



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 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, March 25, 2025, at 6:30 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 6:34 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS

***School Resource Officers (SROs)**

Tory Christensen reported February 15th was National School Resource Officer's Day. Mr. Christensen read the proclamation stating the many responsibilities involved in SRO duties. He introduced Officer King, Officer Field, and Officer Sandin. All thanked the Officers for their work.

***Taylor Sandoval, Washington School Counselor Association's (WSCA) Rising Star Award**

Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Behavioral Health, introduced Taylor Sandoval, William Wiley Elementary Counselor, who was recently earned the Washington State School Counselor Associations' (WSCA) Rising Star Award. Mr. Sorensen advised Ms. Sandoval is a third-year counselor and thanked Ms. Sandoval for her dedication, huge heart, and tireless work mentoring other counselors.

2.2 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Issaac Stanfield reported on the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting where the topic was Chromebook usage. Members suggested a time audit at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and as well as options for pen and paper iReady and other testing. The next meeting will take place on April 21, 2025, with discussion on internet safety and free lunches for students.

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

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern with the lack of knowledge students have regarding the Pledge of Allegiance and the Constitution.

Isaac Stanfield, Richland, shared concern with the amount of screentime students spend using Chromebooks. He feels Chromebook usage causes mental health issues and he does not see a positive reason for using them.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger asked all to slow down in school zones as there have been several accidents already this spring.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian shared Hanford High School events including a cutest pet competition, a pep rally, drama club awards, a cereal drive, and spring sports.

Abby Koech shared parking at Richland High School is getting worse with more students driving to school. She also attended a session meeting advocating to increase student representation.

Bonnie Mitchell attended the White Bluffs Elementary tour and observed students working on a drama production.

Jill Oldson attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and shared the need to evaluate Chromebook usage.

Chelsie Beck visited White Bluffs Elementary and shared information on the drama production at Libby Middle School. She also stated there is an app that parents can download to control Chromebook usage outside of school hours.

Katrina Waters attended the tour of White Bluffs and enjoyed reviewing School Improvement Plans (SIPs).

Mr. Jansons also commended Abby Koech for being chosen as a Representative for the Princeton Prize in Race Relations.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger shared E-Rate information with Federal reimbursement based on free/reduced lunch percentages. She encouraged all to fill out the free/reduced lunch forms as some schools are very close to receiving a larger percentage of funding. Superintendent Redinger also shared an audit of Information Technology (IT) service tickets with time of service reduced from 6.8 days to 1.9 days. She thanked Glenn Whitcomb, IT Director, for his work improving customer service.

3.2 District Goals: (Metric # 4)-Increase Ninth Graders “On Track” for the 2024/2025

School Year and (Metric #8) Increase Percentage of Students Graduation in Four Years

Mr. Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reported that graduation cohorts are established when students enter the ninth grade. He explained being on track to graduate at the end of ninth grade is a stronger indicator of future graduation than race, ethnicity,

poverty, or test scores. Mr. Christensen stated schools are engaging with students in multiple ways to improve their progress toward on-time graduation. Principals shared ideas being used to improve goals including increased attendance monitoring, project-based classes for credit, athletic participation, focus on first week of school setting Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) expectations, restructured administrative teams to allow instant support and intervention. District-wide ninth graders “on-track” has improved from 70% to 81%.

Schools continue to work to increase student success and on-time graduation rates. Richland School District’s 2023-24 graduation rate is 82.8%. Board discussion followed.

3.3 High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) Update

Enid Flynn, Instructional Technology Director, introduced Glenn Whitcomb-Technology Director, Amy Miller-Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director, Toni Vonderhulls, Assessment Coordinator, and Samantha White-CTE Instructional Specialist. Ms. Flynn advised in 2023, the Washington Legislature passed a bill requiring the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to facilitate a statewide transition to a universal High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) platform to ensure an equitable experience across the state. In May 2024, SchoolLinks, Inc. was selected to provide every district with access to an online HSBP platform. Richland was selected to implement the new HSBP platform starting this fall. Ms. White serves on the State HSBP Advisory Board attending monthly meetings and providing input for implementation. Board discussion followed.

3.4 Fiscal Update

Travis Belisle, Chief Finance Officer, stated enrollment is holding steady at 13,480. Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) program enrollment has seen an increase of 133 students this year. Mr. Belisle is projecting a \$243,000 gain by the end of the budget year. Expenditures will still exceed the budgeted amount, and a budget extension may be needed later this year. Increased costs for utilities and insurance premiums (building and transportation) are using a significant portion of Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC) funds. He reported Principals are doing a great job with building budgets. Travel, registration, and entry fees have been largely reduced. 72% of all expenditures go to teaching and teacher support, 12% to administrative costs and 16% to maintenance and operations.

3.5 Policy No. 1630-Evaluation of the Superintendent

Ms. Oldson presented an update to better align with the Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA) policy. She stated dates that were conflicting with the Superintendent contract were removed. Board members suggested several revisions.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 1630 WITH SUGGESTED REVISIONS 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.

3.6 Policy No. 3210-Nondiscrimination

Mr. Christensen advised the District is updating the 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 is now aligned with WSSDA's policy. Several revisions were recommended.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3210-NONDISCRIMINATION WITH SUGGESTED REVISIONS 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.

3.7 Policy No. 6511-Staff Safety

Mr. Christensen stated the notable changes are moving the policy from Noninstructional Operations, Policy 8301 to Management Support, Policy 6511, to align with WSSDA's policy. The legal references have also been updated.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 6511-STAFF SAFETY 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)

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.

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

Mereu, Nathalie, 1.0 FTE, French, Richland High School, effective 8/31/2025

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Bowers, Austin, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 3/24/2025

Deen, Aleasha, Paraeducator, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 3/24/2025

Prater, Ava, Paraeducator, Sacajawea Elementary, effective 3/21/2025

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Jarvis, Melanie, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 3/12/2025

Palencia, Miguel, Custodial Manager, Support Services, effective 4/11/2025

Sharpe, Rebecca, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 4/25/2025

Williams, Laura, Paraeducator, CBTC, effective 3/21/2025 (date correction; will sub)

RETIREMENTS FOR THE END OF 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Baumgarten, Donna, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary

Frankenfield, Sharon, Paraeducator, Jason Lee Elementary

Sisk, David, Paraeducator, Richland High School

Stivers, Terri, Office Professional, Leona Libby Middle School

TERMINATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Cederbloom, Jacob, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 3/17/2025

4.2 Approval of Minutes (March 11, 2025)

**4.3 Resolution No. 986-Establish, continue and Close General Fund and ASB Imprest
Change Accounts**

4.4 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008183 through 40008192 for \$17,184.69

Nos. 54000806 through 54000808 for \$5,376.52

Nos. 40008193 through 40008207 for \$34,267.85

Nos. 54000809 through 54000811 for \$11,796.03

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002338 through 20002339 for \$31,482.07

Nos. 52000450 through 52000451 for \$76,746.29

Nos. 20002340 through 20002341 for \$48,823.87

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10091807 through 10091845 for \$636,885.17

Nos. 51004733 through 51004771 for \$403,073.43

Nos. 10091846 through 10091889 for \$226,730.12

Nos. 51004772 through 150,049.31

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

April 22nd:

- Policy No. 3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences
- Policy No. 2360-Race and the Curriculum

Future topics: Chromebook usage, school supplies, staff safety, discipline, accountability, and bullying policies

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS