

BOARD BRIEFING..... October 17, 2008

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met October 17, 2008, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Join Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS): Jerry Painter, a representative for NEWS, provided background for this group that has filed a lawsuit for a judge to court-order the legislature to conduct a study to determine what it would take to provide ample, stable funding to carry a student from K-12. A hearing is scheduled for June 1. Mr. Painter encouraged the board to join NEWS, a coalition of other organizations and school districts, adding WEA leadership is a supporter. NEWS believes YSD has accomplished much and used our funds well, so the district would be a good representative as one of the ten schools NEWS will use as models.

Pre-Approval Report and Discussion on Board Rating – Executive Limitations (EL) 1000.2.8 Compensation/Benefits and EL 1000.2.4 Financial Planning/Budgeting: The board's rating of each of the policies was reviewed. All board members rated the superintendent in compliance with EL Policy 1000.2.4 and EL Policy 1000.2.8.

Pre-Approval Board Report and Discussion on Board Rating – Board-Superintendent Linkage (B-SL) 1000.4.0 Global Governance-Management Connection and B-SL 1000.4.1 Unity of Control: The board's rating for each of the two B-SL policies was discussed. All board members rated the board in compliance with B-SL Policy 1000.4.0 and B-SL Policy 1000.4.1. They agreed to review the two B-SL policies semi-annually in consideration of the PG transition.

All board members agreed the policies reviewed at this meeting are sufficient as they stand. The four pre-approval reports will be put on the October business agenda for approval.

Superintendent Search Process Update: The October 22 and 23 focus groups have been widely advertised. There are targeted groups that are open to anyone in those groups plus meetings for all staff. Dennis Ray, NWLA, will direct the meetings and provide a compilation of input to the board. Identification of the interview advisory committee will begin in mid-December.

Issues of Board Interest:

- Martha Rice reported the State Board of Education (SBE) takes action on their accountability proposal soon. School districts and WSSDA have many concerns about the proposal. Our board would need to take action at their October 31 meeting to meet timelines.
- The business meeting agenda was reviewed, noting the reorganization of agenda items.
- Discussion regarding NEWS will be scheduled for a future meeting to consider this important opportunity, allowing time for board members to receive additional information.
- Character Development posters are going up in businesses, Lamar will donate a billboard, and the word-of-the-month is displayed around town on reader boards.
- Rick Doehle, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, explained staff members listed on the consent agenda for out-of-endorsement assignments are working on their endorsements and are close to being in compliance.

Beginning Discussion on Board Future Community Linkage: The board met briefly to talk about framing future discussions on community engagement. Board members and Mr. Soria acknowledged that, given the events in the nation's economy the past few weeks, it is not prudent at this time for the district to pursue a bond issue for the spring ballot. They will meet October 24 for a special work-study session to discuss a big-picture strategy for longer term community engagement and potential timelines for a future building bond issue.