

BOARD BRIEFING..... March 27, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met March 27, 2009, at Adams Elementary, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Adams Elementary School Presentation – Lynn Noel, Principal Intern, led the meeting. A few highlights from the reports given by Adams staff include:

- Julie Martin-Beaulieu, Assistant Principal: The common themes for decision-making are data and research. Adams is focusing their work on building teacher capacity through professional development on early-release Mondays. The intention is to look into the eyes of every single student with confidence that they are better off for having come to Adams.
- Cheryl Jordon, ASB Advisor: ASB leadership is delegated to the students. Their ASB president reported each class picks representatives; activities include spirit week and fundraising for field trips.
- Julio Sanchez, Counselor: Adams uses the ASCA National Counseling Model. The school's demographics are considered to determine how to be sensitive to the population they serve. The model centers on promoting academic achievement, personal and social development, and individual planning with all students to establish personal goals and career planning.
- Dave Chaplin, Principal: Literacy scores are used to determine transition to all English instruction with the goal for a progression to primarily English instruction with ELL support by fourth grade. The parent language, placement test and instructor skills are considered for placement. Mr. Chaplin emphasized data is the child's voice to speak out what they need. He also reviewed discipline data with the board. Each week he looks at referrals by grade level, home room, and individual student, adding that students with the highest discipline issues need our help to be successful.
- Rachel Dibble, Reading Coach: Distribution reports for Dibels for each grade level are used to determine progress. Students are selected for interventions based on their Dibels scores, targeting the strategic students. This winter, Scott Foresman's Mathematics Diagnosis and Intervention System was piloted and resulted in gains for students.
- Linda Sorenson, Pre-School Teacher: Adam's pre-school is a school within a school, operating four days a week for two and one-half hours per day. Last year, they began using Creative Curriculum, which is reflective of state benchmarks.
- Alfredo Hernandez, 21st Century Coordinator: The program offers many activities with emphasis on parent involvement and community partnerships. After-school programs include latchkey, study hall and Adams Ambassadors and use volunteers from YVCC, Davis H.S., and AmeriCorps. The program connects parents to social services and provides parent forums, ESL classes, CONEVyT, and math and library nights, to name a few.

Closing remarks from board members and the superintendent included appreciation for the intentional use of data, which clearly helps Adams understand students in a deep way. Staff are working hard to develop students as leaders and meet their needs. Adams is truly a model school for education.