

# **BOARD BRIEFING ..... December 5, 2008**

## **Yakima Public Schools** District Number 7 **Board of Directors**

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The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met December 5, 2008, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

**Presentation - Report On-Time Graduation Rates, Dropouts** – Alicia Jacobs, Assessment Specialist, presented the on-time graduation and dropout rates report. Changing methodology for calculating graduation rates throughout the years complicates comparisons, plus the state's current formula is confusing and only provides an estimate. Dropout, on-time graduation and extended graduation rates for the district and Davis and Eisenhower high schools were reviewed. The district's annual dropout rates have gone down considerably from 21.0% in 2003 to 7.1% in 2007; estimated on-time graduation and extended graduation rates have increased each year since 2003. Superintendent Soria emphasized that, regardless of the method used, tremendous improvement to graduate students is evident. The district has staff members who work to keep more kids in school; high schools are retaining students more than ever before.

**Discussion - Join Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS)** – A NEWS representative presented information about a coalition of school districts, organizations and WEA at the board's October 17 meeting. NEWS is working to initiate a court order for the state to conduct a study to determine the cost of educating students in the state of Washington. Superintendent Soria said this is the only way anything will happen through the legislature. Board member Martha Rice agreed, adding PTA, WASA and other educational organizations are in support. Vicki Dwight reported YEA's executive board also supports the coalition. The district's support of this specific effort would not keep them from continuing to use other avenues to give the same message that funding is needed on behalf of our students. Based on the board's agreement following discussion, President Ybarra indicated she would ask the superintendent to prepare a resolution for board approval to join the NEWS coalition.

**Introduction - Policy B-SL 1000.4.4.I Monitoring Superintendent Performance** – President Ybarra reported Policy B-SL 1000.4.4.I is one the board is expected to use as a guide to monitor superintendent performance, noting that under Policy Governance (PG), there is a prescribed way this is done. The board will rate their performance on the policy, followed by discussion and then approval at two separate meetings.

**Approved - Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Yakima Coaches/Activities Association and Yakima School District** – Rick Doehle, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported it was a long process with complicated work by both parties to come to an agreement for a better approach for coaches; the work strengthened this contract considerably. It was clarified there is reciprocal monetary compensation for activities as well.

### **Issues of Board Interest** –

- Martha Rice reported the WSSDA board adopted a model resolution available to school boards, resulting from concerns about a School Board of Education proposal. Yakima's board will take a closer look at the resolution, and then discuss it at a future meeting.
- It was decided the following topics will be the focus for discussion with legislative representatives at the board's December 12 legislative breakfast meeting: I-728 funding, all-day kindergarten, levy equalization and Learning Improvement Days.
- Raymond Navarro Jr. and Walt Ranta reported on their attendance at the WASA/SCR regional dinner meeting where there was discussion on the effectiveness of the state's assessment models and changes ahead.
- The board will schedule a future agenda item to discuss Core 24 and its impact to CTE.
- Vickie Ybarra reported the Basic Ed Task Force's final recommendations will be done on Monday and Tuesday; she will attend, plus meet with two governor reps to discuss the YV-TECH Phase II and Early Childhood Ed Center. Craig Dwight and Walt Ranta will join her.
- There was general discussion of potential budget cuts at the state level and the potential implications for our district.