



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 11, 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, February 11, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. via Zoom and in person, 6972 Keene Road, West Richland, Washington. School Board President Katrina Waters presided. Board members participating: Jill Oldson, Bonnie Mitchell, Chelsie Beck, and Rick Jansons. 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, Chief Financial Officer Travis Belisle, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs 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 5:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 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 sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:30 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:33 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS-National Board Recognition

Kristien McKenzie introduced this year’s National Board Certified Teachers. This process involves about 400 hours of personal time and certification is available in 25 different areas, pre-K-12. The four staff members include:

- Kacie Presnell, Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Michele Bruce, Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood
- Ellyn Hamon (Meador), Early Childhood Generalist
- Amy Scott, Art-Early and Middle Childhood

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

Rebecca Peterson, Teacher, shared concerns regarding hiring, made suggestions for the balanced calendar survey, and thanked all for the quick response to her recent email concerning school breakfasts.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) response to recent Federal direction.

2.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian, Hanford High School, shared upcoming events including a blood drive next week, a speaker discussing school culture, and a Tolo.

Abby Koech, Richland High School, shared information on the recent blood drive and a spirit assembly.

Rick Jansons visited Three Rivers HomeLink and reported the Alternative Learning Experience programs (ALEs) topic was moved to the February 25, 2025 Board meeting agenda.

Bonnie Mitchell visited William Wiley Elementary and thanked all staff members involved in Positive Behaviors Intervention Supports (PBIS). Several schools reported drastic reductions in student behavior referrals from September to January.

Chelsie Beck visited William Wiley Elementary and reported a book vending machine was donated by the Richland Rotary Club.

Shelley Redinger started her spring staff meeting visits at Hanford High School, Carmichael and Libby Middle Schools, and Badger Mountain and Lewis and Clark Elementaries this week. Dr. Redinger also attended the drama production at Hanford High School and thanked the community for their support.

Katrina Waters visited William Wiley Elementary and shared the inclusion model has been very successful. She also attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and shared Chromebooks, Internet Safety, and Inclusion will be topics at next month's meeting.

Jill Oldson attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Dual Language-Update and Timelines

Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, introduced Enid Flynn, Instructional Technology Director. The primary goal of dual language programs is to develop strong skills in both a student's native language and a second language while ensuring mastery of academic content. Dr. Jones stated the plan for the current program at Tapteal Elementary is to continue to add a classroom at the next grade level each year. Board discussion followed including:

- expansion to magnet programs? neighborhood schools? clubs? other?
- form committee to develop next steps
- coordinate with local districts to share models, successes

- survey parents-foreign language interest

3.2 Balanced Calendar Options

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, explained a balanced calendar spreads the school days throughout the year and shortens the summer break. A committee was formed during the 2023-24 school year to research and collect student, parent/guardian, staff, and community input. The feedback received from town hall meetings helped create a survey that was sent to all Richland School District families and staff. Mr. Christensen advised calendar options have been provided to the Board over the last year. Board discussion followed:

- re-form balanced calendar committee-add members
- survey students, staff, parents, and community (with pros/cons)
 - students take survey during Advisory class with additional information provided via video?
- add questions:
 - do you want to move to a balanced calendar? relationship with the District?
- calendar is part of the bargaining process
- include traditional calendar
- Bonnie Mitchell volunteered to be the Board representative on the committee

3.3 Fiscal Update

Travis Belisle, Chief Financial Officer, shared an overview of Federal funding for the 2023-2024 school year. Total Federal Revenue Received: \$12,936,635 (5.6% of total expenditures)

- *General Support*-\$16,794 (E-Rate (100%) - awarded direct to District from Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-(secure affordable high-speed internet and telecommunication services)
 - Could be a potential loss
- *Special Education*-\$3,153,580 (9.3% of Special Education expenditures)-supports Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); Medicaid
 - This would have a large impact since Washington State does not fully fund Special Education
- *Federal Programs*: ESSER (COVID Related: \$70,934 (completed); Vocational Education: \$122,935; Title I: \$2,529,865; Other Title Grants: \$685,185; and Limited English Proficiency: \$200,324
 - District submits a claim in February for reimbursement
- *Food Service*-\$6,017,316-(89.8% of food service expenditures)
 - free and reduced-potential impacts to this

Board discussion followed regarding free/reduced qualification formula changes, information from Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) group visiting Washington, D.C., and encouraged PTA members to advocate to Legislators.

3.4 Phase 2 / 2025-2026 Budget Planning

Dr. Redinger shared over the past two fiscal years, the District faced significant financial challenges, with a negative net activity of \$6.5 million in 2022-23 and \$1.5 million in 2023-24. In

response, the District has implemented cost saving measures that include staffing adjustments, contract reductions, operational efficiencies, and program modifications. These efforts position the District for greater financial stability, with a projected positive net activity of \$422,000 resulting in a projected ending fund balance of \$1.7 million for 2024-25. Continued fiscal discipline will be critical to maintaining long-term sustainability. Details were shared regarding the following adjustments.

- Staffing Adjustments: \$947,875
- Professional Development/Scheduling: \$500,000
- Operational and Program Cost Reductions: \$227,000
- Curriculum and Instructional Materials: \$2,171,443
- Projected 2025-2026 Ending Fund Balance: \$5,541,793

Board discussion followed with an urgent need to stay disciplined to build the District's fund balance.

3.5 Policy No. 3600-Student Records

Mr. Christensen advised this policy was overdue for changes to match WSSDA's updated policy.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3600-STUDENT RECORDS.

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

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

Motion was approved.

3.6 Policy No. 6600-Transportation

Mr. Christensen and Kyle Carrier, Transportation Director, shared information regarding changes to the policy to align with WSSDA's Policy. The first update is to change the policy number from 8100 to 6600. Walking routes include a two-mile radius for secondary students. Mr. Carrier advised this change helps alleviate overcrowding, reduces the number of routes, and allows bus drivers to stay closer to schedules. Board discussion included:

- Secondary moving from 1½ - 2-mile walking distance
 - impacts Leona Libby and Enterprise Middle Schools

Board members requested more information regarding increased efficiency vs. cost savings.

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

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Bonnie Mitchell –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.4) 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

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Bolton, Wesley, 0.8 FTE, Science, Richland High School, effective 1/22/2025 (non-continuing, coming from sub)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Storaci, Scott, 1.0 FTE, Physical Education, William Wiley Elementary, effective 8/31/2025

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Clark, Maleena, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 2/14/2025

Del Carlo, Jacy, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 2/5/2025

DeWolf, Taylor, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 1/31/2025

Freeman, Jennifer, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 2/14/2025

Frye, Jessie, Nutrition Services Team Member, Richland High School, effective 2/28/25 (will sub)

Hendricks, Angela, Payroll Manager, Financial Services, effective 2/14/2025

Houck, Kellie, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 2/7/2025 (will sub)

Mendoza, Cinthia, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 2/14/2025

Watson, Jalen, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 2/5/2025 (will sub)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

George, Barbara, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 2/6/2025 (date correction)

4.2 Approval of Minutes (January 28, 2025)

4.3 Load Limits/Student Transfers

4.4 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008106 through 40008121 for \$6,299.51

Nos. 54000785 through 54000789 for \$19,319.17

Nos. 40008122 through 40008133 for \$19,185.32

Nos. 54000790 through 54000793 for \$84,029.21

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002318 through 20002319 for \$108,608.31

No. 52000444 for \$53.80

Nos. 20002320 through 20002324 for \$60,802.50

Nos. 52000445 through 52000446 for \$40,011.63

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10091421 through 10091550 for \$1,784,109.48

Nos. 51004577 through 51004610 for \$1,005,923.32

Nos. 10091551 through 10091552 for \$186,914.28

Nos. 51004611 through 51004614 for \$279,940.70

Payroll Warrant Nos. 10091326 through 10091374 for \$91,167.48

Nos. 10091375 through 10091420 for \$5,110,404.13

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,606,668.64

Total January Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,808,240.25

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

February 25, 2025-Fiscal Monthly Update

March 11, 2025-Policy No. 6600-Transportation

Balanced Calendar Survey Results

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS