



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, August 26, 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, 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 Human Capital and Operations Ken Gosney, Executive Director of Instructional Services 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 Communications 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, Legal, Real Estate)

The Board adjourned to executive session at 5:20 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); discussion with legal counsel, of enforcement actions, litigation or potential litigation, if public discussion might result in an adverse legal or financial consequence. (Does not permit an executive session solely because attorney is present.) 42.30.110 (1) (i); and acquisition of real estate, if public knowledge might increase the price 42.30.110 (1) (b). The executive session was projected to last sixty minutes, with no action expected. Executive session ended at 6:29 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-Chelsie Beck was not in attendance.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS-New Student Representative

Ms. Waters introduced Sinan Farawila, new Student Representative to the Board of Directors/Hanford High School Student and welcomed him to the Board.

2.2 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Tamara Harrison reported on the recent Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting and shared recommendations for highly capable programs at both the elementary and secondary levels. The next meeting will be on September 15, 2025, where bullying will be discussed. A survey regarding topics for the upcoming year will also be reviewed.

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

Kevin Laws, Teacher-Enterprise Middle School, shared concern regarding the cancellation of the zero-hour Jazz 2 class and asked the Board to reinstate the class.

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared the Supreme Court decision to allow parents to opt out of sex education for their students. Mr. Higgins agrees parents should have this option. (The Richland School District is already in compliance.)

Tony O’Conner, shared concern over the recent budget cuts and cancellation of the zero-hour Jazz 2 class at middle schools.

Andrew Kirk, asked the Board to reconsider cancellation of Jazz 2 zero-hour class, and feels this will hurt the high school programs.

Ms. Waters stated this was a hard decision to make, but due to budget concerns, the decision had to be made. These programs are funded by Levy dollars. She advised there will be no staffing changes at this time.

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger welcomed all on the first day of school and shared the excitement of seeing students’ faces. She thanked staff for their flexibility as the new year begins.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian and Sinan Farawila shared events over the last several days to welcome students to the new school year.

Rick Jansons spoke regarding the Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA) Legislative Assembly in the near future.

Bonnie Mitchell spent the day volunteering at Richland High School.

Jill Oldson shared the need for several new officers for the Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee and invited all to attend the meetings. Ms. Oldson also asked Board members to review the WSSDA General Assembly directory and share priorities at the next meeting .

Katrina Waters also stated more participation is needed on the Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee. A facilitator and secretary are needed for the upcoming year. The group meets the third Monday of each month. Ms. Waters also received and accepted a resignation letter from Chelsie Beck, Board member, who has moved out to the area and can no longer serve. A timeline and process to fill the Board vacancy will be added to the September 9, 2025 meeting.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger shared information regarding the Comprehensive Program Review. Derek O’Konek, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs, advised this report reviews many areas including Title Programs, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and other State and Federal programs.

3.2 Levy Planning

Cory Plager, D.A. Davidson, shared information on Educational Programs and Operations (EP &O) Levies. Mr. Plager stated the District's current levies run through 2026 and must be renewed so there are no gaps in funding. He explained February 2026 is the most common date for these elections. Both Kennewick and Pasco School Districts will be putting levies on the ballot at that time. These funds are defined as enrichment and are outside the definition of basic education, yet still used for many basic education functions. Levy lid laws include:

*Lessor of \$2.50/\$1,000 of assessed value or \$2,5000/pupil (adjusted by inflation)

*Simple Majority approval – 50% +1

Mr. Plager shared both the EP&O and the Technology Levy are replacement levies. For the last election a 5% growth rate was used, not keeping up with the actual community growth of 10%. He presented scenarios with various growth rates. The Levy Lid is the total dollar amount that can be collected, even if rates are higher. Board discussion followed.

3.3 2025-2026 Budget Adoption-Resolution No. 989

Travis Belisle, Chief Financial Officer, asked for Board approval for Resolution No. 989-2025-2026 Budget, which has been reviewed at many meetings over the last several months.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE RESOLUTION 989-2025-2026 BUDGET ADOPTION.

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

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

Motion was approved.

3.4 Policy No. 2108 Learning Assistance Program-New

Tory Christensen, Director of Secondary Instruction, advised Policy 2106 is classified as “Critical” by the Washington State School Directors’ Association. The District does not currently have this policy in place. The proposed policy has language that the District “will submit an annual report on September 30 to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction...” Even though the District had not adopted this policy, the District was still submitting the required information to OSPI. Board members asked for a summary of this information in the future.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2108-LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

Motion was approved.

3.5 Policy No. 2163-Response to Intervention

Mr. Christensen stated changes include minor rewording for more concise sentences and an additional paragraph regarding the development of procedures. The District has had procedures in place since March 2008 when this policy was adopted.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2163-RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

Motion was approved.

3.6 Policy No. 3143-Notification and Dissemination of Information About Student Offenses and Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm

Mr. Christensen explained this policy was updated with WSSDA in July 2025. A paragraph regarding “Notification of Criminal Action” was added to the policy and RCW 28A.605.005 has been added as a legal reference after the passing of HB 1296 – 2025-26.

Ms. Oldson asked how to ensure consistency across all principals. Mr. Christensen will bring back more details at the September 9, 2025 meeting.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3143-NOTIFICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT OFFENSES AND NOTIFICATION OF THREATS OF VIOLENCE OR HARM FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

Motion was approved.

3.7 Policy No. 3210-Nondiscrimination

Mr. Christensen stated Policy No. 3210 was updated by WSSDA July 2025. The categories that define “protected status” have been updated after the passing of HB 1296 – 2025-26. “Ethnicity, homelessness, immigration or citizenship status, and neurodivergence” have been added as additional categories that the District will not discriminate against. Mr. Christensen stated student handbooks have already been updated with information mandated by this Bill.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 3210-NONDISCRIMINATION FOR FIRST READING.

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

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

Motion was approved.

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

Ms. Waters asked to pull Item 4.3 - 2025-2026 School Improvement Plans (SIPs).

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1; 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.8) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

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

Motion was approved.

Ms. Waters stated updates are being made to the School Improvement Plans and will be placed on the agenda for the September 9, 2025 meeting.

4.1 Personnel Actions

4.2 Approval of Minutes (August 12, 2025; August 13, 2025; August 15, 2025)

4.3 2025-2026 School Improvement Plans (SIPs)

4.4 Resolution No. 990-Increase District Workers Comp Imprest Account

4.5 Resolution No. 991-Acceptance of Project Completion-Tapteal Elementary School

4.6 Resolution No. 992-Acceptance of Final Commissioning Report-Tapteal Elementary School

4.7 Fiscal Update

4.8 Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008365 through 40008367 for \$11,615.30

Nos. 40008368 through 40008369 for \$1,030.22

Nos. 54000848 through 54000848 for \$23,630.17

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002397 through 20002398 for \$62,650.67

Nos. 52000479 through 52000479 for \$59,413.62

Nos. 20002399 through 20002403 for \$118,319.02

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10092936 through 10092960 for \$262,066.21

Nos. 51005184 through 51005198 for \$774,414.39

Nos. 10092961 through 10092971 for \$49,452.17

Nos. 51005199 through 51005211 for \$85,103.75

Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 57000107 for \$2,000.00

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

September 9, 2025:

- add Legislative priorities/Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)
- Qustodio presentation-encourage parents to listen to parental control regarding chrome books
- Board of Directors Vacancy-Position No. 3

September 23, 2025:

- full fiscal update
- draft academic goals

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS