

BOARD BRIEFING.....January 8, 2010

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met January 8, 2010, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

P-12 Literacy Report Presentation – Erin Chaplin, P-12 Director of Literacy, reported the primary P-12 literacy goal is to continue with districtwide alignment of reading systems and structures. Each school’s Instructional Facilitator provides embedded professional development and is trained to develop best quality instructional strategies regardless of the subject. Theresa Laffey, Executive Director of State and Federal Programs, reported that the Bilingual Instructional Leadership Team (BILT) continues the work of the Bilingual Taskforce, looking at literacy, math and science to recommend bilingual program policy for all eligible students in the district. Using Title I professional development funds, the district supports teachers who provide Spanish instruction through an ESD consultant. Discussion with the board followed.

Presentations –

Report 1000.2.3 EL Financial Condition and Activities - November 2009 – Scott Izutsu, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the semi-annual report. Each policy statement was reviewed and the district reported as compliant on each, using the Budget Status Report provided to the board each month as evidence of compliance.

Report 1000.2.6 EL Public Access to Facilities – Dr. Jack Irion, Deputy Superintendent, presented the report, which deals with written requests for use of district facilities. The district was reported as compliant with the policy. The only denied facilities applications were based on previous misuse of property and elements of language in Operating Procedure 4330.

Report 1000.2.7 EL Emergency Superintendent Succession – Steve Cole, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported the district as compliant with the policy. Listed with the evidence was the system in place to ensure all four superintendent-level members who make up the cabinet are sufficiently familiar with board and superintendent issues and processes so that any one of them could be assigned to step in for the superintendent on short notice.

The board will receive rating surveys from Vickie Ybarra, to be completed prior to discussion at a future board meeting.

Issues of Board Interest –

- The WSSDA Legislative Conference is February 7 and 8 in Olympia.
- Martha Rice reviewed highlights of the State Board of Education’s approved accountability proposal.
- John Vornbrock attended the January 5 Yakima City Council meeting where he accepted Yakima’s School Board Appreciation Proclamation on behalf of the board.

Introductions –

Policy 1000.4.4 B/SL Monitoring Superintendent Performance – As the first step in the Policy Governance process, the board members reviewed and discussed this policy that deals with the board’s systematic and rigorous monitoring of the superintendent. Each individual policy statement was reviewed.