



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 25, 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 25, 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, 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 5:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:30 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 6:27 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Ms. Oldson participated via Zoom.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Recognitions

Jack Whalen, HomeLink student, placed 7th on the Food Network “Kids Baking Championship”. Jack stated he met many friends and loved the entire experience. He won the “Best Baker” award for his layered brownie recipe.

2.1 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report-no report

Dr. Redinger asked for a moment of silence to honor Clark McIntyre, Libby Middle School Para and Coach, who passed away last week, for his amazing work as a staff member. Mr. McIntyre will be missed.

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

Mark Cornellison, Parent/Guardian, heard rumors of changes to HomeLink and shared his children have thrived at HomeLink. He shared HomeLink has a long waiting list, feels no changes are needed, and hopes his students will graduate from the program.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding transgender influences and harm to students.

Joseph Intagliata, Richland, asked the Board to stand against the State mandate regarding gender.

Lena Olson, HomeLink Student, shared HomeLink feels more like a community than a school and has attended since Kindergarten.

2.3 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian-Hanford High School, stated 650 tickets were sold for Tolo, spring sports begin next week, class sign up is soon, and state sport activities continue this week.

Abby Koech-Richland High School, reported on the winter sports assembly, regional basketball games, Girls' Wrestling Team-first at State, Swim Team-third at State, eighth grade information night coming soon, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fair, and is encouraging other districts to promote student representatives. She also shared concern with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) going into schools.

Rick Jansons shared his concern with hate speech during the Public Comment period at Board meetings. He will continue to support treating all students so they can thrive. Other Board members agreed.

Bonnie Mitchell stated spring sports are beginning, visited Marcus Whitman Elementary, and shared the Richland High School Girls' Wrestling Team placed 1st in State competition.

Chelsie Beck attended the mother/son dance at White Bluffs Elementary and the Libby Middle School Art Show.

Jill Oldson reported on activities taking place in the Legislative Session and Payment in Lieu Taxes (PILT) funding. It is also National CTE month.

Katrina Waters visited Marcus Whitman Elementary and congratulated the Richland Girls' Wrestling Team Coaches. Ms. Waters advised the District will continue to follow State laws while waiting for guidance on what needs to be responded to from the Federal government. The Board will be as transparent as possible.

Shelley Redinger agreed the District will follow State law. The District receives approximately \$13M from the Federal government, mostly covering Title programs, Nutrition Services, and Special Education. Superintendent Redinger will be setting up a meeting with OSPI to further discuss funding avenues.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE) Discussion/Next Steps

Dr. Redinger advised that recent discussions about possible changes to ALE programs have caused concern. More time is needed to develop a comprehensive plan for the 2026-2027 school year, including adapting from a bond failure. Therefore, Superintendent Redinger reported there will be no changes to ALE programs-River's Edge High School, Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA), or Three Rivers HomeLink, for the 2025-2026 school year. A dedicated workgroup will begin this fall with implementation scheduled for the 2026-2027 school year. Facility needs were discussed and a partnership with Columbia Basin College may be a possible option. Board discussion followed including:

- support the diverse needs of students
- need to expand as possible
- expand asynchronous options
- families want choices/options
- need a comprehensive plan-experience in ALE to lead planning
- need to be fiscally responsible
- educate students about ALE options

3.2 Fiscal Update

Travis Belisle, stated the current enrollment is 13,483, which is 20 students less than last year, but 130 students higher than the 2022/2023 school year. Mr. Belisle reported enrollment is currently 76 students less than budgeted for the 2024/2025. Elementary enrollment has increased 50 students since the start of school, while middle school enrollment has dropped 30 students. High school enrollment has decreased 150 students from the start of school while ALE program enrollment has increased 95 students. Expenditures and revenue information was shared. Mr. Belisle shared optimism for this year's budget and estimates a \$413K ending balance. Board members will be asked to approve the 2025-2026 budget in August.

3.3 Policy No. 4200-Visitor Access and Safe and Orderly Learning Environment

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported the policy changes include renumbering the policy to align with WSSDA's policy. The policy title has also been changed from "Visitors" to "Visitor Access and Safe and Orderly Learning Environment".

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 4200-VISITOR ACCESS AND SAFE AND ORDERLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR FIRST READING WITH THE SUGGESTED CORRECTION. (CHANGE INTERRUPTED TO UNINTERRUPTED IN PARAGRAPH TWO)

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. 3205-Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited

Mr. Christensen stated the District is updating this policy due to the actions of the executive and judiciary branches related to Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 (Title IX). It was previously revised in October 2024 after WSSDA modified the policy in August 2024. The proposed policy is the Board adopted policy from May 2023.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3205-SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS PROHIBITED FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

Items 4.1-Personnel Actions and Item 4.4-Resolution No. 985-Establish, Continue and Adjust ASB Imprest Change Accounts were pulled.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6).

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

Mr. Jansons explained the Update Personnel Action was corrected to state the nurse listed was a resignation, not a hire.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 4.1-PERSONNEL ACTION INCLUDING THE 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.

Mr. Belise explained Resolution No. 985 was needed to increase the cash box at River's Edge High School by \$20.00.

It was moved by Rick Jansons and seconded by Jill Oldson –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE 4.4-RESOLUTION NO. 985-ESTABLISH, CONTINUE AND ADJUST ASB IMPREST CHANGE ACCOUNTS.

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

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Sizemore, Michelle, Nurse, Special Programs, effective 8/31/2024

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Tycksen, Amy, Payroll Specialist to Payroll Manager, Financial Services, effective 2/18/2025

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Jones, Nedra, Nutrition Services Team Member, Richland HS, effective 3/3/2025 (from sub)

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Asbell, Angela, Paraeducator, Hanford High School, effective 3/10/2025 (to sub)

Garcia, Michael, Information Technology Technician 1, Information Technology, effective 2/26/2025

Koma, Justin, HVAC Technician, Support Services, effective 2/28/2025

McGeorge, Sharell, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 2/25/2025

Pavlicek Vermeire, Mercedes Paraeducator, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 3/7/2025 (from leave of absence)

Richey, Alyssa, Paraeducator, Tapteal Elementary, effective 2/21/2025

DECEASED

McIntyre, Clark, Paraeducator, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 2/15/2025

4.2 Approval of Minutes (February 11, 2025)

4.3 Policy No. 3600-Student Records

4.4 Resolution No. 985-Establish, Continue and Adjust ASB Imprest Change Accounts

4.5 Budget Monthly Report-November

4.6 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008134 through 40008148 for \$9,238.80

Nos. 54000794 through 54000795 for \$4,117.40

Nos. 40008149 through 40008153 for \$14,918.14

Nos. 54000796 through 54000797 for \$13,661.87

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002325 through 20002327 for \$31,766.62

No. 52000447 for \$43.33

Nos. 20002328 through 20002331 for \$42,322.09

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10091553 through 10091614 for \$258,404.89

Nos. 51004615 through 51004664 for \$518,750.92

Nos. 10091615 through 10091643 for \$754,138.51

Nos. 51004668 through 51004675 for \$306,573.62

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

Mr. Belisle will present a timeline for 2025-2026 budget planning at the March 11, 2025 meeting. He will continue this planning during the first meeting of each month. A fiscal update will be planned for the second meeting of each month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS