

Banks School Board appreciated

The January meeting of the Banks School Board started with commendations, as Superintendent Marv Ott continued his policy of rewarding the positives in the district.

Special ed students Mikey McGinnis and Tarik Abdsemeia were issued commendations for their joyous attitudes and positive influence on everyone around them. Principal Marty Voge said that these boys meet the obstacles in their lives with a smile. The head of the lifeskills classroom, Karin Bueffel, was also commended for her dedication and hard work on behalf of her students. Bueffel, who is in her second year with the district, has undertaken many fundraisers for the program and focuses on getting her students' experiences in the world outside of the school, Voge said.

In December, the board had discussed a resolution proposed by a group of school district superintendents. The intent of the resolution is to develop a stable and adequate funding proposal for Oregon schools that will be drafted and ready to go for the 2007-2009 legislative session. Having the proposal in place before the session would allow candidates to establish their position regarding it while campaigning. It was brought back as an action item, but the board voted unanimously not to adopt the resolution. Member Will Moore explained that the board had held a public work session be-

fore the meeting and that that discussion was the basis for the decision. Ott said that the board was supportive of many parts of the resolution but did not agree with all of the statements. Ott will continue to work with school superintendents around the state toward a funding solution.

The only other action item of the evening was a resolution allowing the district to use the services provided by the Northwest Regional Education Service District. The provided services will be the same as in past years.

The board discussed policy updates, suggested by the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA), consisting mostly of changes in language to reflect state regulations and No Child Left Behind recommendations. A few new policies were also proposed for similar reasons. The board had no questions about the policies, which will have a second reading and adoption at the next board meeting.

Ott delivered the annual report to the community. He stated that the district is in compliance with all standards.

January is school board appreciation month so Ott also thanked the board for their hard work. They received certificates from Ott, mugs signed by elementary students and watercolor thank you cards from the high school art department. The board members thanked everyone involved for the gifts.

Lions bring vision and hearing screening to Banks

At just 13 members, the Banks Lions Club is small but mighty. This dedicated group provides an impressive array of services to the Banks community.

Perhaps the most comprehensive service the group provides is annual vision and hearing testing of all elementary students in the area. The state requires that this testing be done and the Lions come in and do the testing at no cost to the school. On January 11, they were testing students at St. Francis in Roy, and the Banks Christian Academy in Buxton. They will test at Banks Elementary School later in the year.

Portland Lion Warren Heathman brings the self-contained screening trailer, sets it up and helps with the testing. School volunteers and Banks Lions conduct the rest of the tests. Banks Lions Rebecca Clark and her mother, Milli Boldman, have many stories of these screenings being the first indicator of serious vision or hearing problems. Clark stressed the importance of catching vision problems at a young age. After age seven, she said, the brain is settled at whatever level of vision has been achieved.

Health screenings aren't just for the elementary crowd. The Lions also periodically offer community screening that may include diabetes and glaucoma, as well as vision and hearing

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Banks Lions Club member, Rebecca Clark, adjusts the hearing test earphones on a Banks Christian Academy student.

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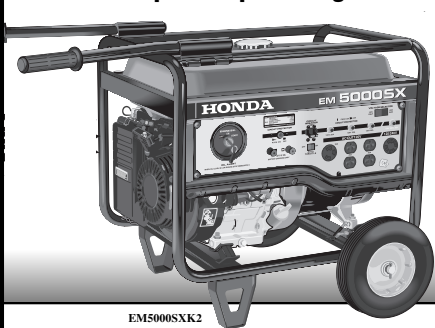
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