

The debt is under control, McGlasson happily tells school board

Banks School District, after being so deeply in the red that special legislation was required to keep it operating, the district has completely turned around its net cash position. As a result of close monitoring of the district's expenditures, according to district auditors Jones & Roth at the January 22 meeting, in combination with revenue in excess of the budget, the district had an ending fund balance of \$211,320 and the auditors concluded that the "financial position (of the district) is much more sound" than in prior years. Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson acknowledged the efforts of all staff members to reduce expenditures, giving particular credit to Business Manager Tim Collier.

The board also received the annual insurance report, and heard presentations about two elementary school programs that foster a positive, respectful and safe learning environment.

In her report to the board Amy Waltz Hansen, of Waltz Sheridan Crawford, Inc., said that insurance is entering a "hard market" period of increasing rates after a 14-year period of declining rates. Hansen reviewed all of the district's coverages and complimented the district on being proactive in the areas of loss control, use of facilities, and adding coverage for junior high sports. The board requested that Hansen bring a quote for catastrophic student insurance,

which was dropped from the coverage in 2000.

A flexible policy that will allow more groups to access district facilities was passed. The community-friendly policy will allow small groups that might not be able to provide their own insurance coverage to use district facilities.

Character Counts, a program recognizing positive behavior, was presented. Started five years ago in an effort to recognize students and improve the school environment, the program is a tremendous success and gets many supportive responses from the community. Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justice and fairness, caring, and citizenship form the six pillars of character used consistently throughout the elementary school. Classroom rules are developed using these principles. Students receive red tickets from teachers for positive behavior and every week six children receive candy and have an opportunity to tell the student body what they did to get their red tickets.

At the end of each grading period each teacher nominates one student who exemplifies the principles of character. After approval by the principal's office, librarians, playground monitors and others, these students get a very special treat. Students and their parents are invited to breakfast with the principal, in the library decorated with tablecloths and flowers. Students are photographed with their parents. Photos are printed in the *News-Times* and are displayed in the school throughout the year. Later, students receive recognition in an assembly, where they also receive a packet of rewards. This program is funded with proceeds from the student store.

Banks Elementary School

Principal Ester Lee, explained the school-wide discipline program. The Problem Solving Program teaches students to take responsibility for their actions and make improvements in their behavior. The school has high expectations for appropriate language and behavior and when kids "mess up" and create a problem they receive a referral. This gives them the opportunity to fix their problem and take responsibility for their actions. A child who receives a referral must use their own lunch or recess time to go to the problem solving room and meet with a neutral adult. Lee said that the children really respond to the chance to tell

their story and develop a plan to repair their relationships with those affected by the problem.

Once a plan is developed, the child receives a copy of the plan and an opportunity to call home and tell what has happened. A copy of the plan is also mailed to the parents. The program has a positive emphasis that is well received by students and parents. The program includes progressive steps for continued problems, including development of a "Success Plan" involving the student, parents and principle. A student who saw a friend waiting to go in to work on a success plan, was quoted by Lee as saying, "It's a good

thing, because then people are helping you."

In other business the board:

- Recognized Dorothy Schmidlin for a generous donation of \$5,000 in memory of her husband;
- Received reports from building administrators about activities in December and early January;
- Received a draft of the 2000-2001 school calendar;
- Noted that district employees raised their contributions to United Way by 25 percent, and
- Approved expenditure of \$10,261 for acoustic upgrade and recessed lighting for the board room.

New Banks Councilors meet staff, listen to mayor

Banks City Council met Jan. 19 at the Brown Derby Restaurant for a brief, get-to-know-each-other meeting of city councilors and city staff. Mayor Bob Orłowski started the evening with a State of the City address. After praising the assets of the town, Orłowski outlined problems encountered by the city now. He also noted that the city has improved school and fire department facilities, and an expanded police department. Orłowski said that he and the council are committed to overcoming the deficit in the general fund.

Planner K. J. Won, Attorney Jim Lucas and Engineer Dale Merrell, each gave a brief presentation about projects completed in the past year as well as upcoming projects. Administrative employees Bob Prickett, Karen Heesacker, and Fred Evers were introduced and gave brief statements. Police Chief Daryl Crandall entertained everyone with stories and spoke about the two full-time officers, Kevin Duggan and Spencer Arrowood. Library Commissioner Jacque Her-

mens and Librarian Denise Holmes spoke about improvements in the library and introduced library employees Dana Gale, Cindy Stanley, E'Raina Hatch and Ann Krutsinger. Byran Biehl, Planning Commission Chair, was also introduced.

The evening ended with brief comments from new councilors Katie Murdock and Teri Branstitre. Councilor Tim Hardie concluded by complimenting the City for "large numbers of committed and very talented people."

Banks High School Honor Roll

The following Banks High School students were named to the academic Honor Roll for the 2000-01 first semester.

Achieving a 4.0 Grade Point Average were:

Freshmen - Lynsey Douglas and Amy Zimmerman.

Sophomores - Krista Donovan, Jared Hatch, Milena Hermansky, Megan Jurasek, Rachel Partin, Paul Trout and Rebecca Wales.

Juniors - Ashley Alley, Jennifer Ballenger, Michelle Dickinson, Colin Douglas, Risa Johnson, Karin Larson, Graham Linn and Shawn Watson.

Seniors - Bill Hatch, Chelsea Larson, Jessica Trout and Kim Vanderzanden.

Additional Honor Roll students are:

Freshmen - Mitchell Coussens, Monica Coussens, Mahonri Gibson, Meghan Gobel, Andrea Harbin, Michelle Haynes, Amy Javorsky, Jake Klein, Rachel Kuiper, Valarie Long, Rachael Megdal-Clark, Molly Petersen, Alexandra Quinones and Kristopher Wood.

Sophomores - Cara Carr, Zachary Cottam, Winona Ediger, Lindsey Ellis, Ben Farley, Sierra Ford, Tracy Harrison and Luke Herinckx;

Genevieve Howell, Carolyn Murdock, Corey Neil, Nicole Nordholm, Amanda Pinder, Kelly Pinder, Kristen Sandage, Danielle Vandehey and Rachel Warkentin.

Juniors - Gretchen Bayless,

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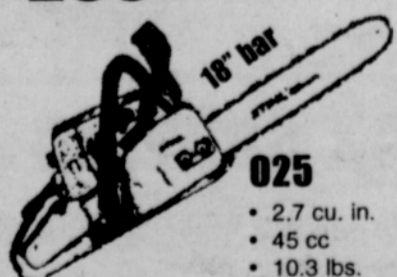
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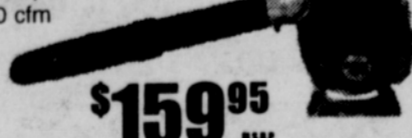
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