

# **BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING . . . . April 21, 2009**

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met April 21, 2009, at Central Services Conference Rooms A and B, for their monthly business meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

## **Acknowledgment of Accomplishments/Recognitions** – Names listed on Page 2

- Recognition: Winter Sports
- Recognition: Washington State PTA Reflections Contest
- Proclamation: Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2009

## **REPORTS**

**Teaching and Learning – Elementary Education Update** – Kris Seibel, Director of Elementary Education, and other staff reviewed Elementary Education highlights, aligning them with the board's four goals on the Roadmap. Under Mastery of the Basics and Beyond, literacy continues to be the focus; improving math includes the implementation of Rocket Math. Innovative and Creative Expression is supported by providing visual art integration using GLE's. Under Highly Capable programs, criteria for an OSPI grant that will serve 300 students was reviewed; the recommendation is to move the program to the middle schools and support the elementary levels through levy funds. The long-term goal for Civic and Global Participation includes steps to ensure all students reach proficiency on the Social Studies CBAs. Work toward Skills for Successful Living includes a shift in thinking to look at the whole child. Strategies to fit science and social studies in are being worked on every day, knowing the focus must stay on literacy.

**Members of the Board** – Walt Ranta reported on recent state-level SkillsUSA competitions. Martha Rice reported on the recent WSSDA Regional Meeting, hosted by Damman School District. Attendees included school directors from the Lower and Upper Valley areas. President Ybarra represented the board in Olympia on April 20 for the Senate's passage of a resolution in honor of Mr. Soria.

**Superintendent Update** – Superintendent Soria provided district-related updates on several topics, including the district's commitment not to affect staffing unless state cuts are larger than anticipated. In making re-alignments to reach more students for the Innovative and Creative Expression goal, the Highly Capable program will look different, specifically for Company 7 and EXCEL. A Science Instructional Leadership Team has been formed in an effort to continue to align the P-12 science program with state standards.

District parent Eric Silvers reported on the African-American Education Parent Steering Group, formed this year. Members are assigned to a middle or high school and serve as a link to communicate community information to students. Member Kim Pualani reported on several events, including informational visits from colleges and parent trainings. Two students shared how the events have helped them move forward in plans for college. Sharon Harris, YSD staff member and parent group member, reported the partnership with the district is valuable. The model, proven successful, is being established in West Valley.

## **BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY**

**Second Reading and Approval – Policy 1000.1.0 Global Ends Statement** – Revisions bind the district's resources to desired student goals and define the term 'all students' to include grade/building levels and subgroups (poverty, race/ethnicity, primary language, and gender).

## **OTHER**

**Consent Agenda** – Standard monthly business items were approved: Approval of Minutes, Notification of Approval of Warrants, Approval of Financial and Approval of Personnel Actions.

**Public Hearing: Proposed Use of I-728 Funding** – One staff member, addressing the board, requested copies of the allocations be provided at future meetings and asked for an explanation of indirects. It was clarified that indirects are dollars that districts are allowed to use from specific categories to help run the district. The Public Hearing is required at this time; however, because the state budget is not finalized, I-728 allocations will be adjusted before adoption. Information is posted on the district’s website. Comments must be submitted by May 1; submit to Scott Izutsu at 509-573-7040 or [izutsu.scott@yakimaschools.org](mailto:izutsu.scott@yakimaschools.org).

**Approved: Affirmative Action Plan** – The plan was presented to the board at their April 17 meeting, providing time for review prior to approval. The plan is required every five years and is utilized by the state to look at YSD hiring practices.

**Approved: Out-of-State Travel for Harvard Summer Institute of Learning** – This travel is funded from Title I federal funding that must be used for professional development. The district has been sending principals and assistant principals to Harvard since 2002.

**Approved: Out-of-State Travel for Eisenhower Marching Band and Staff** – The out-of-state, overnight travel is for a trip to Orlando, Florida, by the Eisenhower Marching Band and staff, departing March 29 and returning April 2, 2010. Financing for the trip is provided through fundraising by students and families as part of the Cadet Band Boosters.

**Second Public Comment** – Two parents and a staff member expressed concerns regarding the potential closing of EXCEL and Company 7. They support expansion to the secondary levels; however, asked that the search continue for creative solutions. Five staff members encouraged support of paraeducators in their ‘Living Wage’ campaign. A community member/parent spoke on behalf of the Committee for Cesar Chavez, asking that students and staff members learn about his life. Other comments included concern about undistributed math materials, request to wait for the new math WASL before moving to a new math curriculum, and inquiry about opportunities for the public’s input about budget planning in the upcoming years. President Ybarra clarified the board will be going through their regular budget schedule until the end of August with updates at business meetings; anyone may make public comment on that process.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

### **Winter Sports**

#### Davis High School:

Diving:

Randy Peltier, 2nd Place

Jeremy Sculley, 4th Place

Doug White and Carl Scott, Coaches

Wrestling:

Courtney Nalley, 2nd Place

Zach Nalley, 7th Place

Alexio Garcia, 8th Place

Eric Rotondo, Coach

### **Washington State PTA Reflections Contest**

#### Senior Photography

Michael Schmahl, Eisenhower High School

Award of Excellence – Say WOW!