

BOARD BRIEFING..... November 14, 2008

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met November 14, 2008, at Barge-Lincoln Elementary, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Barge-Lincoln Elementary School Presentation – Netty Hull, Principal, explained that leadership is a combined effort of staff and students. During the 2007-08 school year, the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) refined the school’s vision to focus on and utilize the strengths of staff and students. Barge-Lincoln believes it can become a blue ribbon school of excellence and conducts business each day based on that belief. They strive to achieve the Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools and sustain a deep level of commitment to improve all areas of teaching and learning. Staff are guided by a desire to learn and implement strategies that help students be better prepared for a variety of assessments, e.g., the WASL. To this end, their specific goals are increasing consistency and intentionality in their daily practices, increasing the knowledgebase for staff, and analyzing grade-level expectations and their relationship to these assessments. Staff are tenaciously focusing on math by emphasizing building-wide math strategies, aligning assessment with curriculum, and uncovering and correcting math misconceptions. They emphasize the use of math journals which allow students to be creative in their math expressions. Students are given multiple math strategies where they show their work using words, pictures or numbers. Three 5th grade students each demonstrated a different way to solve the same multiplication problem, an excellent example of how students are taught conceptual knowledge that finally ends with basic algorithms. Barge-Lincoln utilizes Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to enhance student achievement. The PLCs are collaborative, action-oriented teams. The board recognizes WASL scores and the No Child Left Behind Act are not always reflective of the progress taking place nor of how staff work together to improve student learning. Superintendent Soria added that tenacity and perseverance is truly evident at Barge-Lincoln and he believes it will be a blue ribbon school. It’s a laboratory for success!

Presentation/Discussion – Report EL 1000.2.3-I Financial Condition and Activities, Sept. 1-Oct. 31, 2008 – Scott Izutsu, Assistant Superintendent of Business Support Services, provided the board with a report outlining his interpretation and evidence of compliance for policy statement 1000.2.3-I Financial Condition and Activities for November 2008.

Pre-Approval Discussion – Board Report B-SL 1000.4.2.I Accountability of the Superintendent – President Ybarra provided to the board copies of the survey for Board Report B-SL 1000.4.2-I Accountability of the Superintendent. The report was rated in compliance. Board members will review the survey over the weekend and, if there are no objections, the report will be presented for approval at the business meeting.

Pre-Approval Discussion – Board Report B-SL 1000.4.3.I Delegation to the Superintendent – President Ybarra provided to the board copies of the survey for Board Report B-SL 1000.4.3-I Delegation to the Superintendent. The report was rated in compliance. Board members will review the survey and, if there are no objections, the report will be presented for approval at the business meeting.

Issues of Board Interest –

- President Ybarra will review the calendar and send board members possible dates in January and February for a Policy Governance work study session.
- John Vornbrock distributed handouts on the bond survey which will be funded by an outside entity and will be conducted the first week of December. The board reviewed the questions and made a few suggestions for change.