



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, May 13, 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, May 13, 2025, at 5:00 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 Human Capital and Operations Ken Gosney, 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 5:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel-Superintendent Evaluation)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:00 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 ninety minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:30 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:34 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Jill Oldson participated via zoom. All others were in attendance.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS-Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)

Mike Johnson, Hanford High School Principal, introduced Emma Yuan, Tiffany Qian, and Sophia Chen, all Juniors at Hanford High School. The students recently returned from competing at the 2025 DECA International Career Development Conference where they placed second in the Entrepreneurship-International Business Plan category. Board members shared their congratulations.

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Lana Hannan, Hanford High School, reported on topics at the recent Student Advisory meeting including: balanced calendar, levies and bonds, District budget, and student parking. She also

reported the Junior Student Representative to the Board of Directors position is open for applicants.

2.3 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Isaac Stanfield, shared topics at the recent meeting including Chromebook usage. Parents would like more information on Qustodio, an app for parental control. They also encouraged staff to look for curriculum that does not require the use of Chromebooks. Mr. Stanfield shared ideas for encouraging parents to complete free lunch forms since this drives several funding sources. The next meeting will take place May 19, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. Discussion will include the Highly Capable program (HiCap).

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

Ken Spencer, Richland, shared concern regarding budget issues. Mr. Spencer advised it will take people working together to get back in a positive position. His children attended Richland schools and feels Richland is a great district.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding the *Woke* movement and stated people should believe in centrism and equal protection under the law. He asked all to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Kelley Cone, Parent/Richland, spoke in support of nurses. Ms. Cone shared funding options for grants, foundations, and special revenues available rather than cutting nursing positions.

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger attended the drama production at Hanford High School, met the new Washington State University President, and attended the Rotary Scholarship luncheon. Upcoming events include AVID night at Richland High School, Kindergarten Roundup, the Teaching Bridge signing day, and the HomeLink Art Show.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian reported executive elections have taken place and class officers will be elected next week. She also mentioned ways to improve Advisory periods are being discussed.

Abby Koech reported on events including a blood drive, Field Day, AP testing, and Prom. She also just returned from New Jersey where she attended a race relations conference.

Rick Jansons attended the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Legislative committee where districts are advocating for apportionment payments to be paid equally throughout the year and to fully fund basic and special education, as well as materials, supplies and operation costs (MSOC).

Bonnie Mitchell attended the Jason Lee Science Camp with all fifth graders. This was funded by a grant and fundraising efforts.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger reported the Nutrition Services Audit went well and shared upcoming guidelines for sugar, salt and chocolate milk. The Finance Audit Exit Interview took place today covering

accountability, payroll, Open Public Meetings Act, and financial conditions with no findings reported. Several policies regarding management letters were recommended. Board members suggested a Nutrition Services presentation at a future meeting.

3.2 Social Emotional Behavior Update

Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Behavioral Health, stated it is Mental Health Awareness Month. Mr. Sorensen explained the Behavioral Health Department was established as a critical step in expanding and sustaining comprehensive, districtwide systems of support to meet the growing mental and behavioral health needs of our students and staff. The department aligns mental health services with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This ensures supports are interconnected, proactive, and data-informed. Additional supports include Team Mental Health, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), BIMAS Universal Screener, and Pre-K SEL. Board discussion followed including:

- Advisory team researching ways to improve-(student leadership, timing, staff buy in, possible credit for class)
- HomeLink-SEL incorporated into weekly lessons-doing well
- River's Edge High School-great results, very consistent
- Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA)-online course/possible credit

3.3 Capital Projects-Levy Budget

Dax Logsdon and Mike Melling, Construction Services Group, reported the amount estimated for the Safety and Security projects in the 2023 Levy was \$15M and pre-design for the proposed Bond projects was \$8M. Our most recent 2023 Capital Projects Levy budget update presented at the last Board meeting showed an unspent remaining balance post project completion. Some reasons for the remaining balance were due to conservative initial estimates, uncertainty in the construction industry post COVID, favorable construction bids for projects, and unspent design funds due to not passing the 2024 Bond. Mr. Logsdon shared a summary showing the difference between the original levy budget and our final levy budget.

Travis Belise, Chief Financial Officer, shared the District received a non-voted bond to allow projects to be completed right away, rather than waiting as costs increase. Payments will be made as levy funds are received. After all projects are complete, the projected balance is \$1.8M.

3.4 District Goal-Facilities

Ken Gosney, Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital and Operations, shared a comprehensive facility needs list for District buildings as part of the ongoing work to align capital planning with the Board's strategic goals. This document outlines key infrastructure, maintenance, and improvement needs identified across our campuses and is intended to serve as a foundational tool in guiding future decisions related to project prioritization and resource allocation. Board discussion included the cost of additional cameras and licenses, better collaboration between principals and operations staff, and project ranking processes.

3.5 Capital Projects-Process to Prioritize

Mr. Gosney shared a draft document for Board review to be used to help better prioritize Capital Projects.

Key considerations:

- health, safety, and code compliance

- building system failures or critical infrastructure needs
- educational program needs
- equity across schools
- cost-effectiveness and lifecycle savings
- external funding availability
- community impact and visibility

Process for Prioritization:

- develop a comprehensive project list
- score each project against a rubric-create a scoring system
- involve stakeholders
- publish and update the plan annually
- stay flexible

Board discussion followed including reviewing the document annually and developing a procedure.

3.6 2025/2026 Budget Planning

Travis Belisle, Chief Financial Officer, provided information on revenues in a “*Citizens Guide to the Budget*”. He reported Legislators were able to complete a budget, but it is awaiting the Governor’s signature. Mr. Belisle shared caution as these are preliminary numbers. Board discussion followed including:

- Levy funds-need clarity for the public regarding exactly what these dollars fund (portions of special education, transportation, activities, athletics, classroom resources, some academic classes, etc.)
- Legislation has changed reporting and is putting parameters on annual reporting regarding special education
 - The District does use levy dollars to support special education-funds are pulled from general education to cover these costs.

Mr. Belise will break out what costs are covered by levy funds and explain clearly what areas the District is not able to cover without levy funds.

3.7 Policy No. 6101-Federal Cash and Financial Management

3.8 Policy No. 6106-Allowable Costs for Federal Programs

Mr. Belisle stated there were no findings in the recent audit and thanked Cynthia Robinette, Assistant Director of Finance, for her work. He stated Policy 6101-Federal Cash and Financial Management and Policy No. 6106-Allowable Costs for Federal Programs are being brought to the Board for first reading as new policies. Both are listed as Essential policies from WSSDA. The District needs to adopt these policies to be in compliance with the recent financial audit.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE FOR FIRST READING POLICY NO. 6101-FEDERAL CASH AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND POLICY NO. 6106-ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR FIRST READING.

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 Bonnie Mitchell –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.9) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Benedict, Maren, Principal, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 6/30/2025

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

Krasner, Richard, Executive Director, Support Services, effective 6/30/2025

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Almberg, Kelly, 1.0 FTE, Preschool, Early Learning Center, effective 8/31/2025

Burke, Deborah, 1.0 FTE, Science, Delta High School, effective 8/31/2025

Christianson, Seth, 1.0 FTE, Math, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2025

Crider, Brett, 1.0 FTE, 2nd Grade, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 8/31/2025

Fonseca, Bianca, 1.0 FTE, 4th Grade, Tapteal Elementary School, effective 8/31/2025

Gose, Christopher, 1.0 FTE, 1st Grade, Jefferson Elementary School, effective 8/31/2025

Leiby, Megan, 1.0 FTE, BESST, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2025

Ollero, Mariah, 1.0 FTE, Assistive Technology Specialist, Special Programs, effective 8/31/2025

Prieto, Adrian, 1.0 FTE, Language Arts, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 8/31/2025

Rader, Marcie, 1.0 FTE, Math, Richland High School, effective 8/31/2025

Ranade, Lisa, 1.0 FTE, ECEAP Preschool, The Early Learning Center, effective 8/31/2025 (first year LOA)

ADMINISTRATIVE REASSIGNMENTS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Hovley, Montanna, 1.0 FTE, Spanish, Richland High School, to Spanish, Leona Libby MS

Markussen, Kathryn, 1.0 FTE, Resource, Jefferson, to 5th Grade, Badger Mountain Elementary

Mitchell, Chloe, 1.0 FTE, Spanish, Leona Libby MS, to 5th Grade, Badger Mountain Elementary

Olson, Amy, 1.0 FTE, 2nd Grade, Orchard Elementary, to Kindergarten, White Bluffs Elementary

Wheeler, Monica, 1.0 FTE, 1st Grade, Sacajawea, to 2nd Grade, Badger Mountain Elementary

INCREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Monks, Stephanie, 0.4 FTE (Now 1.0 FTE), French, Richland High School (continuing)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Reeder, Kaela, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 8/31/2025

Schultz, Gerald, Electrician, Support Services, effective 6/6/2025

Sjule, Sandra, Paraeducator, Desert Sky Elementary, effective 8/31/2025(will sub)

Spinetta, Peter, Paraeducator, Richland High School, effective 5/23/2025

Wilson, Lucero, Paraeducator, Badger Mountain, effective 5/2/2025 (from 1st year leave of absence, will sub)

Winkelman, Anna, Paraeducator, Enterprise Middle School, effective 8/31/2025

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Gibson, Janet, Paraeducator, William Wiley Elementary, effective 4/24/2025 (from 2nd year leave of absence)

Heid, Joy, Secretary, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 8/31/2025

TERMINATION FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Ahmeti, Riad, Custodian, Hanford High School, effective 5/12/2025

4.2 Approval of Minutes (April 22, 2025)

4.3 Resolution No. 987-Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Delegation

4.4 Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) Report

4.5 Cash Grant-Columbus Foundation-Elementary STEM Experiences

4.6 Request for Proposal No. 634-Management and Printing of Yearbooks

4.7 Policy No. 3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences

4.8 Policy No. 2360-Race and Curriculum

4.9 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008240 through 40008264 for \$21,836.63

Nos. 54000821 through 54000823 for \$2,931.59

Nos. 40008265 through 40008275 for \$7,464.49

Nos. 54000824 through 54000826 for \$9,335.19

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002353 through 20002354 for \$99,519.60

Nos. 52000457 through 52000457 for \$130.55

Nos. 20002355 through 20002356 for \$17,055.94

Nos. 52000458 through 52000459 for \$12,437.54

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10092118 through 100922138 for \$107,490.22

Nos. 51004876 through 51004879 for \$29,935.52

Nos. 10092228 through 10092261 for \$424,553.32

Nos. 51004881 through 51004907 for \$42,595.62

Nos. 10092263 through 10092305 for \$197,864.04

Nos. 51004908 through 51004953 for \$398,666.53

Payroll Warrant No. 10092024 for \$2,750.00

No. 10092081 for \$500.00

Nos. 10092139 through 10992181 for \$81,241.56

Nos. 10092182 through 10092227 for \$5,020,772.85

Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,238,782.29

Total April Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,344,046.70

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

Supply lists for elementary and middle school students were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS