

BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFING ... October 21, 2008

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met October 21, 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.

REPORTS

Teaching and Learning – Professional Development System – Cathy Fromme, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning (T&L), reported T&L has initiated the implementation of a centralized YSD Professional Development (PD) system. A new teacher induction now includes support throughout the year. The continuum, still in beginning stages, provides for a YSD professional certification program, National Board Certified Teachers, PD specialists to assist in multiple areas, and ongoing PD after school, on LID days and Monday early release. **Members of the Board** – Board member Martha Rice reported the State Board of Education (SBE) proposal was recently revised to have a conceptual framework, which helped ease the concerns of school directors from across the state. President Ybarra reported the superintendent search consultant and board members will hold several focus group meetings for the community and staff. A search survey is posted on the district website.

Superintendent Update – Superintendent Soria introduced new administrators Steve Brownlow, Nob Hill Elementary Principal, and Cindy Nott, Wilson Middle School Assistant Principal. He provided updates to the board on the following:

- Character Development Initiative – The district, along with the faith community, developed a character education program. The program, now expanded to the Coalition for Character Development, is supported through an extensive list of community participants.
- Schools of Distinction - One of YSD's elementary schools is among just 100 schools across the state to be announced October 22 as a 2008 'School of Distinction.' The school's name could not be shared before the press release; however, Mr. Soria expressed pride in the school and its staff for their well-deserved honor.
- Security for YSD Schools - During the 2007-08 school year, all YSD schools have been working toward having the capacity to call an emergency lockdown from multiple sites.
- Class-Size Report - Jack Irion, Deputy Superintendent, provided a range of class-size data, showing the district monitors class size at each school and for each grade level to drive building-based decisions and staffing decisions.

BOARD POLICY ACTIVITY

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items – A staff member expressed concerns related to computer-aided security systems, class sizes as related to the negotiated agreement, completion of a classroom request, the SBE's proposal and the state's inadequate funding of education. Results of the professional development survey were requested.

Policy Governance calls for the board's monitoring of policy through reports. The reports presented for approval were each rated by the board as compliant with policy.

Approved:

- Report EL 1000.2.4-I Financial Planning/Budgeting
- Report EL 1000.2.8-I Compensation and Benefit
- Board Report B-SL 1000.4.0 -I Global Governance-Management Connection
- Board Report B-SL 1000.4.1-I Unity of Control

OTHER

Consent Agenda –Rick Doehle, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, provided explanation on an out-of-endorsement assignment request, which was approved along with the following: Approval of Minutes, Notification of Approval of Warrants, Permission to Dispose of Surplus Property throughout the 2008-09 School Year, and Approval of Personnel Actions.

Second Opportunity for Comments from the Public – All Other – In response to an inquiry, Jack Irion will ask if the YEA Office is being included in the district's security plan.