

BOARD BRIEFING..... November 7, 2008

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met November 7, 2008, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

2007-08 Year-End Fiscal Presentation – Scott Izutsu, Assistant Superintendent of Business Support Services, provided the 2007-08 Fiscal Year-End overview, reporting 13,754 Average Student FTE for the year. Changes in regulations accounted for reporting differences for special education expenditures and basic education; however, they did not affect the actual costs. Information from the State Accounting Manual with budget code definitions and the table of contents for Revenues and Other Financing Sources was distributed for the board’s reference. The manual is available on OSPI’s website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/safs/INS/ACC/0809/am.asp>. The 2007-08 Fiscal Year-End presentation will be repeated for the viewing public at the board’s December 16 business meeting. Questions may be directed to Scott Izutsu at (509) 573-7040 or izutsu.scott@yakimaschools.org.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and School Attendance Presentation – Greg Day, Academic Assessment Director, provided the basics of AYP, indicating the process is convoluted and uses a complicated formula to calculate a proficiency index. AYP unexcused absences data was reviewed. District AYP data for 2007-08 was reviewed, showing that scores are increasing; however, with the change in AYP rules and the higher target goal for this ‘step up’ year, schools may be measured by AYP as failing. The same challenges are seen across the state; yet, multiple measures show Washington schools are continuing to raise student achievement. The district is working to set our own targets and measurement for growth to confirm for staff that their hard work is paying off and students are learning at higher levels. WASL growth rates from 2004 through 2008 show YSD has markedly outpaced the state and is closing the gap between the district and state scores. Superintendent Soria reported OSPI recently sent plaques recognizing the district for making AYP for 2006-07 in 7th grade reading, writing and math and 10th grade reading and writing.

Introduction – Policy B-SL 1000.4.2 Accountability of the Superintendent – President Ybarra read Policy B-SL 1000.4.2 in its entirety. Using the Policy Governance (PG) process, the board reviews these policies in open meeting, and then rates themselves, with the resulting rating being approved for the board’s compliance with policy.

Introduction - Policy B-SL 1000.4.3 Delegation to the Superintendent – President Ybarra reviewed Policy B-SL 1000.4.3. At their next meeting, the board will discuss a possible date for additional PG training in January.

Approved - Proclamation Recognizing November 16-22, 2008, American Education Week – President Ybarra read the proclamation, sharing it is a way to celebrate the role we play in education. The proclamation will also be shared at the board’s November 18 business meeting.

Issues of Board Interest – Martha Rice will send the board the web links for Representatives Dan Grimes’ and Ross Hunter’s school funding proposals. The State Board of Education (SBE) is meeting seven times between now and December 1 to review the proposals. She reported SBE is looking at a partnership process with OSPI, and SBE would be responsible to share the elements of the plan with school boards. Applications are available online for the Core 24 task force.