

School Board considers superintendent hiring, meets staff liaison

Banks School Board welcomed the beginning of the new school year with attention to hiring a new superintendent.

Doug Nordholm asked for clarification of the superintendent search calendar. Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson explained that Jon Young, of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) superintendent search division, would attend the board's October meeting. At that time he will provide background information and explain the process used by OSBA.

Superintendent Evaluation

Nordholm proposed a change in the superintendent evaluation procedure because, though current policy requires superintendent evaluations conducted by the board to be completed in July and February, none had been received.

He suggested that the evaluation forms be handed out at the February meeting, followed by a workshop later in February to complete and discuss the evaluations for finalization at the March meeting. This format would require participation of board members, provide for informal discussion between the superintendent and the board, and allow the board to reach a consensus regarding the superintendent's evaluation.

Nordholm also had questions about the amount of detail of superintendent evaluations that can be presented in a public meeting.

According to McGlasson evaluation of the superintendent "is, arguably, the single most important task of the board." She said that many boards had become involved in litigation by not following a clear, open process or established timelines. Both the timeline and the instrument for evaluation must be approved in a public meeting.

OSBA conducts superintendent evaluation workshops, and McGlasson advised the board to work with their superintendent search facilitator to develop a process and adopt a new timeline. Accepting McGlasson's advice, the board tabled superintendent evaluations until new policies can be developed.

Plans for Improvement

In one of many twists in comparing state report cards and national ratings under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), high school principal Jim Foster reported that, even though fewer students passed the writing assessment, 79 percent of them will have achieved the CIM in writing by meeting standards on work samples. These students are not counted as having met the standard under NCLB, so the state report card will show an improvement in writing and the federal Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) report will show a decline.

Banks High School continues to make significant progress on meeting the state standards in mathematics. Foster told the board that the science curriculum has been adjusted and will be a required subject for all freshman and sophomores. The English department will attend training on the state standards.

Junior high principal Mark Everett told the board that he is working with the state to change the initial AYP rating of "Not Met". After analyzing the results, Everett found that two students were included who were not enrolled at the time of testing. Reducing the number of students used to calculate the percentage of students who met the state standard moved BJHS to a rating of "Met".

An after school Homework Club will continue to be offered to allow additional time in a structured learning environment with access to library books, computers and adult assistance.

Marty Voge, Banks elementary principal, reported that in-

dividual and grade level goals for improvement in reading and math will be identified, a school wide math incentive program will be developed, along with expansion of the reading incentive program. Students not meeting standards will be identified and offered a learning lab.

Voge told the board that in order to accommodate a large fifth grade enrollment he had contacted Pacific University and the parent group. Pacific will provide two student teachers to work with students. Voge told the board that members of the parent group "came from Heaven" to supply volunteers who are willing and able to work with students.

Following the administrators' reports, board chair Willis Meeuwsen said that he hoped that schools did not fall into the trap of "teaching to the test," but concentrated on educating kids. McGlasson said that all of the administrators are aware and would continue to educate as broadly as possible. However, she warned, because of the NCLB "there are serious sanctions" that can be imposed now that have not been present in the past.

ESD liaison

Meeuwsen introduced Joan Steiner, of Northwest Regional Educational Service District (NWRES), who has been assigned as staff liaison to the Banks School District. Steiner told the board that each of the twenty districts in the four-county NWRES has been assigned a liaison who will be attending board meeting in an effort to improve communications and increase involvement at the local level. Questions and concerns of the board will be conveyed directly to the appropriate party at NWRES, according to Steiner, who will also be responsible to ensuring that concerns are appropriately addressed.

Fire Science

Following up on a request made by Joe Evers at the last meeting, McGlasson reported that the fire science curriculum will be updated and the administration will meet regularly with instructors. The \$50 fee goes directly to the fire department to partially offset the cost of the program, she said, but no student would be denied access to

the program due to inability to pay the fee.

New staff tour

Finally, McGlasson told the board about taking new staff members on a bus tour of the entire district. According to McGlasson, it was important to give new teachers a feel for the actual range of household income and the distance that students must travel to get to school. The tour took about an hour and a half.

Miscellaneous

In other business the board:

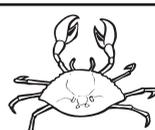
- Approved FFA overnight field trip.

- Accepted resignations of playground supervisor Christina Burgess, elementary secretary Lori Campbell, and resource teacher Linda Kiehl.

- Hired instructional asst. Dorothy Castor, resource teacher Lori Marston, teacher mentor Kristy McGinnis, and volleyball coaches Terri Maller, Melissa Olson and Kyle Dobashi.

- McGlasson reported a net gain of 24 students from inter-district transfers.

- Learned that the district received the balance due from the Buxton School property. The money cannot be used this school year without action from the board.



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