

BOARD BRIEFING.....August 14, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met August 14, 2009, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Bond Update – Scott Izutsu, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported on the amounts allocated in the bond for the non-high-school items. The district contracted an engineering consultant firm to assess the critical maintenance needs in the schools other than the two high schools. A sequence of projects is being developed; roofing projects are currently under way. President Ybarra emphasized it is important to help staff and the public understand the decisions that are made for using the bond funds.

Architect Update for the Eisenhower High School Replacement Project – The architect firm for Eisenhower replacement project was selected following a comprehensive process, including extensive interviews of four to six hours and visits to building sites the firms had listed as references. Permission to approve KDF Architects of Yakima and NAC Architects out of Spokane for the architect and engineering selection is scheduled for the August 18 business meeting.

2009-10 Final Budget Summary Presentation – The 09-10 Budget is built on a projected enrollment of 13,820 Average FTE. It was noted that funding from the bond is included on the Capital Projects Fund Recap. Federal stimulus funding is being used to retain staff that would have had to be laid off during this time of financial difficulty for the district. The stimulus dollars are being used to balance the budget and save jobs in the next two years; however, these funds may not be available in 2011-12. Student Achievement/I-728 funding allocations were reviewed; it was noted that some of the programs previously funded by I-728 are continuing through funding from federal stimulus and other sources. Approval of Resolution 11.08.09 *Adoption of the 2009-10 Budget* is scheduled for the August 18 business meeting.

Issues of Board Interest –

- Martha Rice reported on her attendance at the State Board of Education (SBE) work group that is targeting completion of their accountability system proposal in time for the upcoming legislative session.
- Vickie Ybarra received a response from WSSDA about the board's proposal regarding determination of what options may exist that would permit districts to consider other variables in addition to teacher seniority when faced with a reduction in teacher force. Following discussion, the board agreed Ms. Ybarra would ask that the proposal be taken to the floor at the legislative assembly with revised language requesting the legislature initiate and/or support a study rather than exploration of policy.
- The Board Meeting and Events Schedule and the August 18 business agenda were reviewed.