

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met March 8, 2007, at Yakima School District Central Services, Professional Library, 104 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima, Washington. This meeting was advertised as required by law.

Present were: Vickie Ybarra, President; John Vornbrock, Vice President; Martha Rice, Raymond Navarro, Jr. and Walt Ranta, members; and Benjamin A. Soria, Superintendent. Others in attendance were Jack Irion, Cece Mahre, Rick Doehle, Becky Scholl, Sharon Surbrook, and Connie Fletcher, consultant. Member Navarro was excused from the meeting at 3 p.m. for a previous commitment and rejoined the board for the Education Partnership Community Linkage.

President Vickie Ybarra called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m.

## Discussion

### **1. Policy Governance Work Study Session**

Vickie Ybarra opened the meeting, indicating the first hour would be for general policy governance discussion. At 4 p.m., the board will break to move to the Franklin Middle School Commons for the Education Partnership Community Linkage. The work study session will reconvene following the linkage for training on Community Linkage debriefing.

Connie Fletcher, policy governance consultant, provided opportunity for general discussion and questions related to the policy governance transition. It is important to refer to policies when there are questions on how the board operates. The board has agreed to hold an open Community Linkage meeting in the spring to gather a broader spectrum of input. It was clarified that staff are legitimately stakeholders, rather than owners; however, their input is important and should be used as a resource. The board discussed providing intentional avenues to gather input from district staff. It was emphasized that staff members need to better understand the role of the board, that the board is responsible to govern the district's policies, and that they have always delegated the operation of the district to the superintendent. The board is working with the district technology department to provide First Reading policies and other board-related documents on the district website in an effort to enhance communication to staff and the community. Part of the communication plan is that study sessions with the policy governance consultant are open public meetings held in the afternoons or evenings so staff can attend.

Board Self Evaluation Training - Board self-evaluation information and sample forms were distributed. The purpose behind self-evaluation is to assure that the board is adhering to policies and the governance system they have set for themselves, and to improve their function. Currently, the board does an annual self-evaluation to determine if they have been abiding by their own rules, are engaging in policy development, and how they are doing as a board and as individuals. There was in-depth discussion on board self-evaluation processes with the consultant. The policy governance recommendation is that self-evaluation be an ongoing process that takes place during open meetings. Suggestions for the process were discussed. Ideas included doing an electronic three-point evaluation form sent out by the board president. The self-evaluation could be a specific agenda item rather than at the end of each meeting. The in-depth evaluation could be spread to a quarterly cycle. The board will follow their current self-evaluation model for this school year, using the current self-evaluation tool which is completed, collected, aggregated, and scheduled for discussion at a Friday informal meeting.

The board discussed the February business meeting and made plans for new ways to communicate with and involve district staff. Ms. Fletcher suggested the board consider a 'public comment' pamphlet with guidelines to be available at business meetings. Board discussion followed regarding the parameters for public comment time.

Break – At 4:00 p.m., the board adjourned to attend the Education Partnership Community Linkage, scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Franklin Middle School Commons. Following the linkage, the board reconvened at 6:40 p.m. for the continuation of the Work Study Session in the Central Services Professional Library.

Community Linkage Debriefing Training – Connie Fletcher led the board through a debriefing exercise for the Education Partnership linkage. The board reviewed the linkage and debriefing process to determine what is working and what could be refined, and they determined a need to schedule an African-American linkage. The board will work on Ends/Goals development at a June 15 Work Study Session. Results will be shared with the community at a special Community Linkage on June 21 to gather community feedback before the June 22 Work Study Session where the board will work to finalize their Ends/Goals statement. Ms. Fletcher will provide “Tips for Effective Discussion Facilitation” from the Study Circles Resource Center to the board as a resource.

**2. Adjournment**

At 8:00 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Signature on File  
Vickie Ybarra, Board President

Signature on File  
John Vornbrock, Board Vice President