

BOARD BRIEFING..... October 30, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met October 30, 2009, at Garfield Elementary School. Garfield's student council president led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Garfield Elementary School Presentation -

Following introductions, Garfield Principal Alan Matsumoto, staff members and students presented:

- Family Outreach – Garfield's Student Clothes Closet furnishes donated clothing to students in need. Northwest Harvest Food Bank stocks food-filled backpacks that are sent home with students of needy families through the Backpack Food Program.
- Kinder Technology – Supplemental reading lessons, created for the interactive mimio board by teacher Leah Bodeen, were demonstrated. The lessons can transfer from the board to individual student stations.
- Letter Writing Project – Four students read samples of letters they are sending to troops in Iraq and explained the writing process used to develop their letters.
- Writing in the Science Content Area – Students shared examples from their 'Objects in the Sky' activities that combined observation, art, writing and reading for a variety of projects.
- Recorder Presentation – The board enjoyed a presentation by students playing recorders, accompanied by students playing a variety of rhythm instruments.
- Student Timeline Project – Fourth and fifth graders read their 'My Story' timeline writing projects, which also gave opportunity to use the public speaking skills they are developing.
- Garfield Overview – A slide show provided an overview of school activities such as the Phonics Center, use of technology, student journaling, and the GREAT program.
- DIBELS/IDEL Data – The fall DIBELS results show many Spanish-speakers are reaching benchmark in English by Grade 2. WASL trend data was reviewed, demonstrating marked improvements in reading and writing and the need to focus on math.
- Garfield Learning Targets – Garfield staff have partnered with Mr. Matsumoto to choose the 'essential question' and focus on learning targets that are emphasized with students. The Classroom Walkthrough Observation Form is effectively used for teachers and students.
- Parent Involvement – The small but active booster club supports a long list of activities and is currently working to provide playground equipment for the school.

Among closing comments from the board members and superintendent were credits to the staff for their creativity and innovation and for developing relationships with students and a positive learning environment.

Issues of Board Interest -

- Credit was given for a successful grand opening of the new Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV-TECH). Board member Martha Rice spoke, representing school board members from the fourteen schools that are part of the cooperative. A symbolic 'golden key' was passed, representing the various aspects of the building project beginning with the architect and appropriately ending with YV-TECH students.
- The board's Community Linkage question was presented and discussed at the recent Education Partnership meeting. A representative from New Vision will be invited to a future board meeting to provide information about the organization's community-related work.