



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, November 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, November 12, 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, 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 Director of Information Technology Glenn Whitcomb.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g))

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 sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 5:30 P.M.

The Board Special Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 5:32 P.M.

1.0 Board Workshop (5:30-6:30 P.M.)

Agenda Topic:

***Balanced Calendar**

Discussion included:

- end first semester before winter break
 - 90 days before and 90 days afterward
- 7-8 week summer break
- more short breaks during the year
- not for 2025/2026-possible 2026/2027 school year
- work with bargaining groups
- consider operations-minimal impact
- trimesters vs. semesters
- start times-later start times beneficial for secondary students/share examples
 - need community/parent input/support
- keep expenses cost neutral

The Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

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

2.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.2 Roll Call-All Here

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 RECOGNITION-2025 Washington State American Junior Academy of Sciences

Delegates

Liz Lee, Hanford High School Counselor, introduced Isabella Pinto and Nicole Samaan, Hanford High School Seniors, who were recently chosen as Washington State Delegates to the American Junior Academy of Science. Each submitted an original STEM research project and shared details of their projects.

3.2 Student Advisory Report

Lana Hanna, Hanford High School Student, shared topics from the Student Advisory meeting including: career preparedness and social emotional learning. Students suggested high school students help share information with eighth graders regarding class selections. They also requested more information about scholarship opportunities.

3.3 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Isaac Stanfield, Parent, reported on topics from the recent meeting including:

Graduation credit issues: Pathways program, counselors more assessable, seven period days or trimesters, High School and Beyond Plan-begin planning in sixth grade.

Balanced Calendar suggestions:

Eight-week summer break, align with other districts, possible trimester schedule, summer school makeup period, mandatory breaks for students participating in activities. The next meeting will take place on November 18, 2024.

3.4 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual-30-minute total)

Mr. Jansons acknowledged many rumors have been shared. He advised although assessed property values have increased, the District does not receive an increase. The District only receives a flat amount. Districts that are property-poor receive greater levy equalization dollars. The State lowered the Richland School District equalization allotment by \$10M. The District earlier made cuts to administration and contracts but did not cut staff. A plan to reduce paras has been pulled back.

Board members asked staff to first look at non-staff cuts and contracts (things that don't directly affect students or staff). Second, to look at the least impact on students, and third, do most through attrition to avoid layoffs. Staff members have been asked to share a comprehensive plan at the next Board meeting.

Mike Pratt, Richland, shared concern with reductions in paras while administrator salaries have increased.

Nicole Pratt, Para-Hanford High School, shared concern with recent budget issues, asked for accountability of funds, and reported communication was poor.

Mary Ennis, Para-William Wiley Elementary, shared the importance of the work done by Paras with daylong contact with students.

Toni Stocker, Richland, shared concern regarding the District budget issues and stated teachers and Paras are needed to support students.

Krista Calvin, Richland Education Association (REA) President, spoke in support of Paras and asked all to continue to lobby State Legislators for increased funding.

Celina Elisondo, Teacher-Jefferson Elementary, shared concern regarding lack of transparency from the District and lack of empathy and respect for Paras.

Kathleen Werschke, Richland, shared concern with cuts at this time of year and stated Paras are a critical part of our schools.

Annie Carlsen, Para Union Chapter President, shared concern regarding the lack of warning and communication from the District regarding Para cuts and asked District staff to follow the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Kimberly Cothorn, Teacher at White Bluffs Elementary, shared concern regarding specific one on one paras for students and the training needed.

Peggy Pilger, Para, stated the budget should have been on tonight's agenda and asked for an overall plan.

Honor Crawford, Richland, shared data on students who need behavioral support and the need for trained Paras to assist these students.

Mr. Jansons apologized on behalf of the District for the recent communication. He advised Board members value all staff, both certified and classified. The hope is to do more reductions through attrition. Many districts have had to lay off teachers and/or close schools.

Dr. Redinger stated the District needs to cut \$2.5M this year. A comprehensive plan will be presented at the next Board meeting, with more cuts in the upcoming year.

3.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Chelsie Beck visited Sacajawea Elementary and saw the new CKLA curriculum in use.

Katrina Waters toured Tapteal Elementary.

Jill Oldson visited Tapteal Elementary and the Early Learning Center.

Bonnie Mitchell toured Tapteal Elementary. Ms. Mitchell advised she removed a previous social media post on her own and was not censored.

Student Representatives:

Abby Koech congratulated Future Farmers of America (FFA) and several athletic teams for success at State competitions. Richland High School is starting a *Winter Wish Program*. She shared concern regarding gates and parking at Richland High School.

Tiffany Qian stated Hanford High School is also starting the *Winter Wish Program*, the swim team is going to State, and construction is mostly complete with a new front entrance.

Rick Jansons attended the Science Night at Chief Joseph Middle School.

4.0 BUSINESS

4.1 Bond Update

Board members discussed next steps since the recent bond did not pass. Ideas included:

- wait until after the District runs the Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Levy-(need for a levy outweighs the need for a bond)
- gather input from community, possible choice school
- run two smaller bonds-address River's Edge High School first

Board discussion followed. There was consensus to run a M & O Levy before placing a Bond on the ballot.

4.2 Policy No. 3244-Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Communication Devices

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, stated the policy was shared with Principals for further input prior to this meeting. Several changes were suggested and will be included in the Policy for the Second Reading on November 26, 2024 meeting.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3244-CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR FIRST READING WITH SUGGESTED CHANGES.

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

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

Motion was approved.

4.3 Policy No. 3110-Qualifications of Attendance and Placement

Mr. Christensen stated the proposed changes include changing the policy number to 3110 and the policy name to *Qualifications of Attendance and Placement* to align with WSSDA. Additional policy changes include removing the “Enrollment” section and moving it to Policy 3120 Enrollment, and new sections on “Age of Admission” and “Admission of Student Aged Twenty-One or Older”.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3110-QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT FOR FIRST READING WITH SUGGESTED CHANGES.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Koech, yes; Qian, yes
Vote: Waters, yes; Mitchell, yes; Beck, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes
Motion was approved.

4.4 Policy No. 2190-Highly Capable Programs

Mr. Christensen advised the first update is to change the numbering of “Policy 2166” to “Policy 2190” and the name to “Highly Capable Programs”. The updated policy defines four objectives to the Highly Capable Programs. The update also corrects misinformation about the requirement of Senate Bill 5072 to screen all students for Highly Capable Programs. Instead, the District must universally screen only for two elementary grade levels.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2190-HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAMS FOR FIRST READING AS AMMENDED.

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)

Mr. Jansons asked to pull Item No. 5.4-Policy No. 3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.5; 5;6) 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.

Ms. Waters asked to add “and participate in class activities” (third paragraph on page 1) to Policy 3122. She explained this will follow current practice.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 5.4-POLICY NO. 5.4-EXUCSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AS AMENDED.

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

DECEASED

Pipkins, Gregory, Director of Information and Technology, effective 10/15/2024

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Jacobs, Chris, 1.0 FTE, History, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 2/01//2025

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Ayling, Margret, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/24/2024

Davies, Jennifer, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 10/17/2024

Graham, Kerri , Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/22/2024

Gurwell, Carol, Nutrition Services Kitchen Manager Backup, Chief Joseph MS, effect. 11/4/2024

Nunez Perez, Reynaldo, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/28/2024

Post, Nichole, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High School, effective 11/8/24

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Bjerkestrand, Kurt, Information Technology Analyst 2, Financial Services, effective 11/14/2024

Bradley, Bailee, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/8/2024

Bushell, Amberly, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 11/27/2024

Enos, Kristal, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/8/2024

Escobar, Rhapsodi, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 11/15/2024

Gibson, Ryan, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, eff. 11/18/2024

Izaguirre, Elsa, Office Professional, Career & Technical Education, effective 11/8/2024

Montes De Oca, Jesus HVAC, Support Services, effective 11/22/2024

Namchek, Estela, Nutrition Services Team Member, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 11/19/24

Porter, Grace, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 11/7/2024 (will sub)

Soyars, Heather, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/31/2024

Toner, Nikki, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 11/1/2024 (will sub)

5.2 Approval of Minutes (October 22, 2024)

5.3 School Growth Profiles

5.4 Policy No. 3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences

5.5 Policy No. 3120-Enrollment

5.6 Payroll and Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007955 through 40007967 for \$27,888.25

Nos. 40007968 through 40007972 for \$10,272.99

Nos. 54000751 through 54000753 for \$31,192.02

Nos. 40007973 through 40007984 for \$52,864.94

Nos. 54000754 through 54000756 for \$137,938.60

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002261 through 20002264 for \$281,464.04

No. 52000426 for \$132,641.44

Nos. 20002265 through 20002276 for \$1,363,026.37

Nos. 52000427 through 52000428 for \$ 709,466.57

Nos. 20002277 through 20002282 for \$53,722.41

Nos. 52000429 through 52000433 for \$189,454.25

General Fund Warrant No. 10090783 for \$7,108.12

Nos. 51004134 through 51004139 for \$31,453.07

Nos. 10090784 through 10090927 for \$2,386,787.61

Nos. 51004140 through 51004267 for \$1,350,761.56

Nos. 10090931 through 10090932 for \$12,358.95

Nos. 51004268 through 51004272 for \$378,293.32

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10090657 through 10090659 for \$7,537.71

Nos. 10090676 through 10090735 for \$104,487.02
Nos. 10090736 through 10090782 for \$5,199,076.34
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,922,414.87
Total October Payroll approved in the amount of \$17,233,515.94

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

- Add Budget Update with a comprehensive plan to the November 26, 2024 agenda.

Other items to track:

- high school options for the next five years
- gate and access issues
- guest Wifi hotspot/cyber attack
- parking

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS