

School Board Minutes

Banks School District 13

January 11, 2010

Minutes are official after Board approval

5:30 Board Work Session – District Conference Room

Agenda

Board Members Present:

Kathy Edison, Vice Chair
Richard Bowden
Norie Dimeo-Ediger
Laurie Schlegel

Others Present:

Schann Nelson, Independent
Deb Mott, Banks School District staff member

Administrators Present

Jim Foster, Superintendent
Simon Levear Business Manager

Bond Discussion

Mr. Levear presented a report to the board on property taxes. He said there are three parts to the operating funds the district receives: state school funds, grants, and property taxes. He said there is an equalization factor for operating funds, for example, more that is received in property taxes; less state school funds would be received. He discussed the property tax statements, and went over the different values presented on the statement, and said that property taxes are based on assessed value. Mr. Levear said that although market value can go down, assessed value will increase by 3% each year until such time assessed and market values are equal. He discussed changes to the makeup of the housing in the district, and how this would effect the property tax assessments. Mr. Levear said that it is not possible to give an exact amount of the cost to taxpayers of the bond over the life of the bond. Mr. Levear said there are three different sources for school funding: the state operating funds; general obligation bonds, and local option levy. Banks School District does not currently have a local option levy. Mr. Levear said the current stimulus interest-free loan option will go away after 2010 and discussed spreading the interest piece over the life of the bond with rates decreasing over time. He said he had Javier Fernandez run several scenarios for the board's information. Mr. Levear said that his personal opinion concerning the bond in November is that the district passes it. He said that the district cannot state for certain where the interest will be in the future since future district growth can't be determined for certain. Mr. Levear said that the stimulus package interest free bond limit is \$15 million. Mr. Levear said that Mr. Moore had asked for Mr. Fernandez to run scenarios of \$25, \$27, and \$29 million over 15, 20 and 25 years, and Mr. Levear said if the Board would like copies of the data, if they would let him know he would send it to them.

Mr. Bowden reported that members of the Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) recently toured Liberty High School and South Meadow Middle School. He said the committee was able to visit while classes were in session, so class space utilization was able to be observed. He said he would like the committee to tour Banks while classes are also in session. Mrs. Edison suggested that this be done as a group rather than repeated individual walk throughs. Mr. Bowden said that communication between the FPC and the board is very important, and Mrs. Edison asked communications be sent to all the board members concerning the FPC. Mr. Foster said it is important to keep things in perspective – the district does not have the financial resources to be able to duplicate these two schools. Mr. Levear commented that we cannot compare the pricing between South Meadow and Banks Jr. High – Banks School District owns the property, and half of the current building will be used in the new building, so the difference is not really \$33 million versus \$8 to 9 million. Mrs. Edison asked if there was anything in the setup of the buildings that was significant to the committee. Mr. Bowden said that technology in the classrooms is highly utilized in the two schools visited, along with use of commons areas with plenty of available seating. He said the middle school incorporated it with their lunch area and theatre. He said that wide hallways were also used in the buildings. Mr. Foster said that supervision is easier when administrators can look down several halls from one location. Mr. Bowden said that Liberty was built in pods, but Banks doesn't have that ability for the high school. He said one junior high concept in the proposed building is 6th grade on the main floor with 7th and 8th grades on the upper floor. Mr. Bowden reported that Vicky Van Domelen and Deb Mott are co-secretaries; and Ron Frame is the vice-chair. Mr. Foster said that during the meeting January 6, DLR brought a lot of the last year information, and didn't consider some of the changes such as the property on Oak Way. Mr. Bowden said that the FPC discussed the sacred cows in the district and the district office building is an emotional issue for some citizens. He said this would be a topic that should be discussed during the survey. Mr. Bowden said the consideration of taking down the old community gym and district office building would allow for money saving in the phasing of the construction. He said that time is money in construction, and easier is cheaper. Mr.

Levear said that a phase consideration that was discussed would be taking down the one wing in the junior high with the three classrooms and the principal's office, moving the three classes to modules for Sept thru December, build the two story structure where the old wing was, with eight classrooms, and return students to this new wing in January, then starting the next stage of the junior high construction. Mr. Bowden said the estimated cost of the modules that would need to be used for temporary classrooms is \$50,000 each. Mr. Bowden said that the high school and junior high projects are being viewed as two separate projects with their own timelines. The board discussed the possibility of moving the lifeskills class to a 7-12 class setting; and moving the agriculture classes and technology space to the storage unit by the wrestling building, and perhaps adding a portable for the classes. Mr. Bowden said that the construction for both the junior high and high school would be two phases. Mr. Bowden said that there has been discussion about adding more labs at the high school over the current number of staff for future considerations. Mr. Bowden said Rick Rainone reported at the Jan. 6 meeting that the cost for current construction is \$250.00/sq ft. Mr. Bowden said future need should be considered in the construction. Mr. Bowden said in reviewing the board packet, he read the annual insurance report, and said he was concerned if the district had enough insurance coverage to cover rebuilding. Mr. Levear said that Mrs. Hansen would be in the meeting tonight, and could answer any questions the board may have. The revised timeline proposed by C&M Communications was discussed, and a copy was handed out to the board members. Mrs. Edison requested any copies received by the FPC concerning the bond should also be shared with the board. Mr. Foster said the board would adopt the bond resolution in August, and Sept. 2 is the filing deadline. The board briefly discussed the campaign committee, and Mrs. Edison clarified that the campaign committee is not a board committee. Laurie Schlegel said that it is vital in the bond campaign that everyone tells the same story. Mrs. Edison said that accessibility is important, including the superintendent and architects. Mr. Bowden said the FPC meeting every other Wednesday, with the final recommendation to the board at the March board meeting. The board discussed the upcoming survey, scheduled for March/April. Mr. Bowden discussed modifying the bond to reflect the survey results versus presenting a bond that is based on the recommendations of the FPC. Mr. Levear commented that results of the survey need to be considered in the bond election. He said as a result of the survey, projects contributing to the bond passing versus impeding the bond passing need to be reviewed.

Sustainable Schools

Board consensus was that no one would attend this year. Mr. Foster said that Jeanne Magmer will give the information needed on the bond.

The work session adjourned at 6:45 PM.

7:00 Regular Session

Board Members Present:

Kathy Edison, Vice-Chair
Richard Bowden
Norie Dimeo-Ediger
Laurie Schlegel

Administrators Present

Jim Foster, Superintendent
Simon Levear, Business Manager
Shelley Mitchell, Student Services Director
Bob Huston, BES Principal
Jim Smith, BHS Principal
Mark Everett, BJHS Principal

Others Present:

Lance Heggem, Sodexo Food Service
Rebecca Chandler, Payton Kimmel, Cole Smith
Zack Streblov, 4th grade students, Cami
Henderson, 4th grade teacher,
Amy Hansen, President, Waltz, Sheridan, Crawford,
Tara Kamp, Pauly Rogers

CALL TO ORDER-FLAG SALUTE

Board vice-chair Kathy Edison welcomed everyone to the board meeting, and said there is time for audience comment later in the meeting.

PUBLIC WELCOME/RECOGNITION/COMMENTS

4th Grade Presentation

Bob Huston said the 4th grade classes, as part of the 4th grade writing assessment benchmark, wrote acceptance speeches if they were elected president. He introduced Zach Streblov, Cole Smith, Payton Kimmel and Rebecca Chandler, who read their acceptance speeches for the board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Richard Bowden made the following motion: "Be it resolved the Banks School District Board of Directors approve the agenda as presented." Laurie Schlegel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Annual Insurance Presentation

Amy Waltz Hansen, CIC, President of Waltz, Sheridan, Crawford presented the Banks School District Annual Insurance and Risk Management report. She reviewed the executive summary, and briefly discussed highlights of the report. She said that there are two corrections to the report, and discussed the cost/sq. ft. replacement costs. She said that, although the coverage of the district may be a little light, the coverage is reviewed every year, PACE (the insurance carrier) did the appraisal of the district, is comfortable with the coverage, and with the consideration of the blanket coverage the district has, in her opinion, the insurance meets the needs of the district.

Annual Audit Presentation

Tara Kamp of Pauly, Rogers presented the annual audit report, and reported that the District has received an unqualified opinion. She commended Mr. Levear for the state of the district's financial statements. She briefly discussed the SAS 114 letter. She stated that the district is in compliance with federal and state law. She said there are no disagreements with management. She briefly went over the audit with the Board, and discussed the findings. There were no questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve December 14, 2009 Board Work/Regular Session Minutes

Approve Fiscal Report

Approve Routine Personnel Matters

Retirement:

Julia Peterson, 1.0FTE Learning Specialist Banks Elementary School effective end of the 2009-10 SY

Hiring:

Carly Busby, 1.0FTE High School Lifeskills Teacher effective 1/4/10

Norie Dimeo-Ediger made the following motion: "Be it resolved the Banks School District Board of Directors approve the consent agenda as amended." Laurie Schlegel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

REPORTS

Administrator Report

Mr. Smith reported that the high school has begun OAKES testing for sophomores. He said this will take 4 to 5 weeks. He is starting the 2nd round of staff evaluations. He said winter sports are underway, and there is a wrestling tournament Friday and Saturday. Mr. Smith discussed the proposal for shortening the league schedule, and said that the decision will be made in mid-April, and the leagues will set schedules after that.

Mark Everett reported that Molly Goff received a grant from Target for \$800, and the money will be used to take all 7th grade students to OMSI. He said this will not cover the entire cost, and additional funding sources are being considered including fundraising. Mr. Everett said there is a 7-12 curriculum committee being formed and he is looking for parent volunteers. He reported the lifeskills class is back in their classroom today.

Shelley Mitchell reported that Jill Schlegel is the new district transition specialist. She said Carly Busby is the new lifeskills teacher – she is a Pacific University student enrolled in the alternative pathways to teaching program. Mrs. Mitchell said there is both a partnership mentor through Pacific, and Karin Bueffel will mentor for the district. Mrs. Mitchell reported there were two recent trainings – one for instructional assistants on behavior support plans, and a systems performance review, which is a self-audit of the IEP process.

Mr. Huston reported that Marjorie Salter had her baby December 26. He said the elementary staff has implemented a mentor program, with staff each mentoring at least two students in need. He said the staff is doing more with less. He reported Sena Wilmoth and Kim Carson have formed a TAG committee, with no budget, in order to work on higher order thinking skills for students. He said the elementary site council meets

Jan. 20, and will discuss the upcoming budget – the music, physical education, and kindergarten needs for next year. February 26 is the Ice Cream Social/Science Fair at the elementary.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Foster thanked the presenters this evening, and said he has enjoyed his time in the elementary classrooms. He said this is board appreciation month, and thanked the board members for all the time and dedication to the district. He thanked Lance Heggem for tonight's dinner. He said the Banks School District is part of the state application consortium applying for the \$175 million federal grant "Race to the Top" which, in part, will help fund work on meeting benchmarks, and hiring and retaining top teachers.

Annual report to the community

Mr. Foster reported to the Board and the community that the Banks School District is in compliance with and implementing as required, all Standards for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools as set forth in OAR Chapter 581, Division 22, including all new and revised rules.

AUDIENCE TIME

Dan Streblov, President of Banks Youth Basketball, read two letters to the Board, the first one urging the board to reinstate the athletic director at the junior high; and the second requesting the reinstatement of the JVII program at the high school. The letters were given to the board members. The letters are attached to the minutes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Bowden had no comment

Norie Dimeo-Ediger said she appreciates all the work done by the Banks School District staff.

Laurie Schlegel echoed Mrs. Dimeo-Ediger's comment.

Kathy Edison thanked the elementary staff for implementing the elementary mentor program, the administrators for their hard work, Lance Heggem for dinner, and the presenters for the presentations tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.