

BOARD BRIEFING..... October 9, 2009

Yakima Public Schools District Number 7

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Yakima Public Schools met October 9, 2009, in the Central Services Professional Library, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. A brief summary of the meeting follows.

Proposed Math Adoption – Cece Mahre, Associate Superintendent, reported this initial presentation of adoption materials to the board would be followed next week with a more detailed presentation. The adoption process for Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2 began in Spring 2009 with the goal to have a common curriculum for all high schools that would be aligned with state standards. Mary Masten, Director of Secondary Education, reviewed the materials and the adoption process that led up to the final recommendation of Holt Mathematics. Approval is scheduled for the October 20 board business meeting.

Presentations –

Report 1000.2.1 EL Treatment of Students and Their Parents(s)/Guardians(s) – Dr. Jack Irion, Deputy Superintendent, provided interpretation and evidence of compliance for the policy, which addresses the district’s interaction with students and their parents(s)/guardian(s) in the areas of purposeful information, methods of collecting, reviewing, transmitting, or storing student, parent(s) information, facilities, what may be expected from the service offered, inform students/parents of this policy, provide a way to be heard, and open, responsive and language-appropriate environment that encourages parent engagement.

Report 1000.2.2 EL Working Environment of Staff – Steve Cole, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, provided interpretation and evidence of compliance for the three policy elements that deal with treatment of paid and volunteer staff to have a working environment which is not unsafe, unhealthy, undignified, unlawful or contrary to professional or industry standards, and that the superintendent will abide by all negotiated agreements.

Issues of Board Interest –

- YEA President Vicki Dwight announced that YEA is working toward videotaping a board candidates’ forum for the week of October 19. She also noted the importance of crisis prevention training to address security concerns for staff.
- The board agreed to participate in the WSSDA board assessment pilot to learn more about board self-evaluation.
- Walt Ranta reported on the WSSDA Legislative Assembly and the new accountability proposal from the State Board of Education.
- There was discussion about funding at the state and federal levels.

Pre-Approval Discussion on Board Rating –

Report 1000.2.0 EL Global Executive Constraint – This policy calls for an external report. The board rated the auditor’s office audit as a sufficient and appropriate source for monitoring this policy.

Report 1000.2.8 EL Compensation and Benefits – All five board members rated the superintendent as compliant with the policy and that annual review of this report is sufficient.

Pre-Approval Discussion on Board Report –

Policy 1000.4.0 GP Global Governance-Management Connection – All five members rated the board as compliant and operating in a team manner that involves open communication with all members of the superintendent and district management team.

Policy 1000.4.1 GP Unity of Control – All five board members rated the board as compliant with the policy and that annual review is sufficient.

The four pre-approval items will be scheduled for approval at the October 20 board business meeting.