

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING . November 17, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met November 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: Recognition of Raymond Navarro, Jr., Outgoing Board Member – Raymond Navarro Jr. was recognized for his service through Position 1 on the board since 2006. An informal reception was held prior to the meeting.

Approved: Proclamation: American Education Week, November 15-21, 2009 – The proclamation was read in full, urging families and community members to join in recognizing those who contribute to our youth's future through the American education system.

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning: 2009 Summer School Report – Cece Mahre, Associate Superintendent, reported on the 2009 Summer Extended Learning Opportunity (SELO), reporting the district started consolidating SELO sites last year due to financial constraints. Many of the SELO funding sources will not be available for the 2010 summer, which must be considered as the district plans ahead.

Members of the Board – Attendees at the recent WASA South Central Region Legislative Dinner heard about the challenges to local districts regarding state funding reductions.

Superintendent Update – None this month.

BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY

Comments from the Public – Mr. Navarro was thanked and American Education Week acknowledged. In response to a request, the board will add paraeducators to the American Ed Week proclamation. A community member encouraged consideration of year-round learning and credited the district for use of assessments. An employee urged support for a fair and equitable contract for her colleagues. Topics from various association presidents included fair and equitable contract settlement for groups still not settled, concern about the bargaining process and resulting delays, a personnel issue, and the allocation of resources.

OTHER

Consent Agenda – In addition to the standard monthly business items (Minutes, Notification of Warrants, Financials, and Personnel Actions), the following were approved: Resolution 04.09.10 *Authorized Signatory* and Resolution 05.09.10 *Designation of Auditing and Investment Officers*.

Approved: Educational Specifications for the Eisenhower High School Replacement Project – The information presented was specifically related to approving the educational specifications. Steve McNutt, principal architect with NAC Architecture in Spokane, briefed the board on the complex information-gathering process that began in mid-September. He is optimistic the resulting education specifications document will serve as the project's guidebook.

Approved: Resolution 06.09.10 Agreement for Adoption of 403B Plan Document – Federal regulations require employers that sponsor 403(b) plans to adopt written plans no later than December 31, 2009.

Approved: 2009-10 State Transitional Bilingual Grant Application Renewal – This year’s grant continues to build on last year’s application to support the recommendations of the district’s Bilingual Task Force.

Approved: Out-of-State, Overnight Travel to New York City, New York, and Washington, D.C., in Spring 2010 by the Davis High School Music Department and Students – Financing for the trip is provided through fundraising by students and families as part of the Buccaneer Band and Choir Booster Clubs. Students will perform and participate in music training in both cities.