

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING .. January 20, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met January 20, 2009, at the Franklin Middle School Commons, for their monthly business meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence in memory of Clarrissa Smith, Washington Middle School student. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning –

Math Plan – Cece Mahre, Associate Superintendent, reported she and Marc May, Math Specialist, co-facilitate a team of district staff and community members who are designing the P-12 Mathematics Action Plan. Mr. May reviewed the action taken to date and the priority actions going forward for the plan due in March. The plan, dispensed to schools and central staff for feedback, is based on research and best practices and focuses on curriculum, professional development and assessment. In addition to identifying priority actions, ongoing math activities were listed for the board.

2008 Summer Extended Learning Opportunity (SELO) – Cece Mahre reported the revamped program consolidated sites and reduced expenses from \$927 for 2007 to \$380 per student for 2008. Migrant summer school ran at the same time. Data confirmed an increase in attendance over last year and an increase in academic achievement. High school students earned a total of 385 credits. The board had opportunity to discuss the report at their January 16 meeting where the district's thorough tracking of data was credited.

Members of the Board – Walt Ranta reported on planning for the February Legislative Assembly where school boards will address legislators in Olympia on topics related to the budget cuts. Martha Rice reported SBE's resolution on accountability is similar to WSSDA's. She will attend the Federal Relations Network February 1-3 in Washington, D.C. She will share information from our district and state and concerns about the impact of the budget reductions on education.

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Soria reported the district has completed moves into the YSD Resource Center. Maintenance is caught up on facility issues due to cold weather. In order to respond to the Governor's budget, the district is making adjustments to I-728 and levy-funded activities. President Ybarra added the board has been in discussions already about expected budget cuts.

BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY

Approved – Report 1000.2.3-I Financial Condition/Activities, December 2008 – The board heard this monthly report at their January 16 meeting. The board rated the district as compliant with the policy. No concerns were voiced.

Approved – Board Report 1000.4.4-I Monitoring Superintendent Performance – The board evaluates itself on how they are doing relative to this policy. The board rated themselves as compliant and there were no concerns or comments voiced.

OTHER

Consent Agenda – In addition to the approval of the standard monthly business items (Minutes, Notification of Warrants, Financials, and Personnel Actions), the following were approved: Purchase of 3 Type-C School Buses and Surplus of School Bus. Scott Izutsu clarified the bus purchase is an annual process to replace buses that are over 20 years old.

Comments from the Public – Topics brought before the board included: qualities for a superintendent from the YEA survey; need to address legislators about levy equalization; consultant costs; request for addition of report card date to district calendar; avenue teachers have to provide computer labs. President Ybarra clarified the district has made plans for reductions in activities, but, no RIF at this time. Walt Ranta noted that enrollment information reports the least loss of students from the district in the past 8 eight years and complimented buildings and staff for keeping kids in school. He added the SkillsUSA contest is going on in the Yakima area.