

School board considers drug policy for extracurricular activities

Policies and curriculum relating to athletics and activities at Banks High School (BHS) again dominated the agenda for the Banks School board, at their March 8 meeting.

Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson outlined three issues concerning the student activity/athletics contract, which prohibits participants from using drugs and alcohol. She ex-

plained that administrators were seeking clarification and revision of policy.

The primary issue is that, currently, coaches may develop stricter rules than those set by board policy, which has resulted in inconsistent treatment of students, depending on the sport. McGlasson told the board that the issue must be addressed to insure that all students are treated equally. The second issue is a minor revision of language making corrections that should also be addressed as soon as possible.

The third issue, which was discussed at length during the February meeting, is creation of a stronger policy regarding the use of drugs and alcohol. Policy revisions may be made only by the board and, according to complaints received from coaches and reports from administrators, the current policy does not serve as an effective deterrent. As an example, BHS Principal Jim Foster told the board that, as student athletes approached the ten-day window between sports, flyers were confiscated at the school about a "big beer bash."

A broad-based committee of coaches, parents and students, put together by BHS Athletic Director Jim Smith to consider the issues, recommended some

changes at the last meeting. The major change recommended is to extend suspensions from ten days to 28 calendar days and a minimum of three contests for the first offense. Other recommendations included a statement that the contract would be enforced as written for all athletics and activities, and that consequences would carry forward from one sports season to the next. The group was also asked to research policies in other districts.

which would hold students accountable for the school year, beginning with daily doubles in August. Smith told the board that the committee believed this would provide students with "a tool to empower kids to combat peer pressure...that it sends a strong message that this is a commitment for their lives, not just for a season."

Student committee member Annie Schlegel told the board that she definitely believed that the stricter rules would be used as a tool. She told the board that students often are more successful when declining to participate if they have a reason other than just not wanting to imbibe. She said that kids show more respect "if you have an excuse" such as missing a significant number of games.

After discussing the differences between sports and activities, the committee reduced the contest prohibition for activities to one contest because many activities, such as FFA, have so few contests. Smith told the board that the feedback he had received from coaches was VERY supportive.

The revised contract will be presented to the board for a first reading in April to allow further deliberation by the board in order to determine what is best for the district.

Community Foundation tells council scope of new project

Banks City Council, at a workshop prior to their March 9 meeting, heard a presentation from members of the Banks Community Foundation (BCF). Following a brief overview of the history of the foundation by Denise Dethlefs, chairman Steward Douglas told the council about the "Sound Stage Project."

Tracey Rowatt, who has film industry experience, explained that Oregon has everything in landscapes and climates, but the Pacific Northwest lacks good facilities for pre- and post-production work, so film companies must pack up and go to Canada or back to California. Rowatt led the group to select a feasibility study for a sound stage as the foundation's first big project.

There are a few small production facilities, but BCF's study will look at a large-scale production facility that can provide sustainable growth and employment diversity. The study will be funded by a \$10,000 matching grant from the Ford Family Foundation.

The Banks area is a desirable location, Dontes Reyes told the council, because of a strong transportation infrastructure and the growth pattern of the area. Additionally, Washington County is working to create a one-stop permit process to facilitate further development in the film/video industry.

Dethlefs concluded by saying that the Sound Stage Project is the first project for BCF but is not the only project under consideration.

Following the workshop, Public Works Superintendent Tim Grossnickle reported that the data/computer link to the water system had been installed. The system, which provides minute-by-minute data from every area of the city's water system to a central location, has already enabled Grossnickle to isolate a leakage problem on the Sellers Road line.

Banks Police Officer Kevin Duggan told council that he has taken a job in Hillsboro. He thanked them for the opportunity to serve the community and said he would maintain close ties to Banks. Mayor Bob Orłowski asked council to consider hiring one of the reserve officers to fill the vacancy. Officer Bruce Bringman told council that there had been a noticeable increase in drug activity, driving under the influence and parties.

Councilor Kirk Andrews reported that the parks committee continues to be hampered by lack of a quorum. He is trying to get some new members.

- In other business council:
- Approved \$150 expenditure for an analysis of its computer systems to determine what the city's needs may be.
 - Approved the city auditor's contract for a three-year period.
 - Appointed Debra Deegan Budget Officer.
 - Set a determination of nuisance hearing for property at 263 & 265 Wilkes Street at next month's meeting.



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