



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 22, 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, October 22, 2024, at 5:00 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, and Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g); Legal-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i))

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), and discussion with legal counsel of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation, if public discussion might result in an adverse legal or financial consequence. (Does not permit an executive session solely because attorney is present.) 42.30.110 (1) (i). The Executive session was projected to last thirty minutes, with no action expected. Mr. Jansons extended Executive Session at 5:30 for ten minutes. Executive Session was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 5:40 P.M.

1.0 BOARD WORKSHOP

Agenda Topic:

***Board Meeting Structure**

Board members shared topics for Board Workshops/Study Sessions/Special Meetings to be held before the next several meetings (5:30-6:30 P.M.). If Executive Sessions are needed, they could be scheduled before or after the Regular Board meeting.

- (November 12, 2024) Balanced calendar/start and stop times
- (December 10, 2024) Inclusionary Practices-Early Learning Center (ELC)/District Professional Development for general education staff
- (Date TBD) 24 credits and credit recovery
- (Date TBD) Policy around budget safeguards/Board oversight
- (January 14, 2024) Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) programs/planning/credit retrieval

Other ideas included: tracking system for meeting topics/draft policy; one meeting per month focusing on impacting students/one for business. If no Board discussion needed, put item on the Consent Agenda.

The Special meeting was adjourned at 6:14 P.M.

The Regular Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

2.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.2 Roll Call-All Here

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 RECOGNITIONS-Desert Sky Elementary-Heart Safe School

Nicki Blake, Desert Sky Principal, introduced members of the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) and Josh Smith, Richland Fire Department, who led the training. To earn the Heart Safe status at least 70% of staff members must complete the training, an automated external defibrillator (AED) must be within three-minute access in the building, and staff must conduct drills twice a year.

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

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding transgender students.

Colleen Mangano, West Richland, shared concern regarding Structured and BESST classes. Ms. Mangano feels the District will lose the special teachers these students have.

Helen Boyd, West Richland, shared concern regarding a balanced calendar and options to change start times. Mr. Jansons stated there will be a balanced calendar discussion before the November 12, 2024 meeting.

Vicki Davis, Richland, shared concerns regarding the upcoming bond and possible programs being cut. Mr. Jansons stated the District has not cut any programs and coaches are being paid.

3.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger attended the First Annual Regional Family Resource event and reported tonight is the Community Based Transition Classroom (CBTC) Family Open House. She also stated this is Principal Appreciation Month and recognized all principals for their dedication to students!

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian reported on activities at Hanford High School including Homecoming, Pink Out for Breast Cancer, and a blood drive to be held next week.

Abby Koech shared security update concerns at Richland High School. She also reported on a leadership meeting and a Pink Event at the football game this week.

Bonnie Mitchell reported gathering input from students on cell phone guidelines.

Jill Oldson attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and an Artificial Intelligence (AI) conference.

Katrina Waters attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting. She also requested better communication on graduation credit recovery and asked for information regarding middle school leadership classes.

Chelsie Beck attended the Annual Employer Dinner and the Tapteal Elementary/WSU Partnership Ribbon Cutting.

Rick Jansons stated funding has changed and many districts have laid off staff members. Richland has not done that. He advised the State has decreased our levy amount and all costs are higher. The District is trying to minimize the impact on students, while being as frugal as possible.

4.0 BUSINESS

4.1 Student Cell Phone Update

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, introduced Principals Nicole Anderson-Richland High School, Mike Johnson-Hanford High School, Sheldon Weddle-Enterprise Middle School, and Brian Stadelman-Carmichael Middle School. Each Principal shared feedback on cellphone usage at their schools. High school students have access to cell phones during passing times and lunch periods, while middle school students' access is limited from bell to bell.

High School Principals reported teacher teams have been very excited and supportive. Expectations were set and there was push back at first, but after the initial change, evidence has been good. Students are socializing more and are more engaged. There are exceptions for health and translation access.

Enterprise and Carmichael Middle Schools began enforcing no cell phone use in classes and changed to no access bell to bell this year. Feedback from parents and staff members has been good. Students are talking and laughing with each other and the overall stress level is much different. Attendance and discipline referrals have also improved. Board discussion followed including:

- policy for middle school-bell to bell
- policy for high school-no classroom use (teach good cell phone practice)
 - high school students have more outside responsibilities (jobs, activities/athletics, rides)
 - high schools have open campus for lunch
- possible policy implementation at semester break
- continue with no policy at elementary

Mr. Jansons asked for a draft policy at the next meeting.

4.2 Capital Projects Levy Update

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, stated eleven school sites received upgrades. Staff can better manage visitors, parents and students when they arrive at schools. The exterior main entry doors are unlocked during "business hours". The interior vestibule doors remain locked until visitors are approved to enter. The biggest change for students will be at the high school campuses with the new perimeter fencing. Each high school campus will have designated entry points for students that are set to bell schedules, with the remaining perimeters staying secure. Ms. Johnson reported projects are 95% complete. The Hanford High School Roof project is near completion,

with only two sections still under construction. The roof project should be completed within two weeks.

Board members requested a report with missing components listed for each site. Good communication regarding bell schedules and updated emergency plans will be needed. Dr. Redinger reported all projects are under budget.

4.3 Enrollment Monthly

Superintendent Redinger reviewed the October enrollment with current enrollment at 13,894 FTE (full time equivalent) students including Running Start. She advised Kindergarten enrollment is remaining lower than normal.

4.4 Budget Monthly

Dr. Redinger reported on several new documents to be used in future Board packets for more transparency. Documents showed year to date actuals, salary and benefits by month, and materials, supplies, and other costs (MSOC). The District's planned spending trajectory will lead to an increase in fund balance to 2%, then move to 4%. Board members appreciated the budget vs. spending comparison from year to year. Dr. Redinger will also be instituting a monthly system to show when the District falls below certain metrics.

4.5 Policy/PR No. 3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences

Mr. Christensen stated this policy is overdue for updating. The policy number is being changed to 3122 and the name is being changed to "Excused and Unexcused Absences" to align with the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) current policy.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PR NO. 3122-EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES 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.

4.6 Policy/PR No. 3120-Enrollment

The District currently has a small enrollment section in Policy No. 3111. That paragraph will be moved to this new policy. Policy No. 3111 will be brought to the Board for first reading at a future meeting.

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Bonnie Mitchell –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY/PR NO. 3120-ENROLLMENT 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.

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1) THROUGH (5.7) 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.

5.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Sherman, Clinton, Executive Director, Financial Services, effective 10/31/2024

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Frey, Jessy, 1.0 FTE, Special Education BESST, Sacajawea, eff. 10/14/2024 (coming from para)

Markussen, Katie, 1.0 FTE, Supplemental Support Teacher, Jefferson Elementary, effective 10/11/2024 (non-continuing to continuing)

O'Day, Matisse, 1.0 FTE, Supplemental Support Teacher, William Wiley, effective 10/21/2024 (non-continuing, coming from sub)

Schuster, Peyton, 1.0 FTE, 4th Grade, Badger Mountain, effective 10/21/2024 (non-continuing)

Tolrud, Anna, 1.0 FTE, 4th Grade, Badger Mountain, effective 10/14/2024 (non-continuing)

TEMPORARY OUT OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Frey, Jessy, Special Education BESST, Sacajawea Elementary (In Program)

*Individuals above are being reported per WAC 392-172A-02090

OUT OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR (Educator Equity Report)

Aichele, Tamra, Robotics and Computer Science, Three Rivers Homelink

Fairfield, Randy, English Language Arts, Three Rivers Homelink

*Individuals above are being reported per WACs 181-82-110 and 181-77-014.

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Namchek, Estela, Nutrition Services Team Member, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 10/21/24

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Fernandez, Chelsea, Nutrition Services Team Member, Jason Lee Elementary School, effective 10/11/24 (corrected from effective date 10/18/24)

Jackson, Janine, Paraeducator, Special Education, effective 10/10/2024

King, Onie, Office Professional, Hanford High School, effective 10/14/2024

Richardson, Angelika, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/21/2024 (will sub)

Wagner, Ross, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 10/18/2024 (will sub)

Vargas Zambrano, Sandra, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High, effective 10/25/24

5.2 Approval of Minutes (October 8, 2024)

5.3 Affirmative Action Annual Review

5.4 Policy/PR No. 4130-Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement

5.5 Policy/PR No. 3246-Restraint, Isolation, and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

5.6 CASH GRANT-Williams Wiley PTA-School Needs-Renaissance AR/Star

5.7 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007942 through 40007954 for \$45,967.86
Nos. 54000747 through 54000750 for \$134,983.27
Nos. 40007938 through 40007941 for \$7,346.91
Nos. 54000744 through 54000746 for \$4,234.17
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002259 through 20002260 for \$21,740.40
No. 52000425 for \$10,474.93
Nos. 20002250 through 20002258 for \$441,825.82
No. 52000424 for \$33.30
Debt Services Fund Warrant No. 30000144 for \$2,750.00
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10090669 through 10090675 for \$15,526.43
Nos. 51004109 through 51004132 for \$750,554.56
Nos. 10090662 through 10090668 for 944.00
Nos. 51004074 through 51004108 for \$3,241.65

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

Board members requested a Board Workshop/Special meeting before the November 12, 2024 meeting to discuss Balanced Calendar options. Dr. Redinger shared Greg Pipkins, former Director of Information Technology, had recently passed away and will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS