

Banks will weather budget woes...if legislature does homework

Banks School District should be able to absorb about half of the shortfall left by the failure of Measure 13, Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson told the board of directors at their meeting June 10th. The board also discussed changes in the math curriculum, out-of-state field trips, and approved the 2002-2003 budget. Following executive session, the board approved a salary schedule for administrative and non-bargaining employees. The proposed 2002-2003 budget was adopted after no comment during the public hearing held as part of the board meeting.

Answering questions about how the district can pass a budget when the revenue available is uncertain McGlasson ex-

plained that the budget represents a maximum spending limit. The district can under-spend the adopted budget without any further involvement of the board or the budget committee. Administrators will use the guiding principles approved by the board to make decisions about where to limit spending in their budgets. McGlasson said the district would be very careful not to spend any money until revenue has been received to cover the expense.

The administrative team is developing an incremental plan of action. McGlasson said that spending would be limited first in budget areas that do not directly affect students. For example, the math textbook adoption will be delayed until

the revenue to cover the expense is guaranteed. Also delayed will be upgrading the junior high computer lab. Another area where spending will be limited is supplies for all athletic and activity programs. McGlasson said the district could under-spend the budget by about \$200,000 without increasing class size or cutting programs.

However, the total gap left by the failure of M13 is

\$400,000 in the Banks District and \$220 million in the state school fund. According to McGlasson, the legislature is expected to put at least half of that amount back in the state school fund. However, some portion of the decision may be referred to the voters. If that is the case, it won't be voted on until September and—if approved—the money won't be available locally until October.

After many years of delayed

text book adoptions, math texts in the Banks district are 12 years old. The state operates a seven-year textbook adoption cycle. According to McGlasson, previous administrations had limited spending by purchasing only classroom sets of texts and sometimes skipping an adoption cycle. As a result, the availability of textbooks, particularly in the junior high, is extremely limited and they are

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Summer is here, please watch for children playing. I hope everybody has a great summer

Jim Walsh



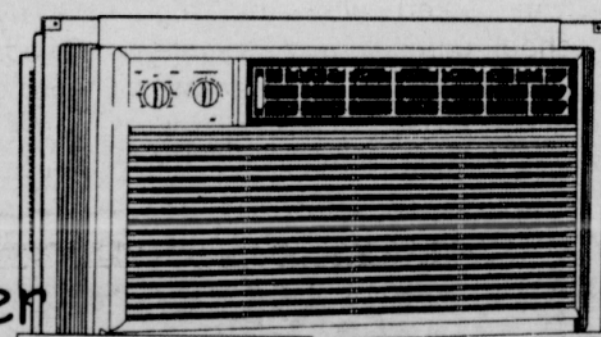
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