

BOARD BRIEFING..... February 13, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met February 13, 2009, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Facilities Bond Discussion – As a background for Superintendent Soria’s recommendation to the board, he reviewed the facilities process that started in 2005 through two bonds and continued discussions with the board and cabinet through the summer and September. In October 2009, he presented a possible bond issue that would address primarily the high schools for \$114 million. Mr. Soria listed several issues to be considered for a bond at this time and shared letters with the board representing support from high school administrators, students and community members. President Ybarra Vickie indicated the board members have had discussion over some time, with more intensity this school year. They have gathered information, had a voter survey from ‘For a Better Tomorrow,’ and agree they need both high schools on the ballot. Their first choice would be replacement of both high schools; however, they realize they can’t replace both and still keep their commitment to maintain the current tax rate. Board members each took opportunity to share their perspectives and, following discussion, agreed to a facilities bond election in May 2009. The community would be investing in the future of students and their education thus investing in making Yakima a better place. Vicki Dwight, YEA president, stated YEA will be supportive of the board’s efforts and asked that all staff be notified of the upcoming bond.

Approved - Facilities Bond Election – The board approved holding a Facility Bond Election on May 19, 2009, for approximately \$114 million to address the following: Replacement of Eisenhower High School; Modernization of Davis High School; Deferred Maintenance of Stanton Academy, Garfield Elementary School, McKinley Elementary School, Hoover Elementary School, Nob Hill Elementary School, and Discovery Lab School; Capital Replacement/Land Acquisition; and Payment of Non-Voted Debt.

Issues of Board Interest – The Board Meeting and Events Schedule was reviewed, noting dates and times related to the superintendent search. Names of the six candidates selected for further consideration should be announced by noon today.