

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING .. January 19, 2010

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met at the Franklin Middle School Commons on January 19, 2010, for their monthly business meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Recognition – National Board Recognition Month – An informal reception and recognition program were held prior to the board meeting. The Davis Jazz Band and Franklin Middle School Choir provided music. Superintendent Beraza read a proclamation from the City of Yakima recognizing the board's service. Each board member received certificates of appreciation, gifts, posters, cards, and public acknowledgement presented by the Yakima School District, various schools, district groups and the Yakima Schools Foundation.

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning: P-12 Literacy Report – Cece Mahre, Associate Superintendent, presented an overview of the report that was given to the board at their January 8 meeting. The P-12 Literacy focus is about improving instruction in the classroom through the use of data to design educational opportunities for students. It is committed to sustaining the instructional facilitator model over time with their training including classroom management and instructional coaching skills in all content areas. There is continued work on writing including alignment of instruction with the goal to put resources online for teachers. Overall, the same instructional strategies used for regular classes are also used for bilingual students. The ongoing use of data is useful to determine how the district's unique populations are doing. The district is working with a consultant from ESD to build language development for all students as well as those four schools needing bilingual program support. Requests for P-12 Literacy information may be directed to Erin Chaplin, P-12 Directory of Literacy, at 573-2001.

Members of the Board – The superintendent and members of the board will be going to Olympia for the WSSDA Legislative Conference on February 7 and 8. Martha Rice reported she will travel to Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with federal government representatives through the Annual Federal Relations Network Conference.

BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items – A staff member and two senior students addressed the board about the upcoming event, Save A Life; The CPR Blitz 2010, on Saturday, February 6. A teacher shared concerns about the new methods of administering the DIBELS.

OTHER

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

Approved - 2009-11 Technology Services/Yakima School District (YSD) Agreement – Steve Cole, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported bargaining was completed resulting in a two-year agreement for the 2009-10 and the 2010-11 school years.

Second Opportunity for Comments from the Public – A teacher and a parent addressed the board regarding providing a Dual Language program for middle school students.