

Banks School Board hears presentations, makes policy changes

The Banks School District Board of Directors heard two presentations during their work session prior to the board meeting on January 14.

The first was from Ryan Birr, co-chair of the facilities planning committee. Birr presented a letter to the board and explained why the committee was as yet unable to make their final report, as scheduled. According to Birr there is no doubt that something must be done for the district's buildings and that a bond is the most likely way to proceed but, until the committee gets the final reports, they can't put a dollar amount on the bond to be sought.

He asked if the board could approve going out for a bond and have the dollar amount come in after the final report. Birr was anxious for approval so the facilities committee can move forward with the formation of a steering committee

that will be a PAC (political action committee) and see the district through the process of a bond election. The goal would be to have a bond measure on the November 2008 election because a double majority is not needed in that election.

Birr explained that two things prevented the committee from meeting its original timetable. The first was that the work performed by the committee proved to be more involved than was first thought. He said they have undertaken a complete analysis of the buildings as they currently are, as well as what needs may be in the near future. The second reason is that the committee is still awaiting results from several agencies, including a population study from Portland State University. When all the information is gathered, Birr said, the final item the committee will need is a report from an archi-

tect who will compile all of the information and associate the costs with district needs.

The board did not vote to put a bond on the ballot at this time, but may schedule a special meeting to do so when all information is available.

The second presentation, from Jim Smith, was about the way that sports are budgeted at the high school. This presentation was in response to board discussion that followed a request from Steven Kiss to add soccer as a sponsored, but non-funded, sport at the high school varsity level.

Smith presented a breakdown of income and costs across the different sports and added that it is impossible to fund all the sports exactly equally because some are inherently more expensive. Smith emphasized that requirements for coaches were the same whether a sport is funded by the school or not. He feels that the purpose of the athletics department is to provide a way for students to be involved, and this soccer proposal will allow a way for students to participate and compete. Board consensus was to allow soccer as an unfunded sport and consider

the matter again during the budgeting process. Kiss said he was tickled the board was even considering providing any financial support of the program. During the regular board meeting, the directors voted unanimously to add soccer to the sports schedule for next school year.

The board had the first reading for two policy changes. One changes the bidding requirements for the district. Previously, purchases between \$500 and \$25,000 required three competitive written quotes and

anything over \$25,000 had to be formally bid. The new policy change the bidding limit to \$150,000.

A second policy proposes changing reimbursement of travel expenses for district employees from set amounts to being tied to the U.S. General Services Administration Per Diem Rates. This would allow updating without any action by the board. These policies will have a second reading and be voted on at the next meeting.

The board also approved an
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Banks robbery suspect indicted



manded the money in the register. The clerk complied and was not injured. The suspect left with an undisclosed amount of cash. A Washington County K9 team was brought in, but the suspect was not located.

Through a series of leads, Washington County Sheriff's Detectives identified a suspect. On January 24, Jake Wayne Brown, 18, was indicted and charged with Robbery I, Robbery II and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Mr. Brown was already in the Washington County Jail on unrelated charges.



Right to left; Michaela and Kiana Shurts helped serve at the International Soup Festival on Saturday, February 2.

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