

February 26, 2019



Board Summary

Construction Updates

Caren Johnson, Director of Capital Projects, presented to the Richland School Board the final design documents for the new Tapteal Elementary and the Teaching, Learning and Administration Center (TLAC). Board members unanimously approved the design documents and authorized district staff to open the bidding process for the projects this spring.

Assessment Update

Deputy Superintendent Mike Hansen presented to the Board the results of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment given to students this winter. District and school leaders use the results to calculate academic growth in language arts and math compared to results on the fall MAP assessments. The data will also be used to develop the district and school improvement plans for the 2019-20 school year.

Schools outperformed last year's projections in language arts and performed similarly to last year's projections in math. Four schools—Lewis & Clark, Marcus Whitman and William Wiley elementary schools and Carmichael Middle School—do not have MAP assessment results as they are piloting a new assessment model the district is considering for adoption.

Mr. Hansen says this could be an indicator that overall district scores in both math and language arts on the state-required Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) exams will improve this year compared to 2018.

District/School Improvement Planning

Mr. Hansen provided the Board an update regarding how improvement plans for the next four years for the district and all schools will be developed. Proposed draft targets are being set for language arts, math, absenteeism, discipline, and graduation rates based on the 2017-18 and 2018-19 baseline data.

Each school will have its own targets to match its student population, Mr. Hansen says. Targets will also be developed for each school's students receiving special education services. Results will be monitored every 45 days to help schools quickly adjust practices and interventions when it appears progress isn't being made.

Board members directed district administrators to make sure each school's targets fit within the overall district goals to ensure that if the schools are making progress that it also shows at the district level.

Change Of Board Meeting Dates

Board members unanimously approved canceling their March 12 regular meeting as some members as well as Superintendent Dr. Rick Schulte and Successor Superintendent Dr. Nicole MacTavish will be in Washington D.C. that week to meet with lawmakers about Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments provided to the district. Board members also unanimously approved moving their April meeting dates to April 16 and April 30 due to the proximity of Spring Break to the one of the originally scheduled meetings.

2019-20 Staffing Report

Dr. Schulte and Rich Puryear, Executive Director of Financial Services, presented staffing level projections for the 2019-20 school year.

The district continues to work on budget projections for the next school year. However, even without firm, final numbers and the possibility of state legislation making further changes to education funding, the district will likely need to reduce certificated and classified staff or use money provided for maintenance, supplies and operating costs to preserve positions.

Dr. Schulte says the need for staffing reductions is the result of several factors:

- The state next year will withhold K-3 class size reduction funding from districts that are not meeting the state goal of a 17:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Richland K-3 classes currently have a 19:1 ratio on average. The district needs 25-30 K-3 teachers to meet the state goal. However, the district currently does not have enough classrooms to house that many teachers and state funding won't fully cover the cost of those teacher salaries based on the district's current teacher contract.
- While the state increased its allocation to districts through increased state property taxes in response to a state Supreme Court ruling, state lawmakers also capped the district's local levy to less than half of its previous level. Additionally, the state further restricted levy dollars to only be spent on "enrichment" in schools, not basic education.
- A new state funding model for staff salaries, also developed in response to the state Supreme Court ruling on education funding, does not fully cover staff costs based on negotiated contracts due to the above average experience and education of district staff. That funding model also indicates the district is overstaffed by 11 certificated positions, 78 classified positions and 1 administrative position based on state staffing guidelines.
- District enrollment is projected to decrease by 50 full-time equivalent (FTE) students compared to the current school year, the result of lower K-3 enrollment numbers and changes to the state's high school student enrollment funding formula.

Dr. Schulte says he and district administrators are looking at options and working with employee unions to develop a path forward that will help the district meet its budget while having as minimal an impact on students as possible.

Strategic Plan Survey Update

Ty Beaver, Public Information Officer, presented an update to the Board regarding its Strategic Plan survey. The district is working in partnership with research firm K12 Insight to survey students, families, staff and community members on the goals and priorities that should be considered as the Board develops a strategic plan for the district. The survey was released on Feb. 19 and had more than 2,100 responses within its first week.

They survey will close on March 5 and K12 Insight is analyzing the data and will provide a report to The Board to consider when it meets at 6:30 p.m. on March 19 during a workshop on the strategic plan.

Next Regular Meeting: March 26 @ 6:30 p.m.

Richland School District

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