postvention-Second Reading

Mr. Christensen advised this is the second reading of Policy/Pr. No. 2145 with the recommended changes from the February 27, 2024 meeting. Mr. Jansons asked to add “refer to Policy No. 2405 for memorials”.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PR. NO. 2145-SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTIONS AND POSTVENTION-SECOND READING AS AMMENDED.

Vote: Waters, yes; Mitchell, yes; Beck, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes
Student Representatives: Wierzchowski, yes; Dehkordi, yes
Motion was approved.

This item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the March 26th meeting.

3.3 Thought Exchange Results / 3.4 Bond Project Discussion / 3.5 Town Hall Discussion

Mr. Jansons advised Items 3.3-Thought Exchange Results, 3.4-Bond Project Discussion, and 3.5-Town Hall Discussion are similar and the discussion on these will be combined.

A ThoughtExchange survey to gather feedback from stakeholders on what they would most like to see in future facilities in order to support the success of our students. The survey ran for several weeks and surveyed staff, students, parents/guardians and community members. A total of 2,215 participants shared 1,965 thoughts and gave 114,672 ratings. Key issues raised included:

- Space and facility upgrades
- Safety and security measures
- Tax concerns
- Need for more information
- Equity and accessibility

Board discussion included:

- third high school-perhaps smaller specialty school/no stadium, etc.
- bond package projects-need to prioritize
- plan Town Hall meetings
- second survey to include prioritized projects
- keep bond tax rate flat

Mr. Jansons shared prioritized projects to include a West Richland choice high school (serving 800-1200 students with student participation in activities at boundary schools), Hanford High School stadium and drama projects, Innovative High School (River's Edge High School and Pacific Crest Online Academy,) Richland High School multipurpose/activity room addition, and funds for land acquisition. Several other projects were discussed. Next steps will be Town Hall planning and a second survey to the stakeholders. Results will be presented at the April 26, 2024 meeting to begin preparation for a bond on the November ballot.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.5) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Vote: Waters, yes; Mitchell, yes; Beck, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes

Motion was approved.

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Anderson, Kathy, 1.0 FTE, Librarian, Carmichael Middle School, effective 8/31/2024
Becker, Stephanie, 1.0 FTE, Kinder, Pacific Crest Online Academy, eff 8/31/2024 (2nd Year Leave)
Hancock, Amy, 0.6 FTE, Math, Hanford High School, effective 8/31/2024 (2nd Year Leave)
Muller, Rebekah, 1.0 FTE, Consultant, Three River's HomeLink, effective 8/31/2024
Wadsworth, Heather, 0.8 FTE, Speech/Language Pathologist, Special Ed., effective 8/31/2024
White, Casey, 1.0 FTE, Language Arts, Hanford High School, effective 8/31/2024

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Antonovich, Carrie, 1.0 FTE, Physical Education, Hanford High School, effective 8/31/2024
Beierle, Beverly, 1.0 FTE, Consultant, Three Rivers HomeLink, effective 8/31/2024

Dartnall, Rebecca, 1.0 FTE, Librarian, Richland High School, effective 8/31/2024
Galvin, Cindy, 1.0 FTE, 2nd Grade, Tapteal Elementary School, effective 8/31/2024
Gilmore, Jeffrey, 1.0 FTE, Music, Orchard Elementary School, effective 8/31/2024
Jenkin, Lisa, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, Marcus Whitman Elementary School, effective 8/31/2024
Lipp, Karen, 1.0 FTE, 2nd Grade, Orchard Elementary School, effective 8/31/2024 (2nd Year Leave)
Moore, Lisa, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 8/31/2024
Osborne, Jay, 1.0 FTE, Physical Education, Orchard Elementary School, Effective 8/31/2024
Peters, Diane, 1.0 FTE, Language Arts, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2024
Whitelow, Diane, 1.0 FTE, 1st Grade, Lewis and Clark Elementary School, effective 8/31/2024
Yetter, Nicole, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, Hanford High School, effective 8/31/2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Riley, Sheila, 4th Grade, White Bluff Elementary (2nd Year Leave)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Bentz, Lindsey, Nutrition Services Team Member, Richland High School, effective 3/7/2024
Brinkerhoff, Cynthia, Nutrition Services Team Member, Chief Joseph MS, effective 3/4/2024
Markussen, Katie, Paraeducator (Replacement Emp.) Badger Mountain., eff. 3/11/2024–6/12/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Ayling, Margret, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 3/7/2024 (from Leave of Absence)
Berg, Chloe, Paraeducator, Libby Middle School, effective 3/29/2024 (will Sub)
Brooks, Felisha, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 2/29/2024
Farris, Tristen, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, effective 3/29/2024
McFarland, Dani, Secretary, Richland High School, effective 3/15/2024
Palm, Danika, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 3/4/2024
Reid, Hope, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford HS, effective 3/15/2024 (will sub)
Webb, Rachele, Nutrition Services Team, Tapteal Elementary, effective 3/15/2024 (will sub)
Zambrano, Joaquin, Asst. Manager, Custodial Services, effective 2/27/2024 (Corrected job title)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Dearinger, Jonna, Secretary, Tapteal Elementary School, effective 6/30/2024
Moore, Vickey, Secretary, Accounts Payable, effective 3/27/2024
Noppavong, Manivone, Custodian, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 5/31/2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Jordan, Elaine, Secretary, Richland High School (2nd Year Leave)

4.2 Approval of Minutes (February 27, 2024)

4.3 Policy No. 3220-Student Publications (deleting Policy No. 3221-Student Publications)

4.4 Resolution No. 971-Establish Private Purpose Trust Fund

4.5 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007703 through 40007712 for \$18,698.38
Nos. 54000676 through 54000677 for \$4,156.84
Nos. 40007713 through 40007729 for \$32,981.16
Nos. 54000678 through 54000682 for \$136,791.65
Capital Projects Fund Warrant No. 20002131 for \$9,083.50
No. 52000384 for \$275.00
No. 20002132 through 20002136 for \$46,944.20
Nos. 52000385 through 52000388 for \$215,510.30
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10088857 through 10088987 for \$1,518,244.74
Nos. 51003328 through 51003351 for \$675,692.92

Nos. 10088990 through 10088993 for \$26,914.02
Nos. 51003352 through 51003393 for \$528,064.87
Payroll Warrant No. 10088743 for \$1,250.00
Nos. 10088757 through 10088812 for \$112,250.66
Nos. 10088813 through 10088856 for \$4,943,072.95
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,426,997.54
Total February Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,483,571.15

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

Possible future topics:

- Melissa Gombosky-Legislative Update (corrected date-April 9, 2024)
- Special Education-add to an April meeting
- Board policy updates
- Summer school

Karrin Wierzchowski shared the State Board of Education is accepting applications from sophomore students to serve as a Student Representative. This is a two-year term and the deadline for applications is March 29, 2024.

Board Workshops were announced for March 29, 2024 (Board Goals) and May 22, 2024 (Board Governance).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS