

Banks School Board hears from parents worried about class size

Approximately 20 parents attended the Banks School Board meeting on October 10 to voice their concerns about elementary class sizes, especially the third grade. Parent Kelly Rowan stated that there were 33 children in her daughter's class, up from 29 last year and wanted to know what the board could do "I'm worried and I'm getting more worried...I can't imagine how frustrating it is for teachers to go in and be overwhelmed."

Parent Jennifer Bailey said, "I have a child that needs to be academically challenged and a class of 33 makes it impossible to hit those outer bounds." Bailey added that she and other parents would love to help brainstorm for solutions and help any way they can.

Third-grade teacher and parent Vicky VanDomelen added that this class of students brings a strong group of parent volunteers and she uses multiple volunteers daily, but that volunteers weren't enough. "I spend a lot of time simply managing the class...You can't do what you want in class given those numbers, no matter how good your volunteers are."

Board chair Duane Lundsten agreed that class size and school crowding are issues facing the board. "We know this is

a great community and we need to make it a place where people can come and still keep it that way." He said that there was little that the board could do immediately. He didn't know what the solution would be but said that the board could have Superintendent Marv Ott evaluate the situation and make a recommendation.

Out-of-state trips

The board approved two out-of-state trips for students. One will allow Spanish III and IV students to go to Costa Rica in March. The other trip is so the high school wrestling team can attend a tournament in Oxnard, Calif. Both groups will be fundraising for the trips. Board member Gene Kelly voted against the trips because of concerns about flying and because of community perception issues. He feels that even though no district money is spent on the trips, people in the community may think that the schools are being extravagant.

Policies and goals

District policy regarding student searches by law enforcement officials was updated to include student interrogations and given a first reading. The new policy requires the school principal or designee be present when possible and that the school attempt to notify the stu-

dent's parents or guardian in advance.

High school vice principal Jim Smith commented that in his experience, law enforcement officials tell him that no school personnel may be present during the questioning and do not always allow him to contact a student's parents. Ott said that a conversation with law enforcement will be needed to clarify how interrogations may be conducted.

The board had a first reading of an updated child abuse policy which brings district practices in line with new laws regarding how abuse is reported. The superintendent will be the person designated to make sure that all reports are followed up.

The board also had a first reading of district goals and continued to modify language to reflect the board's desire for broad, attainable goals.

Katrina project

Teacher Tim Eggleston told the board about a project he had found for his students to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Through Habitat for Humanity, 20-25 students will be constructing "Home in a Box" kits. The work will take

place in November or December. To help pay for the boxes, students will be selling the opportunity to "sign a stud." For \$5 or \$10, people will be able to sign or write a message on a stud that will be included in one of the boxes and shipped to the gulf coast.

Eggleston said that both the students and Habitat for Humanity were excited about the project. Banks is the first high school to volunteer and will be the model program for the rest of the state.

Recognitions

Teacher Rob Frank and Student Body President Marghee Lewis were both honored with certificates of commendation from the school board. Frank was recognized for his years of dedication and loyalty to the students. Principal Marty Voge noted that Frank has an incredible rapport with his students. Lewis was honored for being a

dedicated leader. Her work in planning and carrying out a successful Homecoming was especially noted.

Banks HS theatre seeks volunteers

2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the Banks High School (BHS) productions of *Once Upon a Mattress*. In honor of that successful past production, Banks High School Theatre will again produce *Once Upon a Mattress*.

To make this show successful, BHS needs the following:

- a piano player for rehearsals and performances;
- assistance with building, painting, and sewing;
- donations of wood, cloth, paint, and other supplies.

Anyone who can assist with these needs is asked to contact Lori Daliposon at 503-324-2281 or <lorld@banks.k12.or.us>.



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