

# Board Briefs

Richland School Board Highlights of March 14, 2017, meeting

The District is continuing its efforts [to reduce chronic absenteeism](#) including the gap between low income and non-low income students. Carmichael Middle School implemented a program which has reduced the number of students with chronic absenteeism by 40% over last year. Administrative Assistant **Tina Burruss** conducts weekly goal setting meeting with students and has increased parent awareness of the issues surrounding chronic absenteeism. Beginning next fall, Carmichael plans to bring in 25 [Ignite youth mentors](#) to work with at-risk students.



These administrative assistants and Gear-Up Success Coordinators are helping students with goal setting and attendance issues at RSD secondary schools (l to r): **Brenda Diaz, Michael Vowels, Donelle Dorsett, Cindy Nichols, Tina Burruss, and Elias Cuello** (not pictured is **Adrian Ochoa**).

## Here is a construction update:

- Jefferson Elementary School - construction documents are almost complete; site preparation work will begin in early April.
- Leona Libby Middle School - kitchen equipment will be installed in mid-April; classroom furniture arrives in early June.
- Modular classroom buildings have been delivered to Hanford High School; cranes will install the structures next week.
- Modular classrooms for Richland High School will be installed during spring break.



Drywall is going up in the Leona Libby kitchen area; the school will open in August.

The District is in the process of selecting **architectural design teams** for each of the [2017 bond issue projects](#). Staff are also drafting project timelines and cash flow forecasts.

**Communities in Schools (CIS) site coordinators** are making a difference in the Richland School District. During the 2015-16 school year, over 3,500 students received CIS services with nearly 400 receiving case managed support.

“We’re helping students and families with basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing,” says Lupe Mares, CIS Executive Director. “We’ve seen positive impacts on attendance, behavior, and academic performance.”

Learn more in [this detailed report](#).



Celebrating good attendance at Marcus Whitman.

Board reviewed [a detailed report](#) on the District's efforts to improve **High School & Beyond Planning** for 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. "We've developed an interactive online tool which will help students register for classes, select courses tied to career interests, and plan for life after high school," explained Assistant Superintendent Todd Baddley.

Each student will have a unique log in allowing them to make changes to their plans and communicate easily with counselors.

"Each student's plan will be a living document that can be examined and adjusted as needed," added Baddley.

**In recognition of Classified School Employees Week**, board members and administration **thanked the District's 800 classified employees** for all they do to create quality learning environments. "Our classified employees keep our schools running smoothly and efficiently. They make a positive difference every day in the lives of Richland students," said Superintendent Rick Schulte.

Jason Lee Elementary principal Joe Jisa honored administrative assistant **Sue Richardson** for her commitment to helping students be successful. "Sue has a gift in how she connects with students and parents. What's best for Jason Lee students is always at the center of her decision making."



### Other News:

The Hanford High School Key Club invites all community members to a **pancake breakfast** on Saturday, March 18, 8:00 to 10:00 am, at the Richland Community Center. Adults are \$6, children are \$4. Proceeds will help support the Children's Cancer Fund and other Key Club projects.

Click on this [construction cam link](#) for the latest images at Leona Libby. The school will open in August.

**A recent Hanford High School jazz concert** featured a number of outstanding groups including this small ensemble playing [Logic Animal](#).

**The Hanford High Key Club recently raised \$2768** during their "Pennies for Patients" drive, a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

**Expanding Your Horizons** encourages middle school girls to participate in hands-on demonstrations provided by professional women in science, technology, engineering, and math. The event is Saturday, March 25, 8:00 to 3:00, at CBC. For more information, contact Marsha Eades at 375-4880.

### Awards:

**A Richland High School team won first place** in the YMCA District Mock Trial competition held at the Benton County Courthouse ([photo gallery](#)). Students acted out an actual trial before real Superior Court judges.

- **Emma Ashby and Skyler Schwisow** earned **Outstanding Attorney** awards.
- **Katie Andres, Joshua Cahoon, Austin Hartley, and Grace Hartwig** earned **Outstanding Witness** awards.



The RHS Mock Trial team will compete at state.

**Congratulations to five high school seniors** who are Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program:

### Hanford High School Finalists

Amy Huo  
Michael Mosqueda  
Kevin Weng  
George Zhang

### Richland High School Finalist

Viknesh Kasthuri

Fourteen RSD students **earned Judges Choice Awards** at the Southeastern Washington High School Art Show and have qualified for the Washington State Art Show in Olympia ([art work photo gallery](#)).

**Hanford High School Judges Choice Winners:**

**Italia Coppeto**  
**Sarah Didericksen**  
**Peyton Dunn**  
**Emily Ellwein**  
**Hunter Elms**  
**Catherine Guevara**  
**Celeste Pe**  
**Olivia Ranes**  
**Miranda Reisenauer**  
**Eilie Soderquist**

**Richland High School Judges Choice Winners:**

**Louise Bohl**  
**Kyle Jones**  
**Delaney McEuin**  
**Maisie Troillett**

[Books Championship](#). Team members in the photo below are **Sierra Lightfoot, Austin Osborn, Emma Miller, Gabrielle Jackson, and Daorsa Selimi**.



**Hunter Elms, HHS, created this charcoal and conte crayon drawing titled “Leadership”.**

Over 70 teams competed in the Eastern Washington Destination Imagination Tournament. Four teams are advancing on to the state competition:

- **The Order of the Coyote** - Wiley Elementary
- **Fine Smarts** - Jason Lee Elementary
- **The Dab Crew** - Lewis & Clark Elementary
- **The Creative Coyotes** - Wiley Elementary

A team from **Sacajawea Elementary School** earned the **first place trophy** at The Three Rivers [Battle of the](#)

**The District is in the process of selecting architectural firms** for each of the [2017 bond issue projects](#). The \$99 million bond will fund ten projects including four elementary schools and improvements to the Richland High School auditorium.

Construction documents for Jefferson Elementary School are almost complete. Site preparation work will begin in early April. The new Jefferson will open in 2018.

Meanwhile, construction of Leona Libby Middle School is right on schedule. The District's fourth middle school will open this August.

**In recognition of Classified School Employees Week**, the Richland School District thanks all classified staff for their efforts in helping students succeed. Classified employees include secretaries, bus drivers, kitchen and maintenance workers, custodians, and paraeducators.

**And congratulations to the mock trial team from Richland High School. The team earned first place** at regionals and will now compete at the Washington State Mock Trial competition in Olympia.