

Banks School Board will not pursue bond measure in May election

Though the business meeting of the Banks school board February 9 was quite short, the board has been working hard throughout the last month, with two special meetings held. January 26 the board accepted a proposal from DLR Group to develop a comprehensive site plan. At a special meeting on February 5, the board decided not to pursue [a repeat] bond measure in May.

Last month, the board continued their extensive evaluation of the failure of the construction bond in November. They revisited the work of the Facilities Planning Committee which strongly recommended that the amount of the bond (\$25.5 million) stay intact. Since November, board members have been talking to voters, reviewing reports and listening to management and financial consultants.

Chairman Duane Lundsten, along with Angi Duyck, Doug Nordholm and Will Moore, spent the evening January 26 with Rick Rainone, Cornerstone Management Group, Scott Rose, DLR Group (district architect), Superintendent Marv Ott, and Business Manager Simon Levear defining what

should be included in a comprehensive site plan. The board approved a proposal by DLR Group that will show specific improvements in every building and illustrate improved traffic management. The design will also include an outline of the movement of students and staff during construction. \$7200 will be used from the Buxton fund to pay DLR Group.

Interspersed throughout the January 26 meeting was discussion about community communications and the impact of hiring a communications specialist. The board discussed the importance of addressing community concerns and how to create the opportunity for public input.

The board met again February 5. After a brief discussion of the necessity of reducing expenditures during the current school year, they decided not to pursue a bond in May. The administration will be trying to find ways to save money, while at the same time developing a budget for next school year.

It was fortunate that the board had already spent considerable time in meetings because the board was forced to spend

A work session scheduled for February 9 was canceled. The board, instead, used the time in an executive session.

After telling the board that everything was fine in the district's audited financial statements, the auditor explained that changes in accounting standards apply to the current audit. Among the changes is that the auditor must detail any "significant deficit in internal control", which applied to the Banks audit because the business manager has control over all aspects of financial transactions for the district, both approving and writing checks. The district can choose to retain the present system, or change the methodology.

Jenny Compton told the board that she has about \$32,500 available for construction of a new equipment shed. The softball association received a \$7500 insurance settlement, but most of the money is the result of fund raising efforts by the association over the last ten years. Compton also said that she has received a pledge for at least \$5000 worth of labor. The building is expected to cost from \$28,000 to \$30,000. The board directed

Compton to ensure that the building is included in the site plan being developed by DLR Group. The concrete block building will be about 12 x 30 feet, with two handicapped accessible restrooms at one end. When completed, the building will become district property.

- In other business the board:
- Heard that the district has received an AA- rating from Standard and Poores,
 - Approved the Budget Cal-

endar with the committee meeting May 14 and possibly May 28. The public hearing on the 2009-2010 budget will be held during the June 8 board meeting.

- Announced that the board will meet twice a month. Next board meeting is scheduled for March 9. Executive session begins at 5:30, work session at 6:15 and the business meeting will follow at 7:00 pm.

Banks FD Breakfast on March 1

The Banks Volunteer Firefighters' Annual Breakfast will be held March 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Banks High School cafeteria, 450 S. Main St., Banks. This is a fundraiser for Banks Fire District No.13.

Tickets for the breakfast are

\$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children (ages 1-12), \$5.00 for seniors (62+), and \$25.00 per family (up to six people). This year's menu includes pancakes or biscuits and gravy, sausage or ham, eggs, fruit, coffee, milk and/or juice.

Fine Arts Festival tonight at 5:30

A Fine Arts Festival, presented by Banks Junior and Senior High School classes, will be held tonight from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gallery in the District Board Room, with perform-

ances in the High School cafeteria.

There will be pottery demos, music performances, films and more.

Library may be down February 24

The Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) library catalog and patron accounts will be temporarily unavailable beginning the evening of Monday, February 23. Full service is expected to resume by the afternoon of

Tuesday, February 24. The interruption in service will allow WCCLS to upgrade the Cooperative Library Services integrated library catalog system.

During the interruption, the public will not be able to use

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