



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, November 26, 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 26, 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 Secondary Education Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, 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 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 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 minimum selling price for real estate if public knowledge might depress the price (final action selling or leasing real estate must be taken in public meeting) 42.30.110 (1) (c). The executive session was projected to last thirty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:29 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance-Cub Scout Pack 248

1.2 Roll Call-All participated. Ms. Oldson participated via Zoom.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Marisa Dunfee, Hanford High School, shared topics reviewed at the November meeting including cell phone usage, balanced calendars, and bullying. High school students seem to be adjusting to using cell phones only during passing times and lunch break. Regarding balanced calendars, students preferred the semester ending before winter break, with AP testing moving to early May. Students reported bullying is more prevalent from freshman/sophomore students and cyber bullying is difficult to control.

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

Mr. Jansons explained the next several weeks the District will be restructuring. Other districts in the state have had to cut budgets and even close schools. This is not unique to Richland. Staff

members are donating days of pay, but further cuts will be necessary. Mr. Jansons asked for patience from staff and the community.

Michelle Blackburn, Librarian-Hanford High School, shared concern regarding the cut in Para hours for those working in the libraries. Ms. Blackburn stated Paras are needed to assist students with Chromebook issues.

Kim Maldonado, Instructional Coach-Hanford High School, shared the same concern regarding the reduction of Para hours in libraries. Ms. Maldonado mentioned technology, student support, and collaboration with teachers as part of a Para's positions.

Paul Gessel, Counselor-Hanford High School, stated his willingness to allow certificated staff to donate a day's pay and supported the need for Paras.

Daniel Porter, Librarian-Richland High School, cited the need for Paras to assist students with technology.

Rhonda Howard, Librarian-Libby Middle School, stated Paras are pulled to other areas to fill in during absences. Ms. Howard shared a Para's schedule is divided into short segments.

Thomas Evers, Parent, shared concern regarding agenda item 4.3-Certification of Excess Property Taxes and asked if the District had been through an independent audit. Dr. Redinger explained the District undergoes yearly audits. She advised if the Bond measure had been approved, the capital project levy payoff was included and would be paid with those funds. Since the Bond was not successful, the Resolution was needed to reinstate the previous payment. This is not an additional tax.

Ron Higgins, Richland, read the Mayflower Compact and shared the Board members took an Oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Nicole Pratt, Para-Hanford High School, shared frustration that the budget crisis has been going on for years and salaries increases have been too high.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger visited River's Edge High School for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. She thanked staff members and students for their positive attitude.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian attended the annual Washington State School Directors (WSSDA) Conference where she made many connections with students across the state and attended break-out sessions.

Abby Koech recognized the teams going to state competition and stated Winter sports have begun. The Food Drive at Richland High School was very successful. She also commented on the connections made at the recent WSSDA Conference.

Bonnie Mitchell attended the opening night of the drama production at Libby Middle School and enjoyed sessions at the WSSDA Conference.

Katrina Waters shared information on several sessions at the WSSDA Conference. At all sessions she heard about cutbacks around the state and hopes funding will not continue to decline.

Chelsie Beck attended the WSSDA Conference, visited Jefferson Elementary, attended parent conferences, and a high school musical event.

Jill Oldson attended the WSSDA Conference and budget workshops. She shared the District needs to advocate for Legislative issues to address the decline in funding.

Rick Jansons also attended the WSSDA Conference. He advised the District will make it through this budget crisis by reaching out to the community to hear priorities and moving forward together.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Legislative Priorities

Melissa Gombosky, Liaison, reported continuing a state-wide effort to advocate for additional funding for school. Ms. Gombosky shared legislative priorities for the upcoming budget year including:

1. Address the gap in funding for special education services
2. Funding for materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC)-not kept pace with raising costs
3. Salary Gap-State funding for salaries does not fully cover actual cost of compensating employees
4. Update the prototypical staffing model to provide appropriate staffing levels-model is outdated

Ms. Gombosky also shared recent election results State-wide. The State is facing a large budget deficit, \$10-\$12 Billion, just to maintain current programs and services. A tax package is a likely response from lawmakers. Ms. Gombosky is meeting with local Legislators to advocate for increased funding.

Ms. Waters mentioned substitute costs and discussion regarding cuts to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) are a concern. There was consensus from Board members to prioritize all four of the priorities presented.

3.2 Budget Update

Dr. Redinger stated several factors have compounded the District's financial situation including: State funding gaps, enrollment fluctuations, substitute costs, decreased regionalization funding, and growing expenditures. Board discussion followed including: Town Halls to gather further input with parents, students, and the community, prioritize programs, review state matching dollars-write grants, and review staff allocations. Superintendent Redinger advised she will be presenting another budget update at the December 10, 2024 meeting.

3.3 Policy No. 2320-Field Trips and Out of District Overnight Travel

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, stated this update is consistent with WSSDA's policy. The District also has Policy 3300-Student Out-of-District Overnight Travel. The administration is proposing to combine Policy 2320 and Policy 3300 into one Policy, 2320 Field Trips and Out-of-District Overnight Travel.

The proposed changes include retitling the Policy to “Field Trips and Out-of-District Overnight Travel”, adopting language from 3300 into the Policy, and moving a section of the Policy to procedures. Mr. Christensen was asked to check the legal references listed for accuracy.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2320-FIELD TRIPS AND OUT OF DISTRICT OVERNIGHT TRAVEL 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.

3.4 Policy No. 3143-Notification and Dissemination of Information About Student Offenses and Notification of Violence or Harm

Mr. Christensen reported the District currently has Policy 4413 Release of Information Concerning Sexual Offenders. WSSDA retired this Policy in August 2020, due to redundant language in Policy 3143. The District is proposing to adopt Policy 3143 and delete Policy 4413. Mr. Christensen stated this Policy has been shared with the mental health assistance team for their input. Board discussion followed and there was consensus to bring the policy back to the next meeting with suggestions mentioned for First Reading.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA (approval by a single vote of the Board)
It was moved by Chelsie Beck and seconded by Katina Waters –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.9) 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.

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

REDUCTION IN FORCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Johnson, Caren, Director of Capital Projects, effective 12/31/2024

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Siekawitch, Suzanne Extended Resource Room, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 12/05/2024

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Lafon, Katelyn, Bus Attendant to Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 10/28/2024

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

DePeel, Mike, Plumber, Support Services, effective 11/30/2024

Gibson, Ryan, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, effective 11/19/2024 (date correction)

Gutierrez, Brianna, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 11/21/2024

Palencia, Mikaela, Paraeducator, Orchard Elementary, effective 12/3/2024

Warren, Shonna, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 11/30/2024

Workman, Travis, Electrician, Support Services, effective 11/22/2024

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Williams, Jerlene, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 12/31/2024

Wright, Pam, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/31/2025

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Caballero, Andrea, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 10/7/2024 - 6/10/2025

Kasselder, Alicia, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 8/26/2024 - 6/10/2025

Millikin, Aremy, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/21/2024 - 6/10/2025

Morales, Juan, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 1/13/2025 - 5/09/2025

REDUCTION IN FORCE FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Ayon, Michael, Information Technology Team Lead, IT, effective 12/6/2024

4.2 Approval of Minutes (November 12, 2024)

4.3 Resolution No. 981-Certification of Excess Property Taxes

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

4.5 Policy No. 3110-Qualitfication of Attendance and Placement

4.6 Policy No. 2190-Highly Capable Programs

4.7 Enrollment Monthly

4.8 Budget Monthly

4.9 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40007985 through 40008006 for \$25,024.43

Nos. 54000757 through 54000758 for \$9,082.84

Nos. 40008007 through 40008020 for \$16,828.44

Nos. 54000759 through 54000762 for \$13,992.28

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002283 through 20002287 for \$373,830.24

No. 52000434 for \$32,750.42

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10090934 through 10090937 for \$90,264.85

Nos. 51004273 through 51004357 for \$9,533.00

No. 10091042 for \$81.31

Nos. 51004391 through 51004421 for \$37,422.35

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

Board Workshop dates:

- December 10, 2024 - Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Discussion
- January 14, 2024 – Inclusionary Practices-Early Learning Center/District Wide Professional Development for General Education Staff

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS