



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, June 24, 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, June 24, 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, and Chelsie Beck. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital and Operations Ken Gosney, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Tory Christensen, 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 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 6:00 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 thirty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:28 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:36 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-Rick Jansons was excused. All others were in attendance.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS-Hope Holder of the Year Award-Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, introduced Andrea Peyton-Service Director, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, who honored the Richland School District for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to foster mental and behavioral health services. Ms. Peyton thanked the Wellness Team for their tremendous support.

Dr. Redinger asked to move Item 3.7-Legislative Update, earlier in the agenda. Board members agreed.

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

Boyce Burdick, Richland, Board Treasurer of Mid-Columbia Orchestra, asked to reserve dates in the Richland High School Performing Arts Center in 2026. Mr. Gosney, Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital and Operations, will meet with Mr. Burdick.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared his concern regarding gender identification and at-risk students.

2.3 Board/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger reported projects at Chief Joseph Middle School have begun. Brooke French, new Leona Libby Middle School Principal, was welcomed. Interviews for the Assistant Principal position will take place tomorrow.

Katrina Waters stated several projects will move forward while students are out for summer break. She thanked staff for their work during the year.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.7 Legislative Update

Melissa Gombosky, Legislative Liaison, stated this has been the most difficult Legislative Session she has witnessed. Ms. Gombosky shared information including:

Gains: Increased per-student funding, increased funding for inclusive learning, and removal of enrollment cap for state-funded special education (\$626,000), a one-time funding allocation of \$50/per student, and pension relief gains.

Losses: 10% service tax affecting various services, limited substitute relief for staff (funded only four days/year for certified staff only), and funding gaps for classified substitutes. The District is projecting a \$5.5M loss for Special Education funding next year.

3.1 School Board Levy and Tax Update

Cory Plager, D.A. Davidson, shared information to set the stage for a replacement levy with a possible election date in February 2026.

Educational Programs & Operations Levies (EP&O):

- Levies are for learning
- Flexible revenue from local taxpayers to supplement basic education, athletics, and other programs
- Subject to levy lid laws per pupil
- Up to 4 years collection
- Simple Majority 50% +1
- Current levy approved through 2026

Capital Projects Levies:

- Common uses: Technology, Safety, Security, Facility Renovations, Athletic Fields, Repair Roofs, HVAC, Parking, etc.
- Up to 6 years collection
- Simple Majority 50% +1
- Current levy approved through 2026

Mr. Plager explained the District saved taxpayers \$1.7M by refunding several years ago. He explained EP&O levies must be run for the lessor of \$2.50/\$1,000 of assessed value or \$2,500 per

pupil (adjusted by inflation) and can pass by a simple majority vote (50% +1). Levies are historically more successful when run in February. The filing date would be December 12, 2025 for the February election option. Mr. Plager reviewed property values, tax base details, outstanding debt, and an opportunity to refinance in the future. Mr. Plager will return on August 26th for further discussion. Board members shared the District will need to clearly communicate what is at risk in the case of a levy failure.

3.2 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger shared last year at this time the District was in the midst a cyber-attack. She thanked Glenn Whitcomb, Director of Information Technology, and his staff for their work to rebuild and add security measures to the District's technology systems. Ms. Waters also thanked our partners from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) who provided enormous support during the outage.

3.3 Yearly Goal Review

Superintendent Redinger shared highlights and takeaways on District goals listed below:

- Increase the percentage of students achieving “typical growth” on the K-5 Spring iReady reading assessment
- Increase the percentage of students achieving “typical growth” on the K-5 Spring iReady math assessment
- Establish a foundation “baseline” for student “typical growth” based on Fall math iReady assessment for grades 6-8
- Increase ninth graders “on-track” to 70% for the 2024/2025 school year
- Decrease the English Language Learner (ELL) reading achievement gap by 10% over the next three years (as measured by Spring iReady data)
- Increase % of students meeting “expected progress” on ELL Language proficiency
- Decrease the Socio-Economic reading achievement gap by 10% over the next three years (as measured by Spring iReady data)
- Increase % of student graduation in 4-years

Dr. Redinger advised Special Education enrollment has steadily increased in past years and shared information on Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) challenges. A Board Retreat will be planned in August to discuss and establish the goals for next year.

Ms. Waters read a statement addressing the lack of Superintendent contract on tonight's agenda. She advised the District has faced serious financial challenges in recent years, largely caused by over-staffing and over spending, combined with the expiration of COVID funding and State and Federal funding not keeping up with increased costs. During this time the District kept people employed and even increased staffing and programs to assure students return to school as soon as possible, which was good for the community. But this created an urgent situation this year. Dr. Redinger has made great strides in the last several months, but the Board does not think it is in the best interest of the District to extend the Superintendent's contract at this time. The Board looks forward to working with Dr. Redinger and her team over the next two years to focus on educational needs for students. Contract extensions can be revisited in the future.

3.4 Policy No. 2020-Course Design, Selection & Adoption of Instructional Materials

Tory Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, asked for Board input. Mr. Christensen stated Leadership class will become optional in the 2026/2027 school year. Ms. Waters requested verbiage additions.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2020-COURSE DESIGN, SELECTION & ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS WITH SUGGESTED ADDITIONS FOR FIRST READING.

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

3.5 Policy No. 3510-Associated Student Bodies

Travis Belisle, Chief Financial Officer, stated this policy is being presented for annual Board review per policy.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3510-ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES FOR FIRST READING.

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

3.6 1000 Series Polices

3.6.1 Policy No. 1000-Legal Status and Operation

Policy 1000 is listed as Encouraged by Washinton State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). Changes include retitling, legal reference updates, and alignment to WSSDA's model policy.

After discussion it was decided to hold the vote until all 1s000 series policies have been reviewed.

3.6.2 Policy No. 1005-Key Functions of the Board

This is a new policy to the District. The policy aligns with WSSDA's model policy. No changes were requested.

3.6.3 Policy No. 1020-Eligibility-Delete

This is a Richland School District only policy. The administration is proposing to delete Policy No. 1020 since the text included in this policy has been moved to Policy 1110-Election and Policy, Policy 1113-Board Member Residency, and Policy 1610-Conflicts of Interest.

3.6.4 Policy No. 1025-Election of Officers-Proposed Policy No. 1110-Election

This policy is classified as Discretionary by WSSDA. The proposed changes include retitling to "Election", renumbering to Policy 1110 and updates to the legal references section to align with WSSDA's policy. Ms. Waters stated this policy is out of alignment with how elections are completed. Ms. Waters requested several changes to be made for second reading.

3.6.5 Policy No. 1050-Conflicts of Interest-Proposed Policy No. 1610-Conflicts of Interest

The proposed changes include renumbering Policy 1610 and updates to the legal references section to align with WSSDA's policy. This policy was overdue for updates and went through a total overhaul. Discussion followed. No changes requested.

3.6.6 Policy No. 1110-Numbers of Members and Terms of Office-Delete

This policy is a Richland School District only policy. The body of the policy has been moved to the revised version of Policy 1000-Official Title and Legal Authority. Policy 1110 is no longer needed as a standalone policy and should be deleted.

3.6.7 Policy No. 1111-Oath of Office-New

This is a new policy to the District. The policy aligns with WSSDA's model policy. No changes were requested.

3.6.8 Policy No. 1113-Board Member Residency-New

Board members agreed this policy is not relevant to Richland School District and can be deleted.

3.6.9 Policy No. 1113-Vacancies-Proposed Policy No. 1114-Board Member Resignation and Vacancy

The proposed changes include retitling to "Board Member Resignation and Vacancy" and renumbering to Policy 1114. The legal references section has been updated.

3.6.10 Old Policy No. 1115-Orientation of Candidates and New Board Members-Proposed Policy No. 1112-Director Orientation

The proposed changes include retitling to "Director Orientation" and renumbering to Policy 1112. Training on Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) was discussed. Other policies will be checked for this requirement inclusion.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE 1000 SERIES POLICIES LISTED ABOVE (POLICIES NUMBERED 1000, 1005, 1020, 1025, 1050, 1110, 1111, 1113, 1114, AND 1115) WITH REQUESTED CHANGES AND VERIFICATION FOR FIRST READING.

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

3.7 Legislative Update (Moved to earlier in the meeting)

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

Ms. Waters asked to pull Item No. 4.4, Policy 2420-Grading and Progress Reports K-12.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1; 4.2; 4.3; AND 4.5) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Ms. Waters asked for changes to Policy No. 2420-Grading and Progress Reports K-12 to include standardized grading for all middle schools. Dr. Redinger will work with staff members for consistent verbiage and the policy will return for second reading at the next meeting.

4.1 Personnel Actions

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Ellis, Matthew, Director of Human Resources, effective 7/1/2025

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Frey, Jessy, 1.0 FTE, BESST, Sacajawea Elementary

Holom, Cynthia, 1.0 FTE, Art, Tapteal Elementary School

Kenney, Veronica, 1.0 FTE, Science, Three Rivers HomeLink (1st Year LOA-will sub)

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Brandstetter, Christine, 1.0 FTE, BESST, Lewis and Clark Elementary

McClure, Hailey, 1.0 FTE, Supplemental Support, Enterprise Middle School (Coming from Sub)

O'Day, Matisse, 1.0 FTE, Supplemental Support, Orchard Elementary School (Coming from Sub)

Wagner, Ross, 1.0 FTE, Extended Resource Room, Jefferson Elementary (Coming from Sub)

Young, Gage, 1.0 FTE, Structured, Leona Libby MS (Non-Continuing, Coming from Sub)

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Wright, Caitlin, 0.6 FTE, 1:1 Nurse, Early Learning Center (Non-Continuing, Call Back from Reduction of Force)

ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Aichele, Tamra, Science, Three Rivers HomeLink, to Biology, Delta High School

Jones, Jessica, Art, Three Rivers HomeLink, to Art, Tapteal Elementary School

DECREASE IN FTE FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Scott, Tasha, 0.4 FTE (Now 0.6 FTE), Math, Leona Libby Middle School

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Anderson, Bradley, Director of Facilities and Operations (from Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations) effective 7/1/2025

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Caballero, Andrea, Paraeducator, Hanford HS, effective 6/10/2025 (from leave of absence-will sub)

Mulligan, Lesley, Paraeducator, Marcus Whitman Elementary School, effective 6/10/2025

Stromer, Joseph, Utility Craftsman, Support Services, effective 7/1/2025

4.2 Approval of Minutes (June 10, 2025)

4.3 Fiscal Update

4.4 Policy No. 2420-Grading and Progress Reports K-12

4.5 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008322 through 40008334 for \$19,458.36

Nos. 54000837 through 54000838 for \$310.73

Nos. 40008335 through 40008345 for \$20,355.33

No. 54000839 for 1,020.00

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002372 through 20002373 for \$31,764.31
Nos. 52000466 through 52000467 for \$62,930.78
No. 20002374 for \$4,413.06
No. 52000468 for \$57,654.50
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10092544 through 10092577 for \$288,595.26
Nos. 51005039 through 51005085 for \$415,547.76
Nos. 10092578 through 10092616 for \$294,543.84
Nos. 51005086 through 51005102 for \$205,634.97

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE A CHANGE OF TIME FOR THE JULY 8, 2025, REGULAR MEETING FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

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

The Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee report will be emailed to Board members instead of an in-person report at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS