



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, October 28, 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, October 28, 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 Rick Jansons. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital and Operations Ken Gosney, Executive Director of Instructional Services Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Finance Travis Belisle, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Klauss, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs Derek O’Konek, Director of Communications Robert Sorensen, Executive Director of Special Education 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 5:30 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); 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); qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office (interviews and final appointment must be in public) 42.30.110 (1) (h) 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 6:30 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:33 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call-All Here

1.3 New Board of Director’s Oath of Office

Dr. Redinger performed the Oath of Office to newly selected Board member Dan Evans. He will be replacing Chelsie Beck who moved out of the area. Mr. Evans was welcomed as the new Position No. 3 member of the Board of Directors.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS

***Cane Quest**

Mandy Carpenter and Linda McFall, Vision Specialists, shared this is an orientation and mobility competition, one of 25 events across the nation. There were seven competitors from areas around the state. The event was held at Leona Libby Middle School.

2.2 Parent/Guardian Advisory Report

Kayla Bean, Co-Facilitator, reported on topics at the August 18th and October 20th meetings. Ms. Bean shared several recommendations from the group including but not limited to: open communication to staff and parents, explore parent volunteers to ride buses, and improve transportation trainings. Ms. Waters thanked the past facilitators for their work and dedication.

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

Ron Higgins, Richland, shared concern regarding the lack of students' multiplication skills and the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger announced the RISE (Recognizing Innovation, Service and Excellence) Award winners: Orchard Elementary-Jennifer Hubbard; Desert Sky Elementary-Debbie Johnson and Ashley Dahlgren. Dr. Redinger will also be attending the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Franklin event this week.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian and Sinan Farawila reported on events at District high schools including a blood drive, Veterans' Day assemblies and breakfasts, career days, senior financial nights, band and orchestra concerts, and drama productions.

Rick Jansons attended the Washington State School Directors' Association Legislative Committee meeting. He stated the organization's draft platform is similar to the one Melissa Gombosky will present later in the meeting.

Jill Oldson welcomed Dan Evans to the Board of Directors.

Bonnie Mitchell stated the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Franklin will hold its annual fundraiser this week that will be used to fund a center in Richland.

Dan Evans attended the Hanford High School football game and said he is enjoying meeting the Board members.

Katrina Waters thanked all who applied for the open Board position. She attended the tour of Richland High School. Ms. Waters complimented staff on the focus on attendance.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Dr. Redinger stated families have been impacted by Federal level cuts. Some schools will have pantries to assist families with more information to come. The Early Learning Center (ELC) has received assistance from Second Harvest Zilch, where parents can shop for needed food items.

***Recognition-Congressional Award Gold Medal Winner Marjorie Bunch-Richland High School Student**

Marjorie Bunch was introduced and shared her varied experiences to earn the Congressional Award Gold Medal. This award emphasizes public service, personal growth, physical fitness and exploration and takes two years to complete. Gold medal recipients have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers.

3.2 Legislative Priorities

Melissa Gombosky, Gombosky Consulting, reviewed a draft document sharing District Legislative priorities including:

- Fully fund Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)
- Fully fund Special Education
- Reinvest education caseload savings in K–12
- No new unfunded mandates

Ms. Gombosky is urging the Legislature to support these priorities to ensure the District can continue to deliver high-quality instruction and equitable opportunities for all students.

Board discussion included:

- cost of insurance premiums raising
- advocate for prototypical model funding
- priorities presented closely match those of WSSDA

3.3 iReady Fall Assessments

Jen Klauss, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, introduced Enid Flynn, K-12 Instructional Technology Director, who shared an overview of districtwide student achievement results from the Fall 2025 i-Ready Diagnostic and Spring 2025 State Assessments (Smarter Balanced and WCAS). Together, this data provides a balanced view of student learning showing both baseline performance for the current school year and end-of-year achievement trends aligned to state standards. These results inform continuous improvement efforts within the District's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework and align with District goals to accelerate student growth, close opportunity gaps, and increase the percentage of students meeting grade-level proficiency.

Board members shared concern with results staying somewhat flat. Staff members were asked to gather more data for Board members review.

3.4 Fiscal Report

Travis Belisle, Executive Director of Finance, reviewed District budget and enrollment information. Mr. Belisle shared the District may need to do an advance from capital projects or request an appropriation advance from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This may be necessary since District's do not receive equal monthly allotments. We receive a combined 22.5% of apportionment in July and August.

3.5 Policy No. 2412-(New 2418)-Waiving Requirements for Graduation

Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Instructional Education, shared this policy is classified as 'Critical' by WSSDA. Mr. Christensen stated the proposed changes are being moved to procedures. He advised that nothing in this policy is different from the District's current practice. Board

members requested several corrections, asked to see both the policy and procedures, and asked for a report of all waivers.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE POLICY NO. 2412-(NEW 2418)-WAIVING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION WITH REQUESTED CHANGES.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Qian, yes; Farawila, yes
Vote: Mitchell, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes; Evans, yes; Waters, yes
Motion was approved.

3.6 Policy No. 3425-Accommodating Students with Adrenal Insufficiency

3.7 Policy No. 3411-Accommodating Students w/Seizure Disorders or Epilepsy

Kelley Lacey, Director of Human Resources, and Rebecca Baldwin, Nurse-Hanford High School, advised these policies are new policies to the District and are also classified as ‘Critical’ by WSSDA. After discussion, Board members requested several changes. These will be placed on the consent agenda for the next meeting for second reading.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY NO. 3425-ACCOMODATING STUDENTS WITH ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY AND POLICY NO. 3411-ACCOMODATING STUDENTS W/SEIZURE DISORDERS OR EPILEPSY FOR FIRST READING.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Qian, yes; Farawila, yes
Vote: Mitchell, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes; Evans, yes; Waters, yes
Motion was approved.

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

Ms. Waters asked to Pull Item 4.3, Policy No. 6220 - Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1; 4.2; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.8; 4.9; AND 4.10) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

Advisory Vote-Student Representatives: Qian, yes; Farawila, yes
Vote: Mitchell, yes; Oldson, yes; Jansons, yes; Evans, abstained, Waters, yes
Motion was approved.

Item 4.3-Policy No. 6220 - Board discussion followed regarding “conflict of interest” language. Mr. Belisle will research policy verbiage. This item will be added to the December 9, 2025 meeting agenda.

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Larson, Luke, 1.0 FTE, History, Carmichael MS, effective 10/29/2025 (non-continuing, from sub)
McCain, Michelle, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 10/29/2025 (non-continuing, from sub)
Moore, Molly, 1.0 FTE, Kindergarten, Sacajawea, effective 11/3/2025 (non-continuing, from sub)
Strickland, Hunter, 1.0 FTE, BESST, Sacajawea, effective 10/29/2025 (non-continuing, from sub)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Cortez, Matthew, Paraeducator, Supplemental Supports, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 10/24/25 (from sub)
DeVriend, Riley, Paraeducator, Resource Room, Tapteal, effective 10/22/2025 (from sub)
Donley, Kaycee, Paraeducator, Structured, Marcus Whitman, effective 10/22/2025 (from sub)
Dunlap-Freese, Niisa Paraeducator, BESST, Lewis & Clark, effective 10/23/2025 (from sub)
Hall, Samantha, Paraeducator, ECEAP, effective 10/23/2025 (rehire from sub)
Hathaway, Andrew, IT Field Technician Facilitator, Information Technology, effective 11/3/25
Hysjulien, Sarah, Paraeducator, Basic Education, effective 10/23/2025
Jackson, LaDonna, Paraeducator, Basic Education, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 10/21/2025
Kehret, Chelsea, Paraeducator, Basic Education, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 10/23/25 (from sub) (TEMPORARY)
Samaan, Roula, Paraeducator, Structured, Marcus Whitman, effective 10/23/2025 (from sub)
Yarbrough, Kelsey, Paraeducator, DD Preschool, Early Learning Center, effective 10/20/2025 (rehire from sub)

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Duran Torralba, Aylin Paraeducator, ELL, William Wiley Elementary, effective 10/24/2025
Hamilton, Dawn, Nutrition Services Team Member, Jefferson Elementary, effective 12/21/25
Jalayar, Zainullah, Paraeducator, Life Skills, Chief Joseph Middle School, effective 10/31/2025
Merrill, Anne, Nutrition Services Kitchen Manager, Jefferson Elementary, effective 12/31/25

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Roth, DeVonne, Office Professional, Support Services, effective 4/3/2026

4.2 Approval of Minutes (October 14, 2025; October 21, 2025)

4.3 Policy No. 6220-Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements

4.4 Policy No. 5050-Contracts

4.5 Policy No. 5020-Employment and Volunteers:

***Disclosures, Certification Requirements, Assurances and Approval**

4.6 Policy No. 1240-Committees

4.7 Policy/PR No. 4110-Citizen Committees and Task Forces

4.8 Policy No. 1220-Board Officers and Duties of Board Members

4.9 Budget Monthly

4.10 Warrant Approval

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008443 through 40008457 for \$19,599.97
No. 54000869 for \$1,024.28
Nos. 40008458 through 40008472 for \$33,121.50
No. 54000870 for \$32.00

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002446 through 20002448 for \$54,079.65
No. 52000488 for \$4,320.00
Nos. 20002449 through 20002455 for \$599,086.04
No. 52000489 for \$487,375.37

General Fund Warrant Nos. 10093418 through 10093453 for \$1,345,520.98
Nos. 51005517 through 51005566 for \$268,846.56
Nos. 10093454 through 10093484 for \$305,312.46
Nos. 51005567 through 51005567 for \$11,122.26
Self-Insurance Fund Warrant No. 70000255 for \$1,000.00

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items -Travis gone in November

- reminder that the next meeting was moved to Wednesday, November 12, 2025, due to Veterans' Day on Tuesday, November 11, 2025
- November 25, 2025-Add WSSDA reports from Board and Student Representatives

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS