



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 9, 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, April 9, 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 5:30 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)**

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 6:15 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-All Here**

**2.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

**2.1 GOOD NEWS-National Board Certification**

Kristien McKenzie, Marcus Whitman Principal and Cohort Leader, introduced Alexa David, Math-Chief Joseph Middle School; Karen Johnson-First Grade-Marcus Whitman Elementary; Kaili Olson-Special Education-Marcus Whitman; and Molly Dortch, Instructional Specialist-Marcus Whitman Elementary. All recently earned National Board Certification. Ms. McKenzie explained this process is intensive and requires 400 hours of work. Board members congratulated all for their dedication to teaching.

**2.2 Parent Guardian Advisory Report-No Report Given.**

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

Krista Calvin, Richland Education Association (REA) President, shared the association applied for and received a cash grant from WEA to connect with members of the community. REA chose to donate \$6,000 to the Take Strides to Prevent Youth Suicide Event.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern with support for transgender students by the government and stated some are threatening polices that are concerning.

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

Shelley Redinger spent a half-day at Marcus Whitman Elementary today. Shawna Dinh, Public Information Officer, will be publicizing the Student Representative to the Board application tomorrow on all social media outlets. The RSD Field Day will take place On May 15, 2024.

Student Representatives Sheila Dehkordi and Karrin Wierzchowski reported working on the survey presentation for tonight's meeting over spring break.

### **3.0 BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Legislative Update**

Melisa Gombosky, Gombosky Consulting, shared the Legislative session was just completed with minimal good news for education budgets. Topics discussed were:

- prototypical school staffing-some new dollars but lack of investment
- minimal increased school staffing
- Special Education enhancements
- MSOC-materials/supplies/operating costs-\$94.7M (statewide over four years)
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)-not new spending

Ms. Gombosky shared there were some gains in the capital budget formula to revise the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). She shared there will be many changes next year in the Legislature with several long-term individuals not returning.

#### **3.2 Student Survey Presentation (Social Emotional Learning)**

Karin Wierzchowski and Sheila Dehkordi shared Social Emotional Learning (SEL) survey results from high school students. SEL was implemented this year District-wide K-12. 1,033 responses were received. Above average results were reported with the question regarding having a trusted adult to talk to at school. Most other questions were normal or below average. Board discussion followed including:

- this is the first year for high school students-attention should be paid to student responses to give insight for improvement
- with elementary students moving through the program each year, need to watch for buy in and ways to improve
- impressive report by student representatives

#### **3.3 Policy No. 1810-Board Goals and Objectives**

Ms. Oldson stated she prefers the Washington State School Directors' (WSSDA) policy included in the packet and asked Board members to adopt the updated policy. Four other policies related to this will be presented in the future.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 1810 FOR FIRST READING.

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

Student Representatives: Wierzchowski, yes; Dehkordi, yes

Motion was approved.

### **3.4 Safety and Security Capital Levy Update**

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, recapped the safety and security projects including bidder information and a timeline for project completion. Projects include:

- Elementary / Middle / Choice Schools:
  - Jason Lee, White Bluffs, William Wiley
  - Carmichael, Chief Joseph, Enterprise
  - HomeLink, Lynx, Rivers Edge High School, Pacific Crest Online Academy
- Hanford High School
- Richland High School

Mr. Krasner shared favorable bids will allow the District to fund the much-needed Hanford High School roof replacement. This project is planned for this summer. Mr. Krasner also shared a grant was received, in partnership with the City of West Richland, to allow the purchase of several rapid flashing beacons around West Richland schools for additional safety. The District also received a \$100,000 ADA Equal Access projects grant to help with the addition of ramps, sidewalk, and parking access. Some projects may not be completed by the start of schools but will be less intrusive.

### **3.5 Bond Projects Discussion**

Mr. Jansons stated Town Hall meeting will take place next week with the goal tonight to prioritize projects to share and ask for public input. Mr. Krasner, Mr. Sherman, and Dr. Redinger will attend all Town Halls. Thought Exchange survey results showed much support for the comprehensive third high school. Board members are hoping to keep the tax rate flat in upcoming years, creating a timeline and expected costs for each project. Board members discussed projects including:

- comprehensive high school (phase one)
- innovative secondary school (River's Edge High School/Pacific Crest Online Academy)
- Hanford High School scene shop and stadium
- Richland High School multipurpose room
- land acquisition
- safety and security levy roll over (debt cancellation)
- transportation cooperative (partnership with Kiona Benton)
- various smaller capital projects
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Town Hall meeting items requested are:

- list of all projects with costs and state match dollars
- bond ceiling amount to keep tax rate flat
- prioritize projects within bond ceiling amount
- 10/20-year plan for projects/stages

- access to Thought Exchange will be available at the Town Halls to gather input

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

It was moved by Karina Waters and seconded by Jill Oldson –

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**

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

POSITION ELIMINATED THE END OF THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Beaver, Tyler, Communications Manager, effective 6/30/2024

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Leinback, Kelly, 1.0 FTE, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 8/31/2024

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Calzadillas, Arturo Jr. 1.0 FTE, JROTC Senior Army Instructor, Hanford High School

LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Kenney, Veronica, 1.0 FTE, Science, Three River's Homelink

Mereu, Nathalie, 1.0 FTE, French, Richland High School

Vincent, Kelsey, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Jefferson Elementary

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Green, Ashley, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High School, effective 4/8/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Naef, Cassidy, Paraeducator, Taptal Elementary, effective 5/10/2024

Snargrass, Sasha, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 3/28/2024 (from Leave of Absence)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Spieler, Tabitha, Secretary, Sacajawea Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Leave)

**4.2 Approval of Minutes (March 26, 2024; March 29, 2024)**

**4.3 Policy No. 4327-Contests**

**4.4 CASH GRANT-Richland Education Association-Take Strides Event**

**4.5 Payroll and Warrant Information**

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007754 through 40007757 for \$951.11

Nos. 54000688 through 54000690 for \$2,366.32

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002142 through 20002146 for \$152,040.98

No. 52000391 for \$93,655.92

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10089120 through 10089291 for \$1,231,052.63

Nos. 51003444 through 51003470 for \$772,617.74

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10088988 through 10088989 for \$1,432.85

No. 10088994 for \$405.00

Nos. 10089012 through 10089075 for \$96,892.69

Nos. 10089076 through 10089119 for \$4,947,062.01

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,347,797.24

Total March Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,393,589.79

**5.0 AGENDAS**

**5.1 Future Agenda Items**

Budget Development will be added to the April 23, 2024 agenda and Board Goals will be added to the meeting on May 14, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

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RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

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SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS