

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING . December 16, 2008

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met December 16, 2008, at Central Services Conference, Rooms A and B, for their monthly business meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of Shayla Holwegner, Eisenhower High School student. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Reorganization of the Board – This is an annual process. Following nominations and board voting, Vickie Ybarra was elected Board President; John Vornbrock Vice President; and Walt Ranta Legislative Representative, a two-year term.

Acknowledgment of Accomplishments/Recognitions –

Nob Hill Elementary – School of Distinction Award – For the second year in a row, Nob Hill received the award from OSPI for dramatic improvement in student reading and mathematics.
Fall Sports – The board presented certificates to student athletes, listed on Page 2, who placed at the WIAA State Championships for fall sports.

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning – On-Time Graduation Rates/Dropouts – Greg Day, Director, Acad. Assess., referenced the multiple challenges for rate calculations at the state and federal level. Data for YSD, 2003-07, shows an encouraging improvement trend, for example in dropout percentages, 21.0% in 2003 to 7.1% in 2007.

Members of the Board – Vickie Ybarra, Walt Ranta and Craig Dwight, YV-TECH Principal, met with representatives in Olympia about YV-TECH Phase II funding. The board's recent breakfast meeting provided the opportunity to discuss local issues with 14th District representatives.

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Soria credited staff for marked improvements to keep kids in school and for increased graduation rates. He reported on facilities systems which were put to the test by recent inclement weather, noting the impact to the budget of failing systems.

OTHER

Consent Agenda – All standard monthly business items were approved: Approval of Minutes, Notification of Approval of Warrants, Approval of Financials, and Approval of Personnel Actions.

State Auditor's Office Performance Audit Report: School District Travel Practices - Scott Izutsu, Asst. Supt. of Business Support Services, gave a brief summary of the state auditor's performance audit of travel practices in 13 school districts and reviewed YSD's response to the auditor's recommendations made for all districts. YSD was selected based on our location which requires traveling longer distances through the state for trainings required by grants. The report is available at: <http://www.yakimaschools.org/dept.asp?id=10&bh=4>.

Public Hearing regarding Travel Audit –In response to one inquiry, it was clarified the district is working toward getting the new travel policy out to staff.

2007-08 Year-End Fiscal Report - Scott Izutsu gave a report summary for the viewing audience. The board also reviewed the 2007-08 Year-End Fiscal Report at their November 7 meeting. Superintendent Soria stated the district is waiting for the governor's budget to determine what dollars are needed to balance the budget. Fiscal questions may be directed to Scott Izutsu at (509) 573-7040 or izutsu.scott@yakimaschools.org.

Approved – Resolution 02.08.09 YSD to Join Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) - NEWS has filed a lawsuit, which will be heard June 2009, urging legislators to conduct a study to determine what it would take to provide ample, stable funding to carry a

student from Grades K-12. President Ybarra clarified that in joining NEWS, the district does not become a party to the lawsuit; we become a member of the organization.

Second Opportunity for Comments from the Public – All Other – One person brought concerns regarding the state’s graduation rate; safety for teachers; the district’s proposal process for I-728 funding; and comparisons of administrative costs. Superintendent Soria indicated the district is following process to address the staff safety issue. Mr. Izutsu provided information on the district’s obligations for non-voted debt.

RECOGNITIONS – Fall Sports

Davis High School:

Girls’ Cross-Country: 2nd in State

Sandra Martinez

8th in State

Shawna Schooley

Boys’ Cross Country: 7th in State

Emmanuel Contreras

Coach: Jose Garcia

Eisenhower High School:

Swimming Event - 200 Medley Relay: 5th in State

Kirsta Bezenek

Gabriela Ruiz

Emilie Pleger

Beth Klingele

Swimming Event - Breaststroke: 7th in State

Emilie Pleger

Coach: Rick Alderson

Cross-Country: 6th in State

Bryan Simison

Ryan Chapman

Timothy Cummings

Andy Romfo

Ivan Alfaro

German Silva

Cody Johnson

Coach: Phil English