

BOARD BRIEFING..... December 11, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met December 11, 2009, at Central Services, Conference Rooms A and B, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

14th District Legislative Breakfast Meeting –

Introduction/Opening Remarks - Senator Curtis King and Representative Norm Johnson were in attendance at the breakfast meeting. Representative Charles Ross was unable to attend.

Legislative Concerns - The meeting focused on Local Effort Assistance (LEA) or Levy Equalization, which specifically affects low-income communities that don't have an adequate tax base, and All-Day Kindergarten, which is a significant way the district provides extra instructional time. The representatives received a district fact sheet to use for their work in Olympia. Two different dollars-and-cents scenarios were shared about how much shortfall would result from state budget cuts. The district has been working to prepare for the reductions and has cut back substantially already.

Discussion Regarding District Priorities - Cece Mahre, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, reported priorities include the reading program and early learning. The district is focusing on math and adopted a new math curriculum. Additionally, the district is looking for ways to gain instruction time with students. Budget reductions will impact the infrastructure behind the programs and the efforts to cut the drop-out rate and increase the graduation rate.

Wrap-Up - Senator King and Representative Johnson indicated the fact sheet would be very helpful for discussions in Olympia. They emphasized the need for organizations and associations to get the word out to help Olympia understand what will really be lost through cuts to LEA. President Ybarra reported WSSDA and others are making the call to action a priority. Both representatives appreciate knowing they can call on the district for information at any time.

Items of Board Interest - Dr. Beraza reviewed the steps planned for gathering input from staff for budget reduction ideas and reported the superintendent cabinet is working on prioritization. President Ybarra emphasized the importance of following the board's budget parameters as reductions are considered.