

# **BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING .... March 17, 2009**

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met March 17, 2009, at Central Services Conference Rooms A and B, for their monthly business meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

## **Acknowledgment of Accomplishments/Recognitions** – Names listed on Page 2

- Approved Proclamation: School Retirees Appreciation Week, March 16-22, 2009
- Approved Proclamation: Classified Employees Week, March 9-13, 2009
- Recognition: Classified Employees of the Year
- Recognition: Superintendent Search Interview Advisory Committee

## **REPORTS**

**Teaching and Learning – 4 P’s Update** – Mary Masten, Director of Secondary Education, reported the 4 P’s program at the four high schools includes: Plan, Portfolio, Pathway, and Project. The student’s Project incorporates a community-based component and criteria for culminating project management. Four district seniors reported on their projects, which community members are invited to view beginning in May.

## **BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY**

**Comments from the Public on Agenda Items** - YEA representative: Reported on YEA’s survey of members. Various unit association representatives, high school students, involved parents, and administrative and teaching staff: Thanked the board for the upcoming bond, agreeing Davis and Eisenhower high school facilities are aging and desperately inadequate. All who addressed the board indicated they will work to get the word out about the bond. Mr. Paul Larson, who co-chairs the citizen’s committee with his wife, believes this community owes this to their children and can rally behind the bond to get it done.

**Resolution 03.08.09 Bond Election – Capital Facilities Improvement** - Scott Izutsu, Asst. Supt. of Business Support Services, reviewed bond projects and associated costs information previously shared with the board. Jon Gores, D.A. Davidson & Co., gave details on the projected bond tax rates. The \$1.57 tax rate is less than the current rate, yet it will provide better schools. Board members expressed appreciation to all those in attendance for their care about the future of the district and community.

**Approved - Resolution 03.08.09** – A roll call vote of the board resulted in unanimous approval of Resolution 03.08.09 Bond Election – Capital Facilities Improvement.

**First Reading – Policy 1001.1.0 Global Ends Statement** – This policy was studied/ revised by the board at a recent work study. Revisions bind the district’s resources to desired student goals and define the term ‘all students’ to include grade/building levels and subgroups including poverty, race/ethnicity, primary language, and gender.

**Approved – Reports 1000.2.3 (January/February); 1000.2.6; 1000.2.7, 1000.3.0 and 1000.3.1** - The six items were previously reviewed, discussed and rated by the board. Reports and ratings are posted on the district’s website in the Board of Directors’ section.

- Reports 1000.2.3-I Financial Condition/Activities (January 2009 and February 2009)
- Report 1000.2.6-I Public Access to Facilities
- Report 1000.2.7-I Emergency Superintendent Succession
- Policy 1000.3.0-I Global Governance Commitment
- Policy 1000.3.1 I Governing Style

## **OTHER**

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

**Approved 2009-10 School Calendar** - Rick Doehle, Asst. Supt. of Human Resources, reported the Calendar Committee presented their recommendation at the board's February 10 business meeting. The board had opportunity to review it; no requests for changes came forward.

**Approval: Resolution 04.08.09 – Support of College Bound Scholarships** – This resolution was in response to the Governor's letter asking for board support of this program. Mary Masten, Director of Secondary Education, reported the program promises college financial assistance to eligible low-income students in the 7th and 8th grades who pledge to work hard in school, demonstrate good citizenship in the community, and enroll in a postsecondary education program. Over 400 district students have signed up and the number is growing.

**Approval: Acceptance of Superintendent Retirement Letter** – This item provided for the board's formal acceptance of Mr. Soria's retirement letter submitted last May. Prior to approval, each of the board members took opportunity to comment, acknowledging the recognition Mr. Soria has brought to the district and schools; his heart for kids is visibly evident. They added it is with a heavy heart that they accept the letter.

**Approval: Superintendent Employment Contract** - President Ybarra reported Dr. Elaine Beraza was selected by the board at their March 3 meeting. Dr. Beraza has a track record of strong leadership in challenging circumstances and in creating environments where students from all backgrounds can and do succeed. The board believes she is precisely the right person to take the district to the next level, building on the fine work done by our current superintendent, staff, parents and students.

**Second Public Comment** –YEA executive board member: Presented questions about technology on behalf of elementary school specialists. YEA officer: Shared results from YEA's survey of members; concerns about teacher safety related to discipline, the amount of clerical work asked of schools, and the hiring of an administrator. Elementary teacher: Shared there are improvements in her building with staff working hard to build trust and teaming. Director: Shared it is time to bring Davis and Eisenhower high schools up to date; Yakima Kiwanis has appreciated presentations from the district's classified staff this year. Superintendent Soria clarified staff and student safety is of paramount importance; staff members are assigned to security and safety. Discipline policies and due process are in place, including staff development for assistant principals, as well as a hearing process set by the state and the board. The board is aware of improvements made through T&L's efforts; the administrative hiring was to bring leadership and improvement in literacy.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

### **2008 National Board Certified Teachers**

Jacqueline Bachmann-Quincy, Washington MS  
Elizabeth Baranowski, Davis HS  
Kristine Cline, Wilson MS  
Jason Hagler, Lewis and Clark MS  
Monica Hulubei, Ridgeview  
Adam Koenig, Lewis and Clark MS  
Yvonne Robinson, Wilson MS  
Mark Sobolik, Yakima Online!

Robert Balderston, Washington MS  
Anne Chapman, Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Lisa Garcia, Davis HS  
Collette Heffner, Central Services  
Cynthia Hunter, Davis HS  
Kari Madrinich, Hoover  
Brianna Schorzman, Lewis and Clark MS

### **National PTA Month**

Teri Walton, Yakima City Council PTA President  
D'arcy Rowe, Yakima City Council PTA Treasurer  
Dee Jenkins, Adams PTO President  
Charlene Scott, Gilbert PTA Co-President  
Chris Winmill, Hoover PTA President  
Jeff Cook, McClure PTA Co-President  
Hillary Bossert, McKinley PTA President  
Felice Munson, Ridgeview PTA President  
Rebekah Cuevas, Robertson PTA President  
Loretta Franz, Lewis & Clark PTSA President  
Lisa Allison, Wilson PTSA President  
Carol Pogorelc, Eisenhower PTSA President

Don Rowe, Yakima City Council PTA Vice President  
Kim Griffith, Yakima City Council PTA Secretary  
Eric Hohman, Discovery Family Connections Pres.  
Florissia Sartain, Gilbert PTA Co-President  
Bree Gaunty, Martin Luther King, Jr., PTA President  
Kristin McLavey, McClure PTA Co-President  
Heather VanTassell, Nob Hill PTA President  
Angie Duncan, Roosevelt Booster President  
Amy Karau, Franklin PTSA President  
Dean Compton, Washington PTSA President  
Kathy Tierney, Davis PTSA President