

BOARD BRIEFING..... February 27, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met February 27, 2009, at Hoover Elementary, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Hoover Elementary School Presentation – Principal Tony Allen reported Hoover has grown by over 108 students within their boundary area this past year. Hoover participates in Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), a national program that works to positively influence schools through the committed involvement of fathers. A father who serves as coordinator shared Hoover’s goal is to have each father serve at least one day a year to provide a father figure on campus each school day. Heidi Mayes, 21st Century coordinator, reported on the program’s before- and after-school programs, GO GLOBAL family nights and parent home support volunteer program. A kindergartener circulated her project made entirely of recycled materials as an example of how the school is putting their recycling program to work. Teacher Linda Eberle and students presented a slide show the students created, demonstrating technical skills they have gained. A group of students provided copies of the 21st Century student newsletter they publish under the direction of teacher-librarian Kari Madrinich. Hoover’s library circulates 4000 books each month, is open all day including during recesses, and is available for parents to check out books in their own name. Tim Knowles indicated the Culture and Climate Learning Team works to encourage a positive atmosphere. Classes are covered by a substitute so teachers can observe fellow teachers. Michael Helseth reported the Math Team has assessments in place and is focusing on interventions that can be done during the day. Teachers are being trained for implementation of Rocket Math by next year. On behalf of the Literacy Team, Pam Hornstein, Hoover’s Reading Coach, reported planning and professional development have increased and teachers are supportive. The goal is to have a resource book with every intervention opportunity ready by April for every team to use. Mr. Helseth reviewed copies of a spreadsheet he is developing to support his goal to reach all forty of OSPI’s new math standards with his 5th graders this year, allowing him to track student progress and determine which standards need review. Closing comments from the board and Mr. Soria included appreciation for examples of the well-rounded activities from the 21st Century program and student demonstrations. There is clear evidence of shared leadership, collaboration, desire by staff to assist students, and the school’s love for learning.

Facilities Bond Issuance Discussion – The discussion centered on direction toward the preparation of a resolution for the facilities bond issuance. Scott Izutsu, Asst. Supt. of Business Support Services, shared possible bond scenarios; the board agreed to the recommended scenario for \$114 million with an estimated \$1.57 per thousand tax rate. It was noted the rate is considerably lower than for the bond that built the four middle schools. It was agreed two versions of the breakout for bond projects should be made available. One, for general use, will list the four main categories: Davis Modernization, Eisenhower Replacement, District-wide Deferred Maintenance, and Non-Voted Debt; one will break out the specific schools and items for the District-wide Deferred Maintenance category. Yakima County can be notified of the bond issue election now; the resolution will be scheduled for approval at the March business meeting. Superintendent Soria reported Paul Larson will serve as the citizen’s committee chair; sub-chairs for the two high schools will be in place soon.