



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 13, 2026
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, January 13, 2026, 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, Rick Jansons, and Dan Evans. Administrators present: Superintendent Dr. Shelley Redinger, 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, and Director of Information Technology Glenn Whitcomb.

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel, Legal, Real Estate)

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); 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 ninety minutes, with no action expected. Executive Session ended at 6:33 P.M.

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:37 P.M.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call - All Board members present. Student Representatives participated via zoom.

1.3 Board of Directors-Election of Officers

Ms. Waters explained the annual election process and asked for nominations for Board President. Jill Oldson nominated Katrina Waters and Rick Jansons supported the nomination.

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE KATRINA WATERS FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD PRESIDENT.

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

Vice President:

It was moved by Bonnie Mitchell and seconded by Dan Evans –

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE JILL OLDSON FOR THE OFFICE OF
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT.

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

The Legislative Representative is a two-year position. Rick Jansons will remain in that position.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS-First Lego League

Enid Flynn, Director of Instructional Technology, introduced the Robo Raptors from Jefferson Elementary and the Robotics Team from Chief Joseph Middle School. Advisors and students shared information on their missions. Both teams earned the chance to participate in the State competition in the near future.

2.2 Student Advisory Report

The report will be rescheduled for the next meeting due to illness.

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

Kayla Bean, Parent, shared concern regarding You-Tube in the classroom and parental consent. After researching this matter, more information will be shared at an upcoming meeting.

2.4 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger shared the winners of the recent Recognizing Innovation, Service and Excellence (RISE) Awards:

Lori Prussing – Marcus Whitman Elementary

Keziah Watson – Libby Middle School

Amanda Pina and Felicia Villareal – Jefferson Elementary

Superintendent Redinger also attended the Richland/Hanford basketball game and will be attending a Hanford drama production.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian and Sinan Farawila reported on upcoming events at the high schools including a robotics tournament, music concerts (all state band and orchestra), new semester starting next week, and a substance abuse presentation for parents at Richland High School. The students are also working on a video for the upcoming Replacement Levy.

Jill Oldson attended the Legislative Conference and several Levy Town Halls. She also reported more Town Halls to come (January 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th and February 3rd). The next Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting will be held on January 26, 2026.

Dan Evans attended the Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA) tour and will attend the HomeLink tour on Friday. He also attended several high school basketball games.

Katrina Waters encouraged the public to attend the Replacement Levy Town Halls offered over the next month.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Superintendent Redinger stated the first zoom to begin the Consolidated Program Review was today. Derek O’Konek, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs, will be the lead on this audit involving federal funds.

3.2 Fiscal Update

Travis Belisle, Executive Director of Finance, the January enrollment figures are not in yet, but numbers are still under the budgeted amount. Mr. Belisle is still predicting an eleven-day fund balance by the end of the fiscal year. He explained last year at this time the District had an interfund loan to repay as well as an appointment advance. Currently the District has a \$500,000 balance so we are moving in the right direction. Mr. Belisle did state there may be a need to move funds from the capital projects fund for a short period, then return the same amount the next month. Board discussion followed.

3.3 Operations-Staffing Trends

Ken Gosney, Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital and Operations, shared information on staffing trends over time. He stated overall staffing levels have trended downward over time. Reductions are intentional and aligned with budget realities, while keeping the focus on strong instructional services. Mr. Belisle added the central office staff is lean compared to other districts, with below average spending at the District administration level.

Human Capital Goal-Align staffing with enrollment, program needs, revenue-Ensure equitable staffing. Takeaways:

- Staffing trends moving in the right direction
- Richland prioritizes classrooms over administration
- Central office staffing is lean compared to peers
- The District is transitioning to a data-driven staffing framework
 - Board discussion followed

3.4 Operations-Facilities Planning Timeline Update

Mr. Gosney reported the initial goal was to complete and present the long-term facilities plan to the Board by the end of July 2026. This target was set before selecting a consulting firm. After selecting Consortus to lead the work, staff reviewed the timeline to ensure it supports a thoughtful and collaborative process. Mr. Gosney recommends extending the completion date to December 2026 to allow engagement with staff, families, and community stakeholders, and to provide additional time for deeper analysis of facility needs, enrollment trends, and cost modeling. There was consensus from all Board members to adjust the date to December 2026.

3.5 Legislative Session Update

Mr. Jansons and Ms. Oldson attended the recent Legislative Conference. Mr. Jansons advised there is no expectation for any new money this year. Districts are asking the Legislature to pause new policies and unfunded mandates. A webinar is held every Friday to share updates. Ms. Oldson advised the public is encouraged sign up to testify to speak on interested topics. Board members asked to keep the focus on student outcomes. Ms. Mitchell asked anyone interested in participating in a Legislative survey to email the Board feedback email and a link will be sent.

3.6 Board Discussion

Topics discussed:

- Chromebook usage-information on time spent at different levels (future agenda)
- You-Tube permissions
- Meta glasses-not allowed at school
- Public comment at meetings-discuss

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

Ms. Oldson asked to pull Item 4.7-Policy No. 2413-Equivalency Credit Opportunities

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; AND 4;8) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

Ms. Oldson shared concern regarding Policy No. 2413-Equivalency Credit Options including possible senior only usage and C or C- grading. Mr. Christensen stated this policy was added during COVID and not removed. More information was requested and the policy will be added to the second meeting in February.

4.1 Personnel Actions

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Alvarado, Tamika, 1.0 FTE, Supplemental Support, Tapteal Elementary, effective 1/14/26 (non-continuing, from sub)

Goeken, Ryan, 1.0 FTE, Math, Hanford High School, effective 1/21/26 (non-continuing, from sub)

Louderback, Carly, 1.0 FTE, 1st Grade, Lewis and Clark Elementary, effective 1/14/26 (non-continuing, from sub)

Saueressig, Alivia, 0.6 FTE, Speech Language Pathologist, Leona Libby Middle School, effective 1/14/26 (non-continuing)

Simm, Julie, 1.0 FTE, Structured, Marcus Whitman Elementary School, effective 1/14/26 (non-continuing, from sub)

Wood, Haley, 1.0 FTE, Structured, Badger Mountain Elementary School, effective 1/14/26 (non-continuing, from sub)

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Fritch, Brooklyn, Paraeducator, Basic Education, Three Rivers Homelink, effect. 1/8/26 (from sub)
Kopenec, Angela, Paraeducator, Supplemental Supports, Badger Mountain, effective 1/5/26 (rehire, from sub)

McDermott, Sean, Information Technology Technician I, Information Technology, effective 1/14/26 (from Temp)

Osborne, Timothy, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/6/2026 (from sub)

Palencia, Desiree, Nutrition Services Team Member, Marcus Whitman Elementary School, effective 12/12/25 (from sub)

Steege, Denise, Nutrition Services Team Member, Chief Joseph MS, effective 1/5/26 (from sub)

Sylejamni, Besa, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 1/5/2026 (from sub)

Valencia-Arroyo, Bertha, Bus Attendant, Transportation, effective 1/5/2026 (from sub)

Wickholm, Layton, Paraeducator, Supplemental Supports, Lewis & Clark Elementary, effective 12/18/25 (from sub)

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Hall, Samantha, Paraeducator, ECEAP, Early Learning Center, effective 1/26/26

Hernandez, Elena, Nutrition Services Kitchen Manager Backup, Carmichael Middle School, effective 12/21/25 (will sub)

Jones, Tiffany, Nutrition Services Kitchen Manager, Richland High School, effective 12/19/25

Stone, Margaret, Paraeducator, Supplemental Supports, Badger Mountain Elementary School, effective 12/19/25

RETIREMENTS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Briggs, Kathryn, Nutrition Services Team Member, Carmichael Middle, effective 1/6/26 (will sub)

Mayer, Nancy, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, TLAC, effective 2/27/2026

Stumetz, Beth, Accounts Payable and Purchasing Supervisor, TLAC, effective 2/27/2026

TERMINATION FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Pistoljevic, Landon Paraeducator, 1:1, Resource Room, Tapteal Elementary School, effective 12/15/25 (will sub)

4.2 Approval of Minutes (December 9, 2025)

4.3 Budget Monthly

4.4 Cash Grant-Sacajawea PTO-Fifth Grade Field Trip

4.5 Cash Grant-Jason Lee PTA/GESA Foundation-Playground Sunshade

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

4.7 Policy No. 2413-Equivalency Credit Opportunities

4.8 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008530 through 40008545 for \$27,381.10

Nos. 54000889 through 54000890 for \$164,173.28

Nos. 40008546 through 40008553 for \$6,912.05

Nos. 54000891 through 54000893 for \$3,559.59

Nos. 40008554 through 40008562 for \$10,591.14

Nos. 54000894 through 54000898 for \$6,564.93

Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002475 through 20002476 for \$12,288.61

Nos. 52000498 through 52000499 for \$60,268.35

Nos. 20002477 through 20002481 for \$78,116.67

No. 52000500 for \$4,320.00

Nos. 20002482 through 20002484 for \$47,720.32

No. 52000501 for \$55,712.93
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10093867 through 10093893 for \$185,18.94
Nos. 51005753 through 51005778 for \$682,963.68
Nos. 10093894 through 10093930 for \$210,630.16
Nos. 51005779 through 51005803 for \$174,063.47
Nos. 10094011 through 10094065 for \$947,972.90
Nos. 51005805 through 51005857 for \$454,778.56
Payroll Warrant Nos. 10093931 through 10093932 for \$256.05
Nos. 10093933 through 10093964 for \$55,366.86
Nos. 10093965 through 10094007 for \$4,920,279.36
Electronic Fund Transfer for \$11,481,655.63
Total December Payroll approved in the amount of \$16,457,557.90

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS