



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 28, 2025
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, January 28, 2025, at 5:05 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board Vice President Jill Oldson presided. Board members participating: Katrina Waters, Bonnie Mitchell, Chelsie Beck, and Rick Jansons. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Dr. Bryan Jones, Executive Director of Operations Richard Krasner, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs Derek O'Konek, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education Pre-K-12 Zac Carpenter, and Director of Information Technology Glenn Whitcomb.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:05 P.M. to discuss acquisition of real estate, if public knowledge might increase the price 42.30.110 (1) (b), and 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 ninety minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:31 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:36 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Ms. Waters participated via Zoom.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS

2.1.1 Board Appreciation Month

Board members were recognized with cards, posters, and cookies from several schools. The Student Representatives read the Governor's Proclamation regarding the many responsibilities of Board members and thanked them for their service to the District.

2.1.2 Teen Mental Health First Aid

Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Behavior Health, introduced Wendy Sandmann-Hanford High School, Kiersten Uffenorde-ESD 123, Chandra Markel-Richland High School, and Maisha Medina-Three Rivers HomeLink. Ms. Markel advised 761 sophomore students earned Teen Mental Health First Aid certificates this year. Lila Garner and Sidney Ashley (Richland High School), Claudia Tessier and Nevaeh Turner (Hanford High School), and Lena Olsen, Thora Zacher, and Samuel Potts (Three Rivers HomeLink) shared benefits from this program.

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Lana Hannan, Hanford High School, reported on topics from the recent Student Advisory meeting including: balanced calendar, start time changes, mental health check ins, Character Strong, support during finals week, and shared communication from the High School Career Centers has been very helpful.

2.3 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Isaac Stanfield, Co-facilitator, reported on topics and recommendations at the recent meeting including: dyslexia and training for staff, alternative learning opportunities, screening and identification/K-2, interventions, and LETRS training. The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2025 where Alternative Learning Experience (ALEs) options will be discussed.

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

Ron Higgins, Richland, reported substitute teaching in Pasco and dealing with language translation daily. He feels these students will make excellent citizens.

Rachel Moore, Kennewick-Parent, shared concern regarding a situation at Hanford High School. Ms. Moore requested a school-based threat assessment and a policy on cyber bullying in schools.

Maricruz Brito, Richland-Parent, stated her child was bullied and she was not satisfied with the school's solution.

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian reported that the Tolo theme was announced for this year, internship information was communicated, Counselor Appreciation week is coming up, and she thanked all the improved Wi-Fi at Richland High.

Abby Koech also appreciated the upgraded W-Fi at Richland High School. She advised a Blood Drive will be held in the Library, and the Community Center is offering help with Career and Technical Education (CTE) credits. She also reported some gaps in the new semester schedule.

Bonnie Mitchell toured Orchard Elementary and announced the Richland High School drama production begins this weekend, Libby Middle School will present Newsies, and shared elementary students really enjoy Character Strong.

Jill Oldson attended the elementary tour, the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting, the Special Education Workshop, and testified on several Legislative Bills.

Shelley Redinger will follow-up on the parent concerns expressed earlier. She reported that threat assessments are carried out in District schools. Dr. Redinger also testified to advocate for Special Education and Materials, Supplies, and Operation Costs (MSOC) funding. She spoke at the Tri-City Chamber and the Benton/Franklin Retirees' Association.

3.0 BUSINESS

Mr. Jansons asked to move 3.2-Inclusionary Practices, earlier in the agenda. All Board members agreed.

3.2 Inclusionary Practices-Early Learning Center/District Professional Development for General Education Staff

Zach Carpenter, Executive Director of Special Education, introduced Kelly Correio, ESD 123-Inclusionary Practices Coordinator, who shared districts are moving from a medical model of Special Education, to Inclusive Practices. Inclusion creates an environment where students, regardless of abilities or backgrounds, feel valued and supported. Research shows that inclusive practices benefit all students, not just those with disabilities, with students demonstrating higher academic performance, better social interactions, and improved emotional well-being. Ms. Correio went on to explain details of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). There was agreement from Board members to move forward with this process, knowing this is a 4-7 year process. Board discussion followed.

3.3 School Start Times

Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, advised staff members have reviewed research on later school start times, evaluating the potential benefits and challenges associated with such a change. This summary outlines key findings previously presented from scientific studies, cost considerations, impacts on athletics and extracurricular activities, and logistical challenges specific to the District. Dr Jones also provided sample elementary and secondary transportation schedules to review and a proposal of next steps to consider. More information is needed regarding scheduling effects on students attending Delta High School, Tri-Tech, and Running Start, with costs associated. Implementation requires careful planning to address transportation, staffing, athletics, and community concerns. Further research specific to the District is necessary to fully understand local cost implications and public impact.

There was consensus to move 3.4 Policy No. 3600-Student Records, and 3.4 Policy No. 6600-Transportation to the February 11, 2025 Board meeting.

3.1 Fiscal Update

Travis Belisle, Chief Financial Officer, shared graphs of past enrollment numbers with the District currently at 13,492 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. He explained class levels show a large drop at the high school level. This could partially be due to Running Start programs. Mr. Belisle advised the District spent 35.66% of the budget by the end of December. The projected ending fund balance will be \$66,782. To provide more transparency, budget and enrollment reports will be shared during the business portion of the meeting, rather than on the consent agenda. (Associated Study Body) ASB funds are student operated/lead and have a healthy balance. Mr. Belisle continued with information regarding Capital Projects, Transportation, and Debt Service funds. He is encouraged by the progress to “right the ship”.

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

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Chelsie Beck –

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

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Almberg, Kelly, 5th grade teacher, Badger Mountain to DD Preschool Teacher, Early Learning Center, effective 1/22/2025

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Jarvis, Melanie, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 1/6/2025

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

McClure, Hailey, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/24/2025 (will sub)

4.2 Approval of Minutes (January 8, 2025; January 14, 2025)

4.3 Cash Grant-Lamb Weston-Richland School District Field Day

4.4 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008084 through 40008095 for \$31,976.89

Nos. 54000780 through 54000782 for \$8,031.24

Nos. 40008096 through 40008105 for \$7,090.57

Nos. 54000783 through 54000784 for \$1,268.09

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002306 through 20002313 for \$352,594.84

No. 52000443 for \$125,939.89

Nos. 20002314 through 20002317 for \$175,854.29

General Fund Warrant No. 10091322 for \$3.00

Nos. 51004540 through 51004569 for \$11,660.06

Nos. 10091323 through 10091325 for \$56,640.94

Nos. 51004570 through 51004575 for \$130,796.42

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

Move Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) from February 11, 2025 to February 25, 2025
Schedule the Student Advisory Report and Parent/Guardian Report at separate meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS