

Banks school board reaches consensus on district's course

With four consensus agreements, Banks school board set a course to guide the district for the next two years. Concluding their five-month project to review, simplify and compress the district's goals, the board also agreed to: A district vision statement; that it would not conduct a formal superintendent search this year and would extend the position of interim superintendent for a second school year. Animated discussion among the five board members (Will Moore, Kathy Edison, Richard Bowden, Norie

Dimeo-Ediger and Laurie Schlegel) occurred throughout the hour-and-a-half workshop November 9.

At the end of the workshop, Moore asked for and obtained unanimous agreement of the board not to conduct a superintendent search outside of the district. The board also agreed by consensus to offer Foster a one-year extension as interim superintendent.

The approval of a guiding vision, setting district goals and finalizing the interim superintendent position will affect dis-

trict decisions through June of 2011. These decisions, like many others made in workshops, are not generally carried forward to any business meeting. Board discussion at the workshop is entered into the official record when the minutes of previous meetings are approved as part of the consent agenda. The district website says: "Public Participation Is Encouraged. Regular School Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the District Board Room."

The website continues by setting out guidelines for participation. No mention is made of the workshops, which normally precede the business meetings.

In contrast to the substantive decisions made during the workshop, the business meet-

ing November 9 included the following:

Recognition and presentation of a plaque to Sue Farley for her many years of service to the district as a community member and business owner.

The annual presentation by the Northwest Regional ESD.

The consent agenda, including the fiscal report.

Adoption of five policies and/or administrative rules.

Endorsement of Oregon School Board Association Resolutions and the 2010 slate of officers.

Brief comments by administrators, such as a reference to "more reasonable expectations" adopted by the state that allow a student to meet expectations for purposes of the state report card.

Comments by each board member thanking staff for their efforts, concluded with Moore's statement that "attitudes are great, with Jim Foster at the helm, the year is off to a great start."

The public is left to discover among other tidbits [that should be available on the website] outside of the business meeting:

- Levear's perceptive analysis of the current and future funding situation included in the financial report

- Graduation requirements that affect the class of 2012

- That the Special Education manual, which defines district practices according to state and federal law, has been completed and is available on the website.

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