

Banks school board looks at class sizes

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by five percent overall. Rourke said they are still working on how to make the cut without reducing services.

The bill also changes how ESD boards are elected. Instead of a general election, board members will be elected by the component school boards. Each board will have one vote. All current board members will be eliminated and new ones elected as of June 30, 2006. They will then serve a four year term. Initially, this will take place in three ESDs, including NWRESA. The pilot programs will report to the state legislature in Fall 2006 and Fall 2008 about how the new system is working.

Audit Report

Forrest Arnold of Jones and Roth presented the annual audit report. The district received a clean report from Arnold, who said that the auditor's job is to give an opinion on the district's financial statements and to check compliance with state and federal regulations.

Superintendent Marv Ott noted that the audit revealed that the ending fund balance was approximately \$54,000 less than anticipated, which means that the district started this year with \$54,000 less than thought. Two other factors are impacting the district's finances, Ott added. One is that PERS bills that were not budgeted for, will be starting in January. Also, the quarterly estimate of revenues shows that property tax receipts are down. This decrease is from property taxes that haven't been paid.

Class size

Ott and the board discussed class size issues with administrators. Marty Voge, principal of the elementary school, said that they are using parent, Americorp and high school volunteers to get as much one-on-one instruction as possible. He thought that the children and the teachers were adjusting. He added that smaller classes would be nice and that, eventually, teachers will burn out if something isn't done. Ott said

that given the budget, there weren't any paid solutions available at this time. He asked the board to meet with him early in December to start looking at what can be done in the coming years.

The board stressed their desire to communicate with the parents who had spoken last month, to let them know that they had been heard and that the board is working to make things better in the future.

Policies approved

The board approved district goals, child abuse reporting policies, and a student search and interrogation policy. They also approved the budget guiding principles for 2006-09.

Ott reported that he had consulted with both OSBA lawyers and the Washington County Sheriff's Department about the interrogation policy. A member of the public relations department of the police department will meet with administrators to make sure that the role of the school in such instances is clear.

Cultural Summit on November 18

Members of the Washington County arts, cultural and heritage communities are invited to attend a Cultural Summit on Friday, November 18, from 4-6:00 p.m. at the Oregon College of Art and Craft, 8245 SW Barnes Road, Portland. The Summit is sponsored by the Washington County Arts, Heritage and Humanities Coalition (WCAHHC), which is seeking input to help prioritize community needs for its 2006 grant cycle. In addition, representatives from Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts, Technical Assistance for Community Services, the Regional Arts and Culture Council and the Oregon Cultural Trust will be on hand to answer questions about improving grant writing, board recruitment and successful non-profit management.

Light refreshments will be served. The featured entertainment will be Ballet Folklorico 'Lo Nuestro,' a student dance troupe based in Forest Grove, and a recipient of a 2005 WCAHHC grant. Attendees are en-

couraged to RSVP to the Oregon College of Art and Craft, 503-297-5544.

WCAHHC distributed \$1,000 grants to fifteen organizations in 2005. An increase in both the number of grants and the size of grants is anticipated in 2006.

The Oregon Cultural Trust was established by the state legislature to strengthen Oregon's culture through the establishment of a permanent endowment. Funding is derived from the sale of Cultural license plates and from gifts through a state tax credit program. The Trust invests a portion of proceeds from the endowment in annual grants to Oregon counties and tribal planning groups, funding for statewide cultural agencies, and competitive grants to cultural non-profits. To learn more about the Trust, visit the website <www.cultural-trust.org>.

To view the Washington County Cultural Plan, visit <www.westsideculturalalliance.org>.

47J discusses superintendent criteria and lockers at middle school

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Rainier. In addition to the fingerprint scanner helping, the staff at Rainier displayed 'terrific' teamwork.

Two scanners, plus changes in the way the lines are handled would improve the cafeteria use in Vernonia, Wallace said. She also told the board that the kids in Rainier think the scanner line is the 'cool' line to be in, and that those who don't want to be fingerprinted can use a card. No decision was made on use of the scanner in Vernonia at this time.

Superintendent Search

Board Chairman Randy Hansen presented a list of superintendent qualities and criteria gleaned from all of the meetings so far. The list was:

1. Good communicator
2. Good collaborator
3. Education leader
4. Superior knowledge of school law
5. Community leader/visible in community and schools
6. Knowledge of educational process.

Hansen also reported that the input leaned toward hiring an interim superintendent and

during the process, to look for a permanent superintendent. He told the board that there was even split on whether to hire a full time or a half time superintendent, but that his recommendation was for half time.

The board voted unanimously to include the six qualities as superintendent search criteria.

Statutory changes

Acting Superintendent Anne Kingsley told the board that a new law will go into effect soon that makes it illegal to allow anyone under 18 years of age to ride in the back of a pickup, except in a few instances, such as when moving from one hunting camp to another. She also said the law will require children under 16 to wear helmets

while skateboarding.

District Report Cards

Kingsley also reported on the District Report Cards and AYP results, saying "We are pleased with our scores, but we are not happy with our scores, we...are working very hard and are pleased with our progress."

Middle School lockers

Middle School Principal Nate Underwood provided a quote of \$7,800 to \$10,000 for lockers at the middle school, depending on who puts the lockers together. Underwood said the children have to carry everything with them, all day long, and lockers would make it easier on the students. He is seeking additional quotes. Underwood offered to give board members a

tour to show where he is suggesting the lockers be placed.

Parent notification

Parent Amy Cieloha asked the district to do a better job of letting parents know before early releases. Cieloha said she had not known about the early release on November 9 but was home when her child showed up unexpectedly. Chil-

dren had been sent home with notifications and the reader board had the information, according to Kingsley. Kingsley thanked Cieloha for her comments and said it would be taken under advisement to improve their notification.

The next board meeting will be December 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the 47J District office.



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