

BOARD BRIEFING.....April 10, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met April 10, 2009, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Proposed Use of I-728 Student Achievement Funds – I-728 allocations cannot be finalized until the state finalizes the budget, so the current allocations will be adjusted before they are adopted. President Ybarra credited the district for managing the dollars well in challenging times. A public hearing for I-728 is required and is scheduled for the April business meeting.

Recurring Schedule for Report 1000.2.3 Financial Condition and Activities – It was agreed to adjust the board’s Policy Governance Planning Calendar for Report 1000.2.3, scheduling it on a quarterly rotation, beginning June 2009.

Presentations – Executive Limitations Report 1000.2.9-I Communication and Support to the Board – The basic intent of Policy 1000.2.9-I is that the superintendent shall not fail to appropriately inform and support the board in its work. Superintendent Soria reported his interpretation and evidence of compliance for each policy section. The report will be posted to the board’s webpage under Policy Governance.

Legislative Issues Discussion – Martha Rice, currently serving as WSSDA President, has opportunity to represent the board at the state legislative level. Walt Ranta, board member, currently serves as Legislative Representative for the board as well as for the South Central Region. The board discussed items related to their listing for WSSDA’s potential legislative proposals. The State Board of Education (SBE) meets in Yakima May 14 and 15; there will be representation of Yakima School District programs at the meetings.

Issues of Board Interest –

- Former 14th District Legislative Representative Mary Skinner’s memorial is May 9.
- Raymond Navarro Jr. referred to an athletic item related to helmet safety.
- Martha Rice attended the Annual NSBA Conference; she will follow-up with a written report.
- Mary Beth Wright, Director of Community Relations, provided a bond proposal update.

Introductions – Governance Process Policies: Policy 1000.3.2-I Board Job Description, Policy 1000.3.3-I Agenda Planning, Policy 1000.3.4-I Board President’s Role, and Policy 1000.3.5-I Board Members’ Code of Conduct –

Board members led the discussion on each of the four board policies for introduction. President Ybarra will develop a rating survey for each policy, which will be scheduled for review following completion by the board members.

Highlights of board discussion on the four policies follow:

- Policy 1000.3.2-I Board Job Description (Martha Rice) – This policy deals with the board’s job description, outlining how it is distinct from the role of the superintendent and staff.
- Policy 1000.3.3-I Agenda Planning (Walt Ranta) – The board accomplishes its work with a governance style consistent with board policies through annual agenda planning. Discussion followed regarding calendaring meetings with selected groups through Community Linkages. Those contacts were made this year by the board through the superintendent search process.
- Policy 1000.3.4-I Board President’s Role (John Vornbrock) – The board president provides board leadership, ensures the integrity of process, exercises interpretive responsibilities and normally serves as the official spokesperson. This policy refers to the detailed responsibilities for the board president and gives authority to the vice president in the president’s absence.
- Policy 1000.3.5-I Board Members’ Code of Conduct (Raymond Navarro Jr.) – This policy outlines the agreements for how the members will perform as a board, with a commitment to upholding the values of the district. It outlines the key principles behind Policy Governance.