

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met February 9, 2007, at Yakima School District Central Services, Conference Rooms A and B, 104 N. 4th Avenue, Yakima, Washington. This meeting was advertised as required by law.

Present were: Vickie Ybarra, President; John Vornbrock, Vice President; Martha Rice, Raymond Navarro, Jr., and Walt Ranta, members; and Benjamin A. Soria, Superintendent. Others in attendance were Jack Irion, Cece Mahre, Rick Doehle, Scott Izutsu, Mary Beth Wright, Becky Scholl, Karen Campbell, Mary Masten, Rhea Lewis, Tracy Savage, Jewel Brumley, Vickie Fitch, Linda Brown, Andrea Manion, Sharon Surbrook, and other members of the staff and community.

President Vickie Ybarra called the meeting to order at approximately 8:12 a.m.

Discussion

1. High School English 12 Curriculum Adoption Presentation

Cece Mahre, Associate Superintendent, reported adoption request information was included in the February 13 business meeting materials for the board's review. She introduced Mary Masten, Director of Secondary Education, who presented the High School English 12 Adoption Committee's recommendation to the board for the adoption of an English 12 curriculum. The committee worked for four years to align Grades 9, 10, and 11 curriculums with the goal to have students on track with grade level by Grades 11 and 12. Grades 9 and 10 develop the basics of reading; Grade 11 is American literature; Grade 12 is world literature with a focus on the English classics in the fall. Winter and spring trimesters branch out to literature representing other areas around the world. Rather than one specific textbook, books by authors representing world cultures from around the world were selected. A group of forty parents, teachers, and administrators from diverse backgrounds reviewed all books, met for discussion, and required unanimous agreement for a book to stay on the recommended list. Members of the committee were available at the meeting and addressed questions from the board. It was explained that the list of books may be revised at the supplemental level to better fit needs in the future. Teachers have flexibility; however, there is an overarching set of goals to be accomplished for the students. Vickie Ybarra indicated that one theme of the community input to the board is that students be prepared to be citizens of the world, so the committee's work fits the goals of the board. The board requested a list of the recommended books. The request for approval of the High School English 12 Curriculum adoption is scheduled for the February 13 business meeting.

2. Review of Policy Governance Policies

The board continued their review and revision of policy governance policies, presented for First Reading at the December 12 business meeting. They considered comments and suggestions from the district's legal council, superintendents, YEA representatives, and teachers. President Ybarra indicated that she received comments and suggestions through individual meetings with YEA President Vicki Dwight and YEA members Eddie Brown, Stewart Copeland, and Steve McKenna. She reported input was also given through e-mail and that she responded to all individuals who emailed. She also clarified that policy governance trainings and discussions have been held in public meetings and that it will be important to make futures meetings available and known to the public. Vickie Ybarra's informational briefing presented to the Management Team was taped and will be televised. Presentations are also scheduled for Central Services staff and the Superintendent's Instructional Advisory Council. Approval of policies is targeted for the Tuesday, February 13, business meeting. The board proceeded with their review of Policies 1000.3.1 through 1000.4.4. Additionally, they picked up the conversation started at the previous week's meeting regarding word definitions and what wording to use in Policies 1000.2.0 through 1000.2.2. They agreed to refer to desired outcomes as Ends/Goals for added clarification and consistency throughout the policies. President Ybarra will provide exact wording reflecting the outcome of the discussion to Becky Scholl, Executive Director of Student Services, for revisions to the policies. Revised policies will be provided to the board by the end of the day.

3. Review Legislative Activity

Martha Rice distributed a trip report for the Annual Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C., which she attended on behalf of the board. Thirty-nine representatives from the state of Washington attended and had opportunity for a meeting with Doc Hastings and individual meetings with senators. Ms. Rice had opportunity to invite Senator Cantwell to the Yakima School District. She reported that appointments for the upcoming WSSDA Legislative Assembly have been set with all the representatives except Senator Clements who has accepted an invitation to the Assembly breakfast. Superintendent Soria updated the board on current issues being discussed in the legislative session and testimonies given in Olympia this week. He submitted suggestions that ELL students in Grades 11 and 12, Levels I and II, be placed in comprehensive classes and that the WASL be considered as an honors notation on the high school diploma, and clarified that the message is not that we are lowering the standards for students. The simple majority, the WASL, and skills center funding were among legislative topics. A Yakima Valley delegation testified at a hearing on Early Learning.

4. Issues of Board Interest

The board reviewed the agenda for the February 13 business meeting.

5. Adjournment

At 9:30 a.m., Walt Ranta was excused from the meeting for employment purposes; Vickie Ybarra was excused for family illness reasons.

At 9:52 a.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Signature on File
Vickie Ybarra, Board President

Signature on File
Benjamin A. Soria, Secretary to the Board