

BOARD BRIEFING..... January 29, 2010

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met January 29, 2010, at McClure Elementary School, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

McClure Elementary School Presentation –

Principal Del Carmichael explained that McClure’s presentation to the board was designed to be brisk, informative and fun, adding that the board’s visit would conclude with a Promethean board presentation. The school has increased technical equipment this year through organizing grant funding to take advantage of price promotions.

The following were included in the multiple informational segments presented during McClure’s “A Day in the Life of a McClure Student” video:

- Parent Involvement is supported through McClure’s belief that students will be successful if parents are successful. Examples of activities are monthly ‘Just-for-Parents’ nights with potluck-style dinners and the ‘Meet the Teacher’ event before the school year begins where children and parents meet teachers and get set up for school.
- Students submit applications with recommendations for the ‘Self Manager’ motivational program. If accepted, they receive special privileges and awards by demonstrating their ability to adhere to the goals of ‘taking care of ourselves, each other and this place.’
- The Dual Language strand has added a class each year and is offered K-5th grade. Successes include a strong parent component and students with developed bilingual skills; challenges include finding adequate Spanish materials and time for all that needs to be taught.
- Last year the 21st Century program served 233 students in the morning and afterschool programs and over 600 parents through education and training sessions.
- McClure’s library has the largest book circulation of any elementary school in the district and provides computer access during recess for approved educational activities.
- Other activities included video clips of physical education, music, Rocket Math and a Learning Targets demonstration.

Attendees, grouped at tables, participated in a “Table Talk” activity. McClure staff members served as facilitators, guiding each group in discussions about McClure data on WASL, DIBELS/IDEL, 21st Century Program, Conference Week and Dual Language.

Board members and district staff moved to a classroom for a Promethean board demonstration including a brief interactive activity and samplings of classroom applications. It was clarified that the boards are valuable to make learning the standards more comprehensible for students.

Issues of Board Interest –

- The board will be represented at WSSDA’s Legislative Conference in Olympia.
- Dr. Beraza reported she and three of the superintendents will be in Olympia on March 2 to share education-related concerns with legislative representatives.
- The four board members present at this meeting do not plan to go to NSBA’s 2010 Annual Conference; however, Martha Rice may have interest in attending.
- Vicki Dwight, YEA President, reminded the board of Yakima Schools Foundation’s invitation to their fundraising event on February 13.