

Policy Governance Approved –

At their April 15, 2008, business meeting, the Board of Directors approved the remaining sixteen policies to implement Policy Governance. This approval culminates almost two years of work to formalize the Yakima School District Board of Directors move to Policy Governance. The board announced it expects to begin full implementation of Policy Governance with the 2008-09 school year, including community linkage meetings and policy reporting.

Policy Governance formalizes in board policy those beliefs, values and practices that have characterized the Yakima School District Board of Directors for many years: That we have an obligation to represent the community owners of the district, and that we must be accountable in governance as we hold our superintendent and district accountable for excellence in operation and student outcomes. Policy Governance is consistent with national and state school board standards which encourage local boards to develop systems to “Govern through Policy”. In this time of change and increased accountability in public education, when our district is accountable for student achievement outcomes as never before, when we are asking more of our staff and administrators than ever before, the Yakima School District Board of Directors is doing our part to step up to excellence in governance by adopting Policy Governance. We don’t need to look far to see what problems a distracted and disorganized school board can cause for a district, and we don’t ever want that to happen in Yakima. The time to step up to excellence in governance is while things are moving in a positive direction, while the district is making strong strides in improving academic achievement, while the board is strong and functioning well. This change is an investment in the future strength of the board and the district.