

Outdoor School receives praise at Banks School Board meeting

The Banks December school board meeting was short and to the point, with two board members absent and no new action or discussion items. Members Duane Lundsten, Will Moore and Angi Duyck and Superintendent Marv Ott were present.

two presentations. Two sixth grade teachers and two sixth grade students talked about their experiences at Outdoor School in October, and Leslee Sipp told the board about her activities as coordinator of the Family Resource Center.

Sena Wilmoth introduced her students Olivia Artaiz and

Shea Rue. Artaiz spoke about how special it was to get hands-on experience with three distinct environments, since Camp Westwind has beach, estuary, and forest areas. Rue spoke about the extra learning that comes from spending four whole days with classmates. "If you think you know everything

about your friends, try living with them for four days. You'll learn lots more!" he said. He also said that the campers learned many things about science and the outdoors.

Adding that this was her 13th year of attending outdoor school, Wilmoth said it is always different and always magical. She especially likes Camp Westwind because students learn about more than just the forest.

Sixth grade teacher Shannon Dotson commended the staff of the camp. She said she was "blown away" by their efforts and found herself avidly learning along with her students.

Sipp described how the Family Resource Center connects local families with the services and agencies that are available. She also described the various activities she undertakes every year, including food drives, Christmas boxes, senior citizen lunches and holiday parties for local children. She noted that Banks is a generous community when it comes to helping families in need. She stressed that most of the families that require assistance just need a one-time boost; only about five percent of families need continual help.

Superintendent Ott asked the board if they wanted to join

other districts in proposing an alternative funding solution for state funding of school districts. It is hoped that having a plausible solution worked out and supported before the legislature meets will ensure that a desirable outcome is achieved. Members Lundsten and Moore asked that this be brought back next month as an action item so all members can have a chance to study the issue and be heard.

The only action item of the meeting was a second reading and adoption of a policy regarding authorized signatures required on bank accounts throughout the district. It was approved without discussion.



Banks Elementary School choir and band from grades 4-6 presented an entertaining concert of holiday music and other selections under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Nage.



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