



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 22, 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, April 22, 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, and Chelsie Beck. 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 6:28 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:31 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Rick Jansons was excused.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS

2.1.1 Classified Employee of the Year-Tara Parker-Richland High School

Nicole Anderson, Richland High School Principal, recognized Tara Parker, Secretary/Receptionist, who was selected as Classified Employee of the Year for the Richland School District. Ms. Parker was recognized for supporting staff, compassion for students, and offering warm greetings to families when entering the office at Richland High.

2.1.2 Leona Libby Middle School Art Show

Mike Boynton, Libby Middle School Art Teacher, introduced students and shared artwork displayed at the recent Libby Art Show. Student Art has been displayed at the Richland Library and ESD 123 in Pasco. Students spoke sharing their experience and love of art!

2.3 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report-None

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

Katelyn Blackburn, Student, spoke in support of Librarians and feels removing the secondary Librarians will have a negative impact on students.

Olivia Kanoff, Student, spoke supporting Librarians and shared several responsibilities including chrome book repair, club advisors, and building relationships with students.

Sheila Dehkordi, Student, shared concern regarding limiting Valedictorian time for speeches at the graduation ceremony.

Sarah Trigg, Student, stated Valedictorians work hard to earn this designation and asked to extend the time allotted to speak at the graduation ceremony.

Sara Flores, Teacher, shared concern regarding the reduction of Nurses and relocation of Librarians for the 2025/2026 school year with little notice or discussion at a Board meeting. Ms. Flores also stated communication with administrators is difficult.

Michelle Blackburn, Librarian, shared Librarians are well trained, handle a budget, and feels this decision is not putting the welfare of the District first.

Erika Trigg, Parent, shared concern regarding the time allotted for Valedictorian speeches and asked to change the process.

Kelley Cone, Parent, spoke in support of Nurses stating professional support is needed to handle medical emergencies. She asked the Board to reconsider this decision.

Ron Higgins, Resident, supports Nurses and Librarians and shared a study funded by Nike.

Doug Lane, Teacher, spoke in support of Librarians and shared their many duties including previewing new titles, teaching research skills, and curating selections for students.

Debbie Savino, Teacher, reported concern regarding the cancellation of a personal financial literacy class and shared a grant that can be applied for.

Kelly Scholtz, Parent, shared concern with the late notice given for the change in Valedictorian speeches at graduation.

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Dr. Redinger advised many staff members were at William Wiley Elementary today to support staff, students, and families. She thanked counselors and staff who helped all get through this anniversary of the school shooting. Superintendent Redinger also thanked Sodexo for the Fine Dining event at Wiley last week.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian, Hanford High School, stated the Prom was very successful, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) members will be traveling to Orlando for competitions, and Pacific

Crest Online Academy (PCOA) and River's Edge High School students will hold their Prom this Friday.

Abby Koech, Richland High School, reported she will be attending a conference at Harvard University regarding race relations, along with 28 students from around the nation.

Jill Oldson visited Badger Mountain Elementary and attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting. She invited all parents to attend. She also stated the decisions regarding Nurses and Librarians were not taken lightly and were due to lack of funding.

Bonnie Mitchell attended a tour of Badger Mountain Elementary.

Chelsie Beck attended a tour of Badger Mountain Elementary.

Katrina Waters attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting. Topics included internet safety and chrome book usage with a tool for parents to regulate student usage. The May meeting topic will be the Highly Capable (HiCap) program.

Board discussion followed regarding Valedictorian speeches at the Richland High School graduation ceremony, including previous Board discussions at the Board meetings in August of 2024.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger highlighted the District's partnership with Educational Service District (ESD) 123 for many services including: Early Intervention Services, Marijuana and Alcohol Support, Threat Assessments, and Migrant Education Programs.

3.2 Safety and Security Project Update

Mike Melling and Dax Logsdon, Construction Services Group (CSG), stated overall, the safety and security projects were completed successfully and came in under budget. Even with short construction durations and supply chain challenges, every school was able to open on the first day of school. Despite the challenges, the architect has accepted the projects as completed. Some adjustments will still be needed after building staff live in the updated spaces. In addition to the safety and security projects, the District was able to address the Hanford High School roof as part of the 2023 Capital Projects Levy, due to the favorable bids received on the safety and security projects. The District will realize some savings due to unspent contingency. Future projects were discussed and a process to prioritize these projects will be discussed at the meeting on May 13, 2025. Project lists from schools are being gathered. The forecasted Capital Projects Levy balance was estimated at \$7M with projects to be prioritized at a future Board meeting. An original list of projects and costs was also requested with a more detailed financial analysis.

3.3 Asset Preservation Program (APP)

Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, reported APP (WAC 392-347-023) is a systematic approach to ensure accountability; promote maintaining and operating building systems to their design capacity, and extend building life, thus minimizing future capital needs. This report is reviewed annually and sent to OSPI when the District has received state assistance funds for

projects. Participation in the APP is one requirement of eligibility for future state assistance. Mr. Krasner explained the District also has a preventative maintenance program for all buildings.

3.4 Fiscal Update

Travis Belisle, Chief Financial Officer, reported current enrollment stands at 13,468, just 14 students fewer than this time last year. Actual enrollment dropped by 42 students which reduced the annual average by 17.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. This reduction equates to a revenue reduction of \$175k for the year. Mr. Belisle advised the number of students enrolled in Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) programs continues to rise. He also shared the Transportation Department will be ordering several buses this year to maximize the depreciation schedule, with buses to be delivered this winter. Expenditures are below the last two years. The year end projected total revenue is \$237,093,368.

3.5 Policy No. 3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, shared the District's policy, WSSDA's Policy, and information from OSPI. Several changes were suggested including removing "or asynchronous", attendance letters to be uniform, and translations of letters in all languages will be available when ParentSquare is used in the future.

A question regarding taking attendance twice daily at elementary schools was discussed and will be investigated to see if that must be included in the policy. The policy will return on the next agenda, including the suggestions requested.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3122-EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WITH REQUESTED CHANGES FOR FIRST READING.

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

3.6 Policy No. 2360-Race and the Curriculum

Ms. Waters stated this policy is a Richland School District only policy and she feels this policy limits the ability of staff to talk about race and history. Curriculum must go through the Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Department, through public review, then to the Board for approval. Ms. Mitchell shared comments by staff and students feel this has stifled free speech and is not necessary.

It was moved by Jill Oldson and seconded by Chelsie Beck –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF POLICY NO. 2360-RACE AND THE CURRICULUM FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

Ms. Waters asked to add “staff” to the last paragraph of Policy No. 3422-Student Sports-Concussions, Head Injury and Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

It was moved by Bonnie Mitchell and seconded by Chelsie Beck –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.5) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION WITH THE SUGGESTED ADDITION TO POLICY NO. 3422.

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

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

Motion was approved.

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Gosney, Keni, Assistant Superintendent, Human Capital & Operations, effective 4/23/2025

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

REDUCTIONS IN FORCE THE END OF THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Anderson, Sheena, 1.0 FTE, Nurse, Special Programs

Bartlett, Holly, 1.0 FTE, Nurse, Special Programs

Barton, Stephanie, 1.0 FTE, Nurse, Special Programs

Lewis, Jenny, 1.0 FTE, Nurse, Special Programs

Wright, Caitlin, 1.0 FTE, Nurse, Special Programs

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Legard, Patty, 1.0 FTE, Resource Room, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 8/31/2025

Paup, Phyllis, 1.0 FTE, 3rd Grade, White Bluffs Elementary, effective 8/31/2025

ADMINISTRATIVE REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Blackburn, Michelle, Librarian, Hanford High School, to Social Studies, Hanford High School

Devere, Kristin, Librarian, Chief Joseph Middle School to Teacher, Chief Joseph Middle School

Lane, Michelle, Librarian, Enterprise Middle School, to Language Arts, Enterprise Middle School

Maldonado, Kimberly Classroom Support Teacher, Hanford HS, to Language Arts, Hanford HS

Ostrer, Tawnya, Librarian, Carmichael Middle School, to Teacher, Carmichael Middle School

Porter, Daniel, Librarian, Richland High School, to Language Arts, Richland High School

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Froehlich, Kathryn, Math, Carmichael MS, to English Language Arts, Carmichael Middle School

Howard, Rhonda, Librarian, Leona Libby MS, to District Librarian, Teaching, Learning and Administration (TLAC)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Sacry, Brianna, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 4/16/2025 (moving from sub)

REDUCTION IN FORCE FOR THE END OF THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Cuello, Elias, Administrative Assistant, Jefferson Elementary School

Dorsett, Donelle, Administrative Assistant, Tapteal Elementary School

Humphrey, Brandon, Administrative Assistant, Chief Joseph Middle School

LaDow, Michelle, Administrative Assistant, Early Learning Center

O'Brien-Green, Stephanie, Administrative Assistant, Lewis and Clark Elementary School
Ochoa, Terah, Administrative Assistant, Marcus Whitman Elementary School
RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Avila, Raquel, Paraeducator, Early Learning Center, effective 4/25/2025 (will sub)

Byrd, Kathleen, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 4/18/2025

Liikala, Linda, Nutrition Services Team Member, Hanford High School, effective 4/11/2025

Raides, BreAnna, Paraeducator, Lewis and Clark Elementary, effective 5/2/2025

4.2 Approval of Minutes (April 8, 2025)

4.3 Policy No. 3422-Student Sports-Concussions, Head Injury and Sudden Cardiac Arrest

4.4 Policy No. 3416-Medication at School

4.5 Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008215 through 40008227 for \$17,443.51

Nos. 54000815 through 54000818 for \$193,670.62

Nos. 40008228 through 40008239 for \$90,663.36

Nos. 54000819 through 54000820 for \$1,305.00

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002344 through 20002350 for \$25,057.21

Nos. 52000452 through 52000455 for \$101,859.13

Nos. 20002351 through 20002352 for \$110,330.83

No. 52000456 for \$420,162.30

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10092025 through 10092080 for \$258,054.26

Nos. 51004809 through 51004856 for \$837,663.63

Nos. 10092082 through 10092117 for \$227,552.65

Nos. 51004857 through 51004875 for \$428,411.13

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

May 13, 2025:

- Capital Projects Levy Budget Update

May 27, 2025:

- Possible Budget Workshop before the Board meeting (depends on Legislative budget completion)

Mr. Christensen and Ms. Mitchell will meet with students/staff at Richland High School regarding the graduation ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS