

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING . November 18, 2008

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met November 18, 2008, 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 –

- American Education Week - November 16-22, 2008
- Annette Cook, National Renaissance Coordinator of the Year
- Terri Phillips, Washington Association for Career and Technical Education Outstanding Service Award

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning – Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)/School Attendance – Greg Day, Academic Assessment Director, provided AYP basics. The state's calculation to determine if a school or district is making AYP is very complex and multilayered and each year more layers are added to the reporting requirements. Contact Greg Day at 7014 or by email with questions about AYP or the WASL or for the direct link to OSPI's frequently asked questions section on their website.

Members of the Board – Martha Rice reported the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) is delaying decision on their accountability proposal until January 2009. They are chartering a Core 24 taskforce; applications are available at: www.sbe.wa.gov/.

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Soria agreed AYP's continually changing rules and regulations add to the challenges, and emphasized our schools have never performed better; we can be very proud. OSPI recently recognized YSD for making AYP in 7th grade reading, writing and math and 10th grade reading and writing for 2006-07. Deputy Superintendent Jack Irion reported Leadership Yakima participants will visit the district tomorrow for information about college preparation, followed by visits to classrooms.

BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY

Approved: Board ratings of the following reports indicated compliance in all areas:

- Report 1000.2.3-I Financial Condition/Activities, Sept. 1-Oct.31, 2008
- Board Report 1000.4.2.I Accountability of the Superintendent
- Board Report 1000.4.3.I Delegation to the Superintendent

OTHER

Consent Agenda – All standard monthly business items were approved: Approval of Minutes, Notification of Approval of Warrants, Approval of Financials, and Approval of Personnel Actions.

Approved – Resolution 01.08.09 Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV-TECH) Feasibility Study – The resolution releases funds for a study related to rural and remote areas where it is difficult for students to easily travel to attend a skills center. The study, funded through the 2007 legislature, will focus on uses of distance technology and other non-traditional satellite program delivery models.

Second Opportunity for Comments from the Public - Three persons expressed support of higher wages for paraeducators. A community member thanked Ms. Ybarra for her dedication and appreciated the recognition of Ms. Berg. Steve McKenna, co-president of the coaches association, announced ratification of the agreement that evening. Following an inquiry about Policy Governance, Ms. Ybarra indicated board policies, reports and ratings are posted on the board's section of the district website. Vicki Dwight shared YEA is currently surveying their members on several district-related items. Mary Beth Wright, Community Relations Director, encouraged the community to attend drama performances at the two high schools and winter programs at every school, which are all free.