



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, August 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, August 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 Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Finance Clinton Sherman, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning Derek O'Konek, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Robert Sorensen, and Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-12 Zac Carpenter.

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 WELCOME-New Student Representatives to the Board of Directors

Ms. Oldson thanked Sheila Dehkordi for her service as Student Representative for the past year. Mr. Jansons introduced the new Student Representatives, Tiffany Qian-Hanford High School, and Abby Koech-Richland High School.

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

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding transgender health.

2.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Dr. Redinger reported the Bond page has been launched on the District website with information on projects included. Superintendent Redinger thanked all staff for their work over the summer to prepare for the start of school.

Jill Oldson attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and asked to discuss the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) General Assembly voting at a future meeting. She also visited several elementary schools.

Chelsie Beck met with new Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Dr. Bryan Jones.

Sheila Dehkordi, former Student Representative, shared the importance of the Link Crew to help with Freshman Day at Richland High School.

Abby Koech, Student Representative, reported on the first day of school and the new cell phone guidelines.

Jen Seacco shared information from the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and reviewed the mission and goals of the group. Recommendations included information posted on the District website, ParentSquare messages, agendas with upcoming topics, etc. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2024.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Security Project Updates

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, stated the construction crews have been working evenings and weekends to complete the Safety and Security Projects made possible by the Capital Projects Levy passed in 2023. Ms. Johnson's update included projects at eleven schools. While most projects have reached substantial completion, both Richland High School and Carmichael Middle School students will need to use alternate entrances for the start of school. A new roof is also being installed at Hanford High School, with completion expected in November. Discussion followed.

3.2 Budget Extension Hearing

Mr. Sherman, Executive Director of Finance, explained any budget extensions, as well as the yearly budget adoption, need to be concluded by the end of August. Mr. Sherman stated several extensions were completed in June but had to be adjusted. Mr. Jansons called the formal hearing for the Budget Extension to order at 7:25 P.M. Mr. Jansons asked for any public comment. There was none. Mr. Jansons asked twice more with no response. Since there were members of the public participating via zoom, the raise hand option was enabled with no response. Mr. Jansons closed the Hearing at 7:27 P.M.

3.3 Resolution No. 979 - Budget Extension

Mr. Jansons asked for a motion.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 979: GENERAL FUND, DEBT SERVICE FUND, AND TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FUND.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Koech, yes; Qian, yes

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

Motion was approved.

3.4 2024/2025 Budget Adopt Hearing

Mr. Jansons stated meetings have been held for the last five months with budget information presented. He called the formal hearing for the 2024/2025 Budget Adoption Hearing to order at 7:29 P.M. Mr. Jansons asked for any public comment. There was none. Mr. Jansons asked twice more with no response. The raise hand option via zoom was also enabled with no response. Mr. Jansons closed the Hearing at 7:30 P.M.

3.5 Resolution No. 980 – 2024/2025 Budget Adoption

Mr. Sherman clarified information from the transportation budget describing how the bus depreciation schedule works. The District will be able to purchase five-six busses this year.

It was moved by Chelsie Beck and seconded by Katrina Waters –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 980 – 2024/2025 BUDGET ADOPTION.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Koech, yes; Qian, yes

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

Motion was approved.

3.6 Cell Phone Usage

Mr. Jansons stated several schools asked to pilot cell phone guidelines beginning this fall. Ms. Oldson reviewed best practices and suggested a book “The Anxious Generation” with data referenced for increased student engagement and mental health benefits. There is no new policy at Richland and Hanford High Schools. Staff members will be enforcing current policy with no cell phones out during class time. Enterprise and Carmichael Middle Schools will not be allowing cell phone use from start bell to end bell. Student Representative and Board discussion included:

- positive input from parents received
- data shows gains in student mental health
- students feel “in the present” with fewer distractions
- need consistent enforcement
- need consistency across schools
- need to include elementary schools
- high school-yearbook/interviews, etc.-exceptions will be needed

Board members asked for feedback from students, staff, and parents. This topic will be discussed at the first Student Advisory meeting later this month. All liked the idea of piloting at several schools, reviewing input, and implementing a consistent policy for second semester. Data will be used to ensure academic benefits and positive student outcomes.

3.7 Policy/PR No. 1250-Student Representatives to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Jansons stated this policy is coming to the Board as first reading again with several requested changes. Several more edits were requested, and a motion was called for.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PR NO. 1250-STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FIRST READING.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Koech, yes; Qian, yes

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

Motion was approved.

3.8 Policy/PR No. 2410-Graduation

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, advised this is similar to the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Policy. Mr. Christensen stated the valedictorian wording is unique to Richland School District and clarified specifics regarding five AP classes or *Running Start* or *College in the High School* classes. The Board also requested language to limit valedictorian speeches to 15 minutes total. Discussion followed included:

- pre-approval required for classes-need consistency
- credit waivers-need consistency
- high school and beyond plans

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PR NO. 2410-GRADUATION FOR FIRST READING WITH CHANGES REQUESTED.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Koech, yes; Qian, yes

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

Motion was approved.

3.9 Parent/Guardian Advisory Discussion

Mr. Jansons stated this group was originated during COVID and the first meeting involved PTA/PTO parents. Mr. Jansons stated looking at other parent advisory groups around the state and found varying ideas for parent groups including but not limited to:

- Structure
 - board driven-parents give input on topics
 - parent driven-parents to provide topics
 - advisory group to the board-meet with group, not staff members
 - board members rotate attendance
 - meetings scheduled well in advance-ParentSquare reminders
 - zoom vs. in person?/no meetings during summer
 - guest speakers from various groups/experts
 - logistics handled by the district

Ms. Oldson and Ms. Waters will work to provide direction for future discussion.

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

Ms. Oldson asked to remove Item 4.2-Approval of Minutes (August 13, 2024).

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1; 4.3; 4.4) THROUGH INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Koech, yes; Qian, yes

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

Motion was approved.

It was moved by Katrina Waters and seconded by Chelsie Beck –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 4.2-APPROVAL OF MINUTES-AUGUST 13, 2024.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Green, Savannah, 1.0 FTE, moving from Instructional Specialist at Jason Lee to Asst. Principal at Marcus Whitman

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Medina, Maisha 1.0 FTE, Counselor, Three Rivers HomeLink

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Blake, Spencer, 0.2 FTE, 0 Hour music, Carmichael Middle School (non-continuing)

Bugg, Rebecca, 4th Grade, Tapteal, to Preschool, Early Learning Center (Admin Transfer)

Cornelius, Kaitlin, Kindergarten, Sacajawea, to Preschool, Early Learning Center (Admin Transfer)

Chittenden, Morgan, TOSA, Early Learning Center, to Preschool, Early Learning Center (Admin Transfer)

Fickle, Michelle, TOSA, Teaching and Learning, to 5th Grade QUEST, Lewis and Clark Elementary (Admin Transfer)

Kookier, Mandy, Kindergarten, Orchard, to Resource Room, Orchard (Admin Transfer)

Rehm, Carol, 5th Grade, Orchard, to Kindergarten, Orchard Elementary (Admin Transfer)

Schuster, Jack, 2nd Grade, William Wiley, to 3rd Grade, Jason Lee Elementary (Admin Transfer)

Steelman, Jamie, Resource Room, Orchard Elementary, to Resource Room, Hanford High School

Streetman, Angela, Kindergarten, Tapteal, to Preschool, Early Learning Center (Admin Transfer)

Van Pelt, Gracelyn, 1st Grade, Orchard, to Preschool, Early Learning Center (Admin Transfer)

DECREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Yeager, Bethany, 0.4 FTE (Now 0.6 FTE), Science, Richland High School (non-continuing)

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Caldwell, Kyle, 0.2 FTE (Now FTE), 0 hour Music, Richland High School (non-continuing)

Caslin, Lauren, 0.3 FTE (Now 0.9 FTE), Science, Richland High School (non-continuing)

Eilefson, Hannah, 0.2 FTE (Now 0.6 FTE), Kinesiology 1st semester, Health 2nd semester, Richland High School (non-continuing)

Garcia, Gabriela, 0.2 FTE (Now FTE), Music, Enterprise Middle School (non-continuing)

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Musick, Cade, 0.2 FTE (Now 0.8 FTE), Social Studies, Richland High School (non-continuing)

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Sullivan, Deborah, 1.0 FTE, 5th Grade QUEST, Lewis and Clark Elementary, effective 8/23/2024

Vincent, Kelsey, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Jefferson Elementary School (2nd Year LOA)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Beo, Jill, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2024 (addition: will Cert Sub)

Coder, Rodney, Custodian, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2024

Gass, Shawn, Office Professional, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 8/15/2024

Palazzo, Avery, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 8/31/2024

Sills, Stephanie, Paraeducator, Pacific Crest Online Academy, effective 8/31/2024

Turner, Grace, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 8/31/2024

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Lane, Joseph, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 8/31/2024

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Humphrey, Brandon, Administrative Assistant (temp position) from Security, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 8/23/2024

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Bower, Marci, Paraeducator, River's Edge High School, effective 8/26/2024

Escobar, Rhapsodi, Paraeducator (Temp.), Marcus Whitman, eff. 8/26/2024 - expected 12/20/2024

Frogoza, Chelsie, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 8/26/2024

Gormley, Gretchen, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 8/26/2024

Lukic, Marijana, Paraeducator (Rehire), Early Learning Center, effective 8/26/2024

Hernandez, Elena, Nutrition Services Team Member, Carmichael Middle School

Ochoa, Kendra, Paraeducator, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 8/26/2024

Petty, Laurel, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary School, effective 8/26/2024

Pistoljevic, Landon, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 8/26/2024

Reid, Hope, Nutrition Services Team Member, Leona Libby Middle School

Sharpe, Rebecca, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 8/26/2024

Toner, Nikki, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 8/26/2024

Wallskog, Noelle, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 8/26/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Settle, Charlea, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 9/07/2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Deffinbaugh, Katie, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 8/26/2024 - 6/10/2025

Michael, Linda, Nutrition Services Kitchen Manager, Sacajawea Elementary School, 2nd year LOA

Reid, Lorrie, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 8/26/2024 - 6/10/2025

REINSTATED

Miller, Donald, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 6/1/2023

4.2 Approval of Minutes (August 13, 2024)

4.3 CASH GRANT – Washington STEM Foundation-High School to Postsecondary (H2P)

4.4 Budget Monthly Approval

4.5 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007858 through 40007864 for \$11,399.41

No. 54000731 for \$578.40

No. 40007865 for \$100.00

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002217 through 20002219 for \$599,744.87

Nos. 20002220 through 20002221 for \$2,739.40

No. 52000418 for \$48,895.00

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10090215 for \$4,165.93

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

- WSSDA General Assembly Vote-September 10, 2024
- Balanced Calendar-future agenda

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS