Banks School Board approves language for $25.5 million bond

At their July 28 meeting, the Banks School Board of Directors voted to authorize the ballot title and explanatory statement of a ballot measure in the November election for a bond not to exceed $25.5 million. The board had previously decided this issue, but the language of the bond had not been agreed on. The district can now file the measure and get a measure number.

Construction Consultant Rick Rainone spoke to the board about how to proceed. He said that there were a few things that would need to be done before November if the district wants to start construction next summer, in the event that the bond passes. The cost of these items would be just less than $50,000. Rainone said that starting the wetlands survey and selecting an architect were the two most urgent things.

Preliminary wetland studies have been completed, but a more extensive one must be completed before construction can begin. Rainone said that he had seen wetland studies take over 14 months to be completed in other districts. He also said that hiring an architect would allow the district to get a master plan for the district which will be necessary for all future planning. It is possible that the district could even have some schematic design before the election.

Starting construction next year, Rainone explained, would save the district both time and money and would get students and teachers in new buildings sooner. He stressed that these were things that the district would have to do in any case, thus it was a responsible expenditure of money. Starting these items would not lock the district into any specific timing of construction, but would make a 2009 start date possible.

The board directed Rainone to proceed with the wetland study and to bring an RFP for an architect to the next board meeting in September.

The board also held its annual election of the board chair and vice chair. Duane Lundsten will remain as chairman for another year and Will Moore was elected to the vice chair position.

During a work session preceding the meeting, Superintendent Marv Ott reported that the school district has reached an agreement to purchase land adjacent to the post office. The deal will be completed in January and plans will be made to use the property next summer to help alleviate traffic flow issues.

The board also voted to appoint K & L Preston, Gates & Ellis LLP as District Bond Counsel and heard a first reading of several policy updates.

The consent agenda included the following personnel changes:

Resignations:

- Michael Weaver, high school math teacher
- Elaine Fox, student services director
- Becky Cottam, elementary school library

Hiring:

- Thao Newman, 181 day maintenance contract
- Anthony Cicorcia, junior high social studies teacher
- Bridget O'Leary, title I Reading teacher
- Jerimy Kelley, high school language arts teacher
- Jo Schilling, elementary kindergarten teacher
- Krisit Schutt, secondary special education instructional assistant
- Bobbie Woodruff, secondary special education instructional assistant
- Wendy Holland, elementary special education instructional assistant
- Shei Rue, secondary special education instructional assistant
- Trish Birr, elementary instructional assistant.

Farmers Market now every Mon.

The Banks Farmers Market has been expanded and will now be held every Monday evening in August, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Log Cabin Park (also called Neighborhood Park) on Main St.