

Banks School Board hears complaints regarding Girls Basketball

The March 30 work session of the Banks school board, had everyone trooping up and down the stairs to accommodate a large group of past and present girls basketball players and their parents. Prior to eliciting audience comments board chairman Duanne Lundsten told the audience that while the board was very interested in their comments, they would not be making any decision at that meeting. Don Lyda, acting as spokesman, summarized the group's complaints about coach Bradley Dunn-meier.

Lyda told the board that [Dunn-meier] "was not a varsity coach". According to Lyda, senior girls quit the varsity team after being told that they would not be allowed to play at games. Several other parents and girls confirmed this statement. Losing these girls resulted in a varsity team composed primarily of freshman, and a losing season. Many comments were made by players and parents about remarks made to junior and senior girls that decreased, rather than increased, their self-confidence. Several references were made to a general lack of professionalism on the part of Dunn-meier.

Early in the discussion, Lundsten asked Lyda if he was

BCUMC sets Sr. Lunch May date

The United Methodist Women will host the May Senior Lunch on Wednesday, May 6, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Banks Community United Methodist Church (BCUMC), 151 Depot St., Banks.

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suggesting that the board develop a policy that junior and seniors play at the varsity level; there was not a clear response. Apparently, no one knew why Dunn-meier was not at the meeting. Lundsten confirmed that there was a parent meeting at the beginning of the season. According to several parents, Dunn-meier made clear that he would not have discussions with parents at practices or games. Lyda said that he had attempted to question Dunn-meier through email, more than once, but had not received a response.

Jim Foster, high school principal, told the board that he believed it was not Dunn-meier's intention at the beginning of the season to play a predominately freshman varsity team, but after several seniors left, he moved more freshmen to the varsity level than he had intended. Neither Jim Smith (vice principal) or Wyman Smith (athletic director) gave any comment.

In response to a question from Lyda, Lundsten said that they (Lyda and the dissident group) had followed the correct procedure by first attempting to discuss the problem with the coach, then the athletic director and principal, and finally bringing their concerns to the board. He assured the group that their concerns would be taken seriously, but cautioned them that they may not see any visible results of their actions because the board is required to main-

tain employee confidentiality. Lundsten also explained that the board's responsibility is to set policy and give direction to the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for the administrative team (principals, financial manager and special service director), who are in turn responsible for their employees, including the athletic director and coaches.

After thanking students and parents for taking the time to express their concerns, Lundsten recessed the meeting. The board then moved back upstairs to the conference room for the remainder of the work session.

Elementary school principal Bob Huston presented a plan for a full-day supplemental kindergarten program for one of three kindergarten sections, beginning next school year. Oregon law allows districts to charge tuition for supplemental kindergarten programs under certain regulations. Students receiving free or reduced lunch, or other verified financial hardship, will not be charged tuition. However, tuition is set higher than regular per student cost because those who are able to pay will be subsidizing those who cannot pay. Students will be selected for the program by lottery with the percentage of tuition waivers matching the percentage of free and reduced lunch in the general student population, or about 15%. Tuition will be \$260 per month per student.

Parents will be required to return signed contracts by May 11, along with a non-refundable deposit of the first and last month's tuition. They must also agree to have the remaining tuition automatically paid to the district for the remaining ten months of the year (June through March 2010).

In other business, the board agreed to:

- Contract with C&M Communications for focus group studies regarding facilities improvements;

- use a minimal process to select a new interim superintendent. Kathy Edison and William Morris agreed to represent the board in the search process;

- accept public input concerning the qualities and qualifications for a superintendent at a work session preceding the April 13 board meeting;

- accept input from the administrative team about superintendent qualities and qualifications.



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