



Board of Directors, Special Meeting/Workshop/Regular Meeting Minutes,
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
BENTON COUNTY, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The Board of Directors of Richland School District No. 400 met for a Special Meeting/Workshop/Regular meeting Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 5:30 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 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 Special Meeting/Workshop was called to order at 5:31 P.M.

1.0 BOARD WORKSHOP (5:30-6:30 P.M.)

Agenda Topic: Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Discussion

Jen Klauss, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, shared information about each option:

River’s Edge High School:

- On -site, in-person learning: Trimester classroom model with innovative pedagogy, includes contract learning; 238 students in grades 9-12

Pacific Crest Online Academy:

- Online-only learning: Flexible, accessible synchronous and asynchronous options; 390 students in grades 6-12

Three River’s HomeLink:

- Parent Parentship Program; Collaborative education model for homeschool families, virtual asynchronous courses through Red Comet or Edgenuity; 405 students in grades K-5, 191 students in 6-8, and 161 students in grades 9-12

Future Thinking:

- In-person classes: Engaging, hands-on instruction at school
- Virtual Synchronous Learning: Live online classes for real-time interaction
- Virtual Asynchronous Learning: Self-Paced modules for independent study
- Contracted Learning: Customized projects based on student interests
- Parent Partnership: Co-created learning plan supported by the school

Discussion followed including:

- classes that may be duplicated in each program or gaps
- costs per student/total operating costs-cost saving options
- possible reimaging of ALE schools
- no options for growing space currently

Board members shared public input is needed before any decisions will be made. Mr. Jansons recessed the Special Meeting/Workshop at meeting at 6:21 P.M.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:31 P.M.

2.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.2 Roll Call-Ms. Oldson participated via Zoom-All others were in attendance.

2.3 Board Officer Election

There was consensus to move the election of officers to the January 14, 2025 meeting. Ms. Oldson will bring an updated policy for consideration.

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 RECOGNITION-Tapteal Elementary/Washington State University (WSU) Partnership

Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, introduced Sean Langdon, Tapteal Elementary Principal, Rachel Clayton Tapteal Assistant Principal, Dr. Jon Mancinelli, WSU Associate Professor/Career Track, and Araceli Mendoza, WSU Student. All shared information on the partnership and the ability for WSU students to see teaching in action. With the connections developed, many students will stay in the community as future teachers.

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

Kevin Laws, Teacher, shared concern regarding the consolidation of Jazz Band classes being considered.

Sean Fox, Parent, is in favor of the Early Learning Center and shared the long-term benefits of early childhood education programs.

Alexis Winborg, Para, shared concern regarding specific budget funding concerning Title 1 and LAP funds.

Dan Evans, Parent/Guardian, shared concern regarding budget issues and suggested advocating to Olympia for increased funding.

Barbara Scully, Parent/Guardian, shared concern regarding music programs in our schools and stated these programs provide great benefits to students.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared his daughter is a teacher at WSU and the upcoming caliber of teachers will be great.

Bryan Blair, Richland, stated traditional school didn't work for his daughter and is concerned regarding changes to the HomeLink.

Megan Pope, Richland, feels Board members don't understand the HomeLink program and parents will withdraw their students if changes are made. These students will not enroll in traditional high school and the District will lose funding.

Katie Koegler, Teacher-HomeLink, shared concern regarding changes to HomeLink and feels staff members were not involved in these discussions.

Hope Blair, Student, shared HomeLink is an amazing school, attends school two days a week, and feels HomeLink is perfect for her.

Debbie Savino, Teacher-Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA), stated many students enrolled come with Special Education needs or are students that struggle in regular schools. Teachers work to accommodate student access at varied times of the day.

Kim Koegler, Richland, stated Board members are uninformed on how HomeLink operates and feels HomeLink fills a need for families in the community.

Carolyn Sturges, Teacher-HomeLink/PCOA, stated the ALE programs are not redundant and serve different students. All work well for kids who won't be successful at a regular school.

Board discussion followed including:

- not planning to cut seats at the Early Learning Center but the State may cut some ECEAP spots
- board members are only allowed to have discussions at a public meeting
- board members have not made decisions already-purpose is to gather feedback
- goal is not to cut programs but to combine when overlapping occurs due to budget issues

Kevin Laws, Band Teacher-Enterprise Middle School, stated combining levels would not be good for the music program.

3.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley reported on several events including a shed fire (to be replaced this spring), a car crash at Lewis and Clark Elementary, and a fire in the Science Wing at Hanford High School with extensive water damage from the sprinkler system. The roof project at Hanford High School is near completion and within budget. The Safety and Security projects are mostly completed staying within budget.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian reported on events at Hanford High School including a choir concert, craft bizarre Winter Wishes, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) competition. Delta High School is also having a Blood Drive.

Abby Koech, shared events at Richland High School including Spirit Week, basketball games, and an assembly next week. She also visited Badger Mountain Elementary and the Hanford High School Leadership class.

Bonnie Mitchell has been talking to staff and parents regarding creative ideas for budget issues.

Katrina Waters is listening to input from staff and parents on budget ideas, reading District negotiated agreements, and will tour Desert Sky Elementary this week

Chelsie Beck will also tour Desert Sky Elementary.

Jill Oldson thanked the community for input and asked for more information on the high school gates and Wi-Fi access.

Rick Jansons reported on the fire and the roof project at Hanford High School. He also toured Richland High School and Carmichael Middle School.

4.0 BUSINESS

4.1 State Board of Education Presentation

Ron Mabry, State Board of Education Representative (former WSSDA President and Kennewick School Board member), offered to help advocate to Legislators for District needs. He also encouraged the Board to incorporate more everyday learning such as financial learning, classes to gain hands on knowledge, and incorporate more real-world experiences for credits.

4.2 Budget Update

Dr. Redinger introduced Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, and Shawna Dinh, Public Information Officer, who shared an update on the District's budget. This was presented to staff over last several days. District Policy No. 6000 references a Board goal of 5% fund balance. In September it was projected the District would end the year with a fund balance of \$2.4M if reductions are made. Without any action, the ending fund balance would be approximately \$438,558 (0.2%), far lower than the goal of 5%.

Dr. Jones explained enrollment is the main funding driver. Enrollment dropped during COVID, but there was no reduction in staff, trying to keep employees whole during this difficult time. The District's Special Education enrollment also increased from 1,500 to 2,260 students. These students require additional teachers and paraeducators.

State Funding Gaps:

- in 2019, 52% of the overall state budget was for K-12 education, now reduced to 43%
- substitute costs provided by the State: 4 days for certified and none for classified
 - districts must cover all excess (last year \$3,677,605)
- salaries are over and above state funding amounts (86% of total budget)
- regionalization has been reduced (last year \$7M, this year \$0-decision by the State)
- Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC) continue to increase over funding amounts
 - local levy \$\$ cover all excess from above
 - need to increase the fund balance to cover unforeseen emergency situations, and offset economic downfall

Cost Savings to Date:

- August 2023 to October 2024-52 positions reduced through attrition (\$4,888,562)
- \$1.6 reductions in MSOC (before attrition)
- central office-reduced staff from 79 to 61(-22.8%)

Phase I(2024-2025):

- plan to balance budget with an additional reduction of approximately \$3M (services/non-staff reductions-\$1M; staffing reductions-\$2M)
- superintendent-donate three days' pay, administrators-one day's pay
- other savings include but are not limited to: suspend transportation to local high school sporting events; fill secondary classes to negotiated contract size; offer separation incentive

to general education paras, reassign paras to special education positions currently held by substitutes

Phase 2 (2025-2026) no decisions made at this time

- continue to balance the budget and grow fund balance

Ms. Dinh reported a new budget information page has been added to the District website. Audit reports and budget reports are posted on this page. This page will be updated often as information changes. Communication has been distributed through email, presentations, and social media asking for feedback and ideas.

After discussion, it was moved by Bonnie Mitchell and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE LEAVING JAZZ BAND AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WITHOUT CHANGES FOR THE REST OF THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

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

Motion was approved.

Board discussion followed:

- gather input before making decisions on Phase 2
- plan Open Houses in January
- cost information for different programs needed

There was agreement to delay further discussion on balanced calendar options and remove the trimester option from further discussion. Board members asked for further information regarding start times (transportation/other costs analysis). Policy items 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6 will be moved to the January 14, 2025 Board agenda due to the length of this meeting.

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

Items 5.4-Resolution No. 983-Inter-Fund Loan (Mr. Jansons) and Item 5.5-Policy No. 2320-Field Trips and Out of District Overnight Travel (Ms. Waters) were pulled for discussion.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, AND 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 for more information regarding the RCW references presented in Policy No. 2320-Field Trips and Out of District Overnight Travel. Mr. Christensen stated WSSDA had not responded to his inquiry. Ms. Oldson will get in touch with WSSDA for more information.

Superintendent Redinger advised the State send district apportionment allocations at certain times of the year, mostly to benefit the state budget. She explained the District needs the Inter-Fund Loan to help with cash flow issues for payroll in the upcoming months. It is basically borrowing money from one account to another (capital projects fund to general fund).

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5.4-INTER-FUND LOAN.

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

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

LaSalle, Sheila, Classroom Support Teacher to 7th-grade History Teacher, Leona Libby MS
effective 1/6/2025

Wheeler, Monica, Classroom Support Teacher to 1st-grade Teacher, Sacajawea Elementary School,
effective 1/6/2025

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Sahrblom, Hannah, Psychologist, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 12/31/2024

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Damstedt, Carrie, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 12/13/2024 (will Sub)

Kasselder, Alicia, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 12/31/2024 (from LOA)

Larsen, Kelly, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 12/31/2024 (will Cert Sub)

Maine, Zachary, Custodian, Richland High School, effective 12/4/2024

Pistoljevic, Landon, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 12/4/2024

Vargas, Jayden, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 12/31/2024

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Stacy, Toni, Paraeducator, Jefferson Elementary, effective 1/31/2025

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Munguia, Nayomi, Public Records Specialist, Human Resources, effective 12/6/2024

5.2 Approval of Minutes (November 26, 2024; December 3, 2024)

5.3 Resolution No. 982-Cancellation of Warrants

5.4 Resolution No. 983-InterFund Loan

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

5.6 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008021 through 40008027 for \$3,688.67

Nos. 54000763 through 54000764 for \$5,279.47

Nos. 40008028 through 40008049 for \$21,596.67

Nos. 54000765 through 54000770 for \$192,146.96

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002288 through 20002291 for \$228,764.89

Nos. 52000435 through 52000438 for \$215,834.50

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10091043 through 10091150 for \$1,366,636.92

Nos. 51004422 through 51004447 for \$760,508.69

No. 10091154 for \$785.01
Nos. 51004449 through 51004469 for \$288,591.61
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10090928 through 10090930 for \$ \$8,847.68
10090933 for \$1,109.95
10090938 through 10090994 for \$117,339.82
10090995 through 10091041 for \$5,188,724.44
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,984,250.43
Total November Payroll approved in the amount of \$17,300,272.32

6.0 AGENDAS

6.1 Future Agenda Items

- Inclusionary Practices-Early Learning Center/Professional Development for General Education Staff-Workshop-handouts in advance
- Start Times
- Move polices from this agenda to January 14, 2025
- Budget update
- Cyber event update
- Board elections
- Schedule an executive session

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS