

BOARD BRIEFING.....January 9, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met January 9, 2009, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV-TECH) Update: Dennis Dean of KDF Architecture reported that Phase I of the YV-TECH construction project has started. The Phase II design timeline is on a fast track to meet the funding deadlines that were moved up. Craig Dwight, YV-TECH principal, confirmed that state law requires the bidding process be followed for Phase II and bidding should open in March. The estimated groundbreaking for Phase II is May, giving about a 4- to 4.5-month construction overlap for Phase I and Phase II.

Presentations - Executive Limitations:

Report 1000.2.6-I Public Access to Facilities - Jack Irion, Deputy Superintendent, presented the report, providing interpretation and evidence of compliance with Policy 1000.2.6 which addresses not limiting public use of school facilities. Access is provided and each spring, Shirley Pechtel, Facilities Secretary, sends letters out to all users. A facility-use matrix was provided for the board. President Ybarra agreed the report gave evidence of heavy use by the community.

Report 1000.2.7-I Emergency Superintendent Succession - Superintendent Soria presented the report, indicating this important policy protects the district in the event something should happen to the superintendent. He provided evidence of compliance, including that the cabinet members are familiar with the role of the superintendent and any one of the four could take over with reasonable proficiency as an interim successor. Ms. Ybarra emphasized the board takes this policy seriously, recognizing the importance to the district that a succession plan be in place.

Introductions – Governance Process Policies:

Policy 1000.3.0-I Global Governance Commitment and Policy 1000.3.1-I Governing Style - President Ybarra indicated this Policy Governance step provides opportunity for the board to review the policies and then rate themselves on their compliance. She reported the board spent a lot of time on these policies when they first moved to Policy Governance, pulling forward previous wording from documents the board had used for working together.

Pre-Approval Board Report and Discussion on Board Rating – Governance Process Policy:

1000.4.4-I Monitoring Superintendent Performance – The board reviewed this policy at their meeting on December 5. The board's rating on compliance, which is considered as the board report for the policy, was discussed at this meeting. The board rated themselves as compliant with the policy, and the report will be placed on the January 20 business agenda for approval.

Discussion – Process to Identify Interview Advisory Committee for Superintendent Search:

The board reviewed the process for selecting the Interview Advisory Committee members. The application provides information to the board to help them bring balance to the committee as they select members. Members will be solicited from all areas, so the application form will be available in a number of ways. Applications are due to Mary Beth Wright by January 23.