



Board of Directors, Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 27, 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 27, 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 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, Executive of 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 5:00 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 6:30 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-All Here

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 RECOGNITIONS-Board of Directors Appreciation Month

Badger Mountain Elementary and River's Edge High School Students shared a poem, posters, and T-shirts with Board members to honor School Board of Directors Appreciation Month. Three Rivers HomeLink, Jason Lee Elementary, and Sacajawea Elementary also shared cards and posters.

2.2 Student Advisory Report

Alaa Mabrouki, Richland High School Student, reported on topics discussed at the January Student Advisory meeting regarding policies including student discipline, nondiscrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying. AI will be discussed at next month's meeting and sample policies will be reviewed.

2.4 Requests and Comments by Visitors (2 minutes per individual)-None

2.5 Board/Student Representatives/Superintendent Reports

Shelley Redinger will be presenting at the Tri-City Chamber meeting tomorrow, along with neighboring district superintendents. She also announced Recognizing Innovation, Service and Excellence (RISE) Award winners:

- April Hellfeldt-Information Technology (IT)
- Jill Carter, Physical Education, and Carrie Rose, Music-Lewis and Clark Elementary

Dr. Redinger will be attending a Richland High basketball game and the Hanford Drama production.

Student Representatives:

Tiffany Qian reported on events at District high schools including Counselors' Appreciation Week, Tri Tech applications available, an ASB meeting, Hanford Chess Club first in state, and Delta Info Night. Tiffany also reported the Wi-Fi at Hanford High School is working well. Sinan Farawila reported on a Winter Blood Drive, an Info Night regarding financial aid, both Richland and Hanford High Schools participated in Solo Ensemble, and spring sports registration opens on February 2, 2026.

Rick Jansons reported on Legislative issues and stated there will be no new money for districts. Board members are also requesting no new mandates. There is a bill moving forward to pay school board members with training tied to the bill.

Jill Oldson reported there are 120 new bills this session and twenty focus on unfunded mandates. Ms. Oldson attended the HomeLink tour and feels fortunate that the District can offer a variety of opportunities for students. She also attended the Parent/Guardian Advisory meeting last night, invited the public to attend the Levy Replacement Town Halls, and stated she will be at SWIGs in West Richland on Thursday morning to discuss Levy information.

Dan Evans attended the HomeLink tour and invited all to attend the upcoming Town Halls on January 28, 29, and February 3, 2026.

Katrina Waters attended the HomeLink tour and reminded all to mail ballots by February 1, 2026 due to changes in post mark locations. Ballots can also be placed in drop boxes around the area.

3.0 BUSINESS

3.1 Performance Audit Update

Superintendent Redinger reported the Title II portion of the Consolidated Program Review is complete. Elementary You-Tube access has been moved to the most restrictive setting. More will be shared for the secondary students in February.

3.2 High School Update

Tory Christensen, Executive Director of Instructional Services, presented a mid-year data update from all District high schools. The focus areas include attendance, behavior, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)/advisory time, and cell phone usage. Mr. Christensen stated each high school collected and analyzed data from PowerSchool, School Data Solutions, and SWIS, supplemented by student and staff survey feedback. High school Principals Nicole Anderson-Richland High School, Mike Johnson-Hanford High School, Tyler Reeser-Three Rivers HomeLink, and Paul Shaber-River's Edge High School and Pacific Crest Online Academy (PCOA) presented data from each school. The report also incorporated ninth grade on-track to graduate, overall graduation rates and attendance information. Board questions and discussion followed.

3.3 Special Education Budget Update

Zac Carpenter, Executive Director of Special Education, shared an overview of how the District allocates and spends Special Education funds, as well as explain the factors contributing to the high cost of delivering legally compliant, high-quality services to students with disabilities. Mr. Carpenter advised Special Education funding is widely recognized as underfunded at both the State level in Washington and within the Richland School District. Funding is not based on student need or service intensity, but rather per-pupil. State funding represents the majority of revenue (\$31.2M), and a smaller portion of federal funding (\$2.8M) is received. Local contribution equals \$5M (unfunded). Mr. Carpenter explained 92% of these funds are spent on staffing. Board discussion followed. Mr. Carpenter will report on the Inclusionary Grant received mid-summer.

3.4 Financial Framework Update

Travis Belisle, Executive Director of Finance, explained the District will not need a loan as was mentioned at a previous meeting. All Board members congratulated Mr. Belisle on his work towards stabilizing the District's finances. He presented his Financial Framework (Path to Financial Stability and Future Fiscal Responsibility), focused on fund balance recovery with the long-term goal of an 8% fund balance by 2030. This gradual build-back will allow the District to meet the needs of our students. Mr. Belisle will also be presenting this framework at the Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) Conference. Guiding principles include:

- **Stewardship:** responsible use of public funds through ethical budgeting and evaluation
- **Transparency:** clear communication and visibility of financial data
- **Sustainability:** structurally balanced budgets that ensure long-term solvency
- **Equity:** prioritization of student-facing investments while maintaining financial discipline
- **Accountability:** regular performance monitoring through OSPI's FIT standards

Board discussion followed.

3.5 Board Discussion-None

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

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

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (4.1) THROUGH (4.3) INCLUDING AN UPDATED PERSONNEL ACTION.

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

4.1 Personnel Actions

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Asmund, Briita, Paraeducator, 1:1 Supplemental Supports, Tapteal, effect 1/22/26 (from sub)
Booker, Max, Paraeducator, Basic Education, Carmichael Middle School, effect 1/14/26 (from sub)
Boyce, Brooklynn, Paraeducator, Resource Room, Temporary, Marcus Whitman Elementary, effective 1/26/26 (from sub)
Davis, Sandra, Paraeducator, Basic Education, Temporary, Jason Lee, effective 1/28/26 (from sub)
Goodman, Alison, Fiscal Analyst to Accounts Payable/Purchasing Supervisor, Financial Services, effective 1/28/26
Hood, Paisley, Paraeducator, Supplemental Supports, Badger Mountain Elementary, effective 1/27/26 (from sub)
Long Powers, Stephanie, Paraeducator, 1:1 Supplemental Supports, Jefferson Elementary, effective 1/21/26 (from sub)
Milliken, Marsha, Secretary, HS Athletics, Hanford, to Human Resources Contract Specialist, TLAC, effective 1/28/26
Palencia, Ruby, Executive Assistant, Student Services to Executive Assistant, Superintendent, effective 3/02/26
Riley, Cynthia, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 2/1/26 (from sub)
Stepleton, Shannon, Paraeducator, Basic Education, Temporary, Jason Lee Elementary, effective 1/27/26 (from sub)
Velasquez, Krystal, Paraeducator, 1:1 RBT, Badger Elementary, effective 1/23/26 (from sub)

RESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Brewer, Terra, Nutrition Services Team Member, Desert Sky Elementary, effect 1/30/26 (will sub)
Dockendorff, Kasia, Human Resources Specialist, Teaching, Learning, and Administration (TLAC), effective 1/31/26

4.2 Approval of Minutes (January 13, 2026; January 21, 2026)

4.3 Payroll and Warrant Information

ASB Fund Warrant Nos. 40008563 through 40008570 for \$11,091.24
Nos. 54000899 through 54000902 for \$110,713.37
Nos. 40008571 through 40008577 for \$16,454.15
No. 54000903 for \$25.00
Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 20002485 through 20002485 for \$48,658.67
Nos. 52000502 through 52000503 for \$8,258.28
Nos. 20002486 through 20002489 for \$36,509.57
No. 52000504 for \$4,320.00
General Fund Warrant Nos. 10094068 through 10094089 for \$54,006.49
Nos. 51005858 through 51005877 for \$593,995.29
Nos. 10094090 through 10094119 for \$226,963.34
Nos. 51005878 through 51005924 for 142,168.56

5.0 AGENDAS

5.1 Future Agenda Items

- February 10, 2026-move 3.4-Board Meeting Logistics, to first March 10, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS