

Banks school board adopts 04-05 budget

Banks School Board adopted the budget for fiscal year 2004-2005, authorized expenditures for capital improvements and heard the first reading of several policy changes at their June 14 meeting.

Nancy Hall, district business manager, explained that transferring money from the general fund to the capital improvements fund completed the budget action previously approved by the board as an internal loan, but without state required restrictions. The action authorized the expenditure of up to \$75,000 for real property improvement projects over the next four fiscal years. Necessary funds will be transferred out of the general fund and into capital improvements. Repayment to the general fund will begin in the 2008-2009 fiscal year after the existing loan payments are completed.

No community members were present and no comment was received during the public

hearing on the district's budget. After closing the hearing, the board unanimously approved the 2004-2005 operating budget as presented.

According to Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson, all districts will be required to implement policies that create a tobacco-free environment by 2006. She presented a revision to the district's current policy that will meet this standard. McGlasson also introduced a policy recognizing job-sharing by licensed employees, and policies that will change the way student records, charges, fees, and fines are handled, to comply with new state requirements. Another proposed policy change will update the bid requirements for purchases made by the district.

The board had a short discussion about board member Joe Evers' upcoming move out of the district. McGlasson explained that any actions taken by the board could be invalidat-

ed if Evers participates in a vote when he is not residing in the district. In order to facilitate district business, Evers said that he would not officially change his address until after the July board meeting. Following Evers' resignation, the position will be open for the remainder of the term, through June 2005. The board has complete control over whether and how to fill the position.

Willis Meeuwsen asked McGlasson about declining enrollment. McGlasson said that part of the drop was due to high school dropouts and she had also noticed 15 - 20 houses for sale in Arbor Village. Jim Smith, high school athletic director, added that about 15 students went into home schooling, and about 90 students moved out of the district with only about 50 coming in.

In other business the board:

- Ratified one-year contracts for certified and classified staff.
- Approved compensation for administrative and non-union employees.
- Approved new hires, transfers and resignations.

Meeuwsen concluded the meeting by thanking "everyone involved in educating our kids, from the staff and administration down to the lowest broom sweeper."

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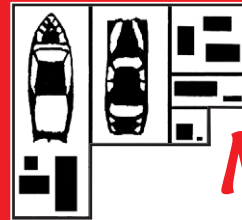


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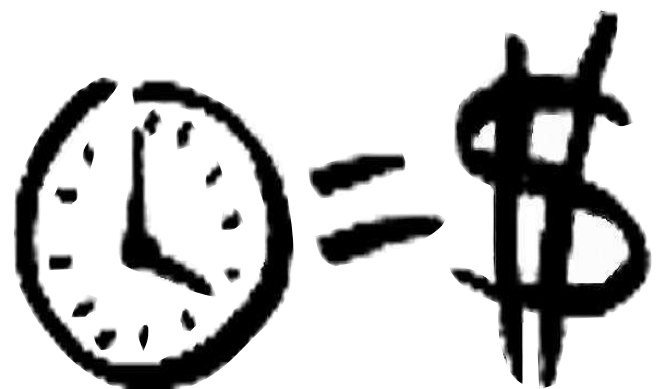
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