

Banks School Board told 4th section improved 1st grade reading

The Banks School district Board of Directors meeting on February 11, 2008, started with several presentations. First, Caitie Oakes talked to the board about her role as editor of the yearbook for the high school. The junior started on yearbook last year as a writer and advanced to editor this year. She said that improved technology with digital cameras is allowing for a more colorful yearbook and one that is easier to put together. Oakes designs the pages, then eight photographers and eight writers create the pages. Oakes oversees their completion and the final product. All photographs in this year's yearbook will be in color; the theme will be "Find the Brave in You."

Janet Lea, choir director at the junior high and high school, told the board about her first semester of directing choirs. She said the high school select choir has grown from 14 to 28 members and the junior high choir has grown to 38 members. She said she is focused on building the choirs and getting them active in the community.

Amy Hansen of WSE Insurance presented her annual re-

port to the board. She said the insurance market continues to be soft and that she expects premiums to remain flat in the immediate future, but that disappointing investment returns make it hard to predict beyond that. She praised the district for obtaining a safety grant and for its continued good performance on having limited worker's compensation claims.

Charles Rynerson presented the results of the enrollment forecasts from 2008-09 to 2017-18 as prepared by the Population Research Center of Portland State University. He said that two scenarios were considered: one high and one low. The high scenario includes an expansion of the urban growth boundary, which would allow for more growth in the district. He pointed out that even if the expansion occurs within the next year, it would still be a few years before school enrollment would be impacted because it will take time for building to take place. But the district could experience a growth of up to 50% between 2012 and 2022. The low scenario assumes no urban growth expansion and a smaller population increase.

Special board meeting

During a special session held January 17, the board passed a resolution to approve the issuance of a public bond to raise money for improvement of district facilities. The date and amount of the bond will be approved by the board at a later date. The facilities committee has been exploring the district's needs and will soon present a final report. The board can then determine what the bond would entail.

During the work session before the February 11 meeting, Will Moore told the board about what he learned at a bonds and ballots conference. He clarified that the district's priorities are providing for student safety, meeting increased academic requirements, and planning for future growth. He talked extensively with other districts about what they had done to facilitate the bidding, bonding and building process. He said it was recommended that the district have a consultant to help with the process, from crafting the bond through construction.

The board heard a second reading of two policies and voted to approve both of them. One policy addressed an up-

dated method of handling travel expense reimbursement, and the other clarified when public bidding must be conducted.

Numerous policies had a first reading to update special education policies. Superintendent Marv Ott said that they include changes in terminology and definitions, and also define the eligible ages of services as pre-K to age 21. There was no discussion of the policies and they will return for a second reading and vote next month.

The second grade team of teachers spoke during audience time to thank the board for

having four sections of second grade this year. They also presented a report detailing how reading skills have been improved by having a fourth section of first grade for two years, and now for second grade. They said the smaller class size allows them to differentiate the curriculum across ability levels, spend more one-on-one time with each student and fosters a better sense of community within the classroom. They asked the board to consider keeping the fourth section in coming years.

BHS first semester Honor Roll

The following students were named to the Banks High School academic Honor Roll for the 2007-2008 1st semester. Grade Point Averages (GPA) are on a scale of 1-4, with 4 equaling a perfect score (4.0 GPA indicated with an asterisk).

Seniors – Michelle Boyk*, Evan Chalupsky*, Anna Clink, Ashlee Falkner*, Ammaron Gibson, Ryan Hayden, Josh Heath, Ramona Heitmann, Rene Johnson, Austin Kennedy, Christy Lazott, Janna Lee, Bradley Markham, Anthony Martin*, Madison Miller, Ashley Narum, Jennifer Neely*, Chase Nielson, James O'Neil, Cymry Reardon, Jordan Sandwisch, Adam Sladden, Rachel Slaughter*, Heather Sullivan-Lanphier, Jordan Tijerina, Sarah Warkentin*.

Juniors – Lexi Albert, Whitney Blok, Dustin Bone, Amy Browning*, Katherine Burgess*, Stephanie Case, Janel Coussens, Emily Duyck, Sam Edison*, Gus Evers, Madison Farley, Alyssa Halls, Jesse Hosynek, Cameron Hovda*, Brittany Jones, Amanda King*, Sean Klopfenstein, Trevor Lundsten, Johanna Lyda, Jeffrey Manivanh, Jacob Matthews, Katrina Mettee*, Thomas Moore*, Rebecca Narum, Janine Neely, Kipp Nielson, Caitlin Oakes, Erin O'Mahony*, Ben Prince, Jared Rue*, Kodi Sandstrom*, Cody Shulund, Matt Stone, Kelsey Taylor, Jasmine Teters, Peter Vergotis, Kendra Willis.

Sophomores – Jared Acosta*, Erika Atkinson*, Stephen Clink, Matt Cutone, Kim Duyck,

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