

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING ..February 10, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met February 10, 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 provided on Page 2.

- 2008 National Board Certified Teachers – The Board of Directors acknowledged the teachers who received 2008 National Board Certification.
- National PTA Month – In honor of National PTA Month, the board recognized Yakima PTA Council Officers and PTA/PTO/PTSA and Booster Club Presidents/Co-Presidents.

Gifts to the District/Board: Local artist Don Crook presented a large framed print of the historical painting 'Lincoln's Timeless Past – The Gettysburg Address' he was commissioned to do last year by local historian Ken Thomas. Mr. Thomas gave Mr. Crook permission to donate the print, which will be displayed in a prominent place in one of the YSD facilities.

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning – Kindergarten Transition Report – Stacey Drake, Early Learning Director, reported Washington's children are falling behind; transition to kindergarten is pivotal to their academic career. Children from low-income areas are at the highest risk. Thrive by Five, Ready by Five and YSD are working together through a coordinated network of services and resources to meet the challenge. The YSD kindergarten transition model was implemented at 13 elementary schools with a two-week program for East Yakima target-area classrooms and a one-week program in a non-targeted area. The children were brought into their classrooms prior to school startup, allowing time to develop social-emotional skills, routines and rules without other children at the school. Teachers and families benefited as well. The program, a great success, will be funded by Thrive by Five for this coming August.

Members of the Board – Board member Walt Ranta reported representatives from the 13th, 14th and 15th legislative districts met with superintendents and board members at the recent WSSDA Legislative Conference in Olympia. The viewing audience was encouraged to continue to contact their legislative representatives and Senator King who are supportive of education.

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Soria also attended the legislative conference and added the reality is the state has a budget deficit making it a very difficult time for the representatives in Olympia. Scott Izutsu reported on district budget strategies shared with the board recently. Based on estimated impacts resulting from the Governor's proposed budget, the district proposes reducing I-728 and levy programs, beginning this year and in 2009-10. These are precautionary steps and the district is working to not affect staffing.

BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items – Jim Scoggins, community member and former board member, shared that he had toured Davis and looked at the rendition plans for a remodel which he believes would maintain the high school's prime site and the best parts of Davis. He encouraged the board about timing and the opportunity for a bond issue now without increasing taxes. Steve McKenna, Davis teacher, shared that staff realize facilities need to be improved. He added the process needs to include staff and concerns need to be addressed. He believes there is time to put things in place to run a bond in the fall.

OTHER

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

Calendar Committee Recommendation: 2009-10 School Calendar – Rick Doehle, Asst. Supt. of Human Resources, presented the recommendation. He thanked the committee of YEA

members and staff and added their work includes consideration of input from a calendar survey. The draft calendar has been sent to surrounding districts and was emailed to staff for information. Second reading and approval are scheduled for the March business meeting.

RECOGNITIONS

2008 National Board Certified Teachers

Jacqueline Bachmann-Quincy, Washington Middle School
Robert Balderston, Washington, Middle School
Elizabeth Baranowski, Davis High School
Anne Chapman, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary
Kristine Cline, Wilson Middle School
Lisa Garcia, Davis High School
Jason Hagler, Lewis and Clark Middle School
Collette Heffner, Central Services
Monica Hulubei, Ridgeview Elementary
Cynthia Hunter, Davis High School
Adam Koenig, Lewis and Clark Middle School
Kari Madrinich, Hoover Elementary
Yvonne Robinson, Wilson Middle School
Brianna Schorzman, Lewis and Clark Middle School
Mark Sobolik, Yakima Online!

National PTA Month

Teri Walton, Yakima City Council PTA President
Don Rowe, Yakima City Council PTA Vice President
D'arcy Rowe, Yakima City Council PTA Treasurer
Kim Griffith, Yakima City Council PTA Secretary

Dee Jenkins, Adams PTO President
Eric Hohman, Discovery Family Connections President
Charlene Scott, Gilbert PTA Co-President
Florissia Sartain, Gilbert PTA Co-President
Chris Winmill, Hoover PTA President
Bree Gaunty, Martin Luther King, Jr., PTA President
Jeff Cook, McClure PTA Co-President
Kristin McLavey, McClure PTA Co-President
Hillary Bossert, McKinley PTA President
Heather VanTassell, Nob Hill PTA President
Felice Munson, Ridgeview PTA President
Angie Duncan, Roosevelt Booster President
Rebekah Cuevas, Robertson PTA President
Amy Karau, Franklin PTSA President
Loretta Franz, Lewis & Clark PTSA President
Dean Compton, Washington PTSA President
Lisa Allison, Wilson PTSA President
Kathy Tierney, Davis PTSA President
Carol Pogorelc, Eisenhower PTSA President