

Banks School Board hears latest from Facilities Planning group

During the workshop prior to the January 11 board meeting, Banks School Board member Richard Bowden updated the board on the work of the district Facilities Planning Committee (FPC3), noting that once it was clear that the district office building could be partially demolished the project became much easier. "Easy is cheap" in construction, according to Bowden.

Dividing the project into a first phase at the junior high, and a second phase at the high school would allow construction to be completed within a single school year, he explained. Unlike the previous design, which required extensive use of portable classrooms, a phased design would mean having "a few kids in a few portables to complete the junior high", board member Kathy Edison noted.

Bowden, who, with Will Moore, serves as board liaison to FPC3, shared details of the committee's visits to two new schools. Bowden was impressed by the many uses of technology in modern classrooms, including wireless systems for sound and computers in most classrooms. Wide hallways, flexibility, appropriately

sized classrooms and the use of common areas also impressed Bowden. Superintendent Jim Foster cautioned the board not to get too excited, because both of the schools visited had more funding available than what the board is considering in Banks.

District business manager Simon Levear gave a brief presentation at the workshop about the Qualifying School Construction Bond (QSCD) program. Using the tax exemptions provided could save the district \$12,000 in interest payments on repayment of a bond. These long-term savings allow the district to build capacity in the levy rate. When the elementary school bond expires in a few years, the levy amount could drop or the district could choose to accept another round of bonding debt without "raising the rate". However, the program expires this year making "the most important thing about a bond in November is that we pass it" according to Levear.

The Board meeting began in the absence of chairman Will Moore, who was not able to attend either the December or January board meetings. Vice chair Kathy Edison presided

over the business meeting with board members Bowden, Laurie Schlegel, and Norie Dimeo-Ediger.

Presentations to the board by students are always the highlight of school board meetings and the January 11 meeting was no exception. Four Banks elementary students – Cole Smith, Zach Streblov, Payton Kimmel and Rebecca Chandler – read the results of their efforts to write a Presidential acceptance speech, an assignment given by fourth grade teachers Cami Henderson and Doreen Ring. Not surprisingly, banning homework was a common theme. The students were introduced by their principal, Bob Huston.

Amy Waltz Hanson, WSC Insurance, told the board that increasing property values offset decreasing rates, leaving the district with essentially the same premium as last year. Rates are expected to remain flat through July 2010. District property liability is structured with a "\$3.7 million master blanket limit" and, Hanson explained, the entire amount can be applied to a single building, if necessary. Bowden questioned the insurance valuation

of buildings in light of construction costs of \$250 per square foot quoted to the board for new construction. Hanson explained that the insurance valuation is based on loss experience, not construction industry standards.

Pauly, Rogers and Company (district auditors) reported that they were able to issue "an unqualified, clean and clear" opinion

on district financial statements. All funds were found to be compliant with state and federal auditing standards and no major problems or exceptions were noted.

High school principal Jim Smith told the board that students are very focused as they head into the end of the semester. Sophomores will begin state assessments this month.

National Honors students named

Banks High School has announced the following students are National Honor Society 2009-2010 Inductees: Colby Seyferth, Evan Reisinger, Ali Philippi, Megan Nielson, Kiciah Gibson, Joe Schorn, Megan

Chalupsky, Chelsea Matthews, Marcus Malouf, Hank Meeuwesen, Kaitlin Sommerfield, Arely Sanchez, Conner Reynolds, Sam Elwood, Deven Murray, Melissa Metee, Jessica Markham and Max Edison.

New daily bus service in Banks

Getting to and from Portland got a whole lot easier last September for residents of Banks and North Plains, in Washington County, when Tillamook County Transportation District (TCTD) WAVE buses began stopping in Banks and North Plains four times per day, Monday through Saturday, and twice on Sundays.

This expanded service is a result of coordination between Ride Connection, TCTD, and representatives from the two cities. In particular, Ride Connection Service Specialist Terry Watson, and TCTD General Manager Matt Mumford, worked tirelessly for the past

year to bring inter-city service to the cities.

"Terry has done an amazing job to connect all the dots in order to make this happen. Thanks also go out to Matt Mumford and to Banks City Manager Jim Hough, North Plains Mayor David Hatcher and North Plains City Manager Don Otterman, for their perseverance," said Julie Wilcke, Ride Connection's Chief Operating Officer.

There is no fare, as Ride Connection pays TCTD for all rides between Banks and North Plains plus connections to/from TriMet in Washington and Mult-

See Bus on page 14

Are you ready for a **STIHL**®?

MS170 Chain Saw

Starting at \$179.⁹⁵

Includes many of the same excellent design features as our professional models, including STIHL Quickstop® inertia chain brake, Master Control Lever™, anti-vibration system, easy-off filter cover, and view-through oil and gas tanks.



MS 310 Chain Saw

All the features but with more power than the STIHL Farm Boss®. Includes an adjustable automatic oiler, Ematic™ guide bar and OILOMATIC® saw chain. Other features include IntelliCarb™ compensating carburetor and toolless fuel and oil caps.



Available with 24" Bar

**PRECISION OUTDOOR
POWER EQUIPMENT**

Banks Hardware

503-324-5221 • 150 N. Main Street, Banks

- Mon - Fri 8am to 6pm
- Saturday 8am to 5pm
- Sunday 10am to 4pm

STIHL®

**Just the finest in
collision repair**



No Custom Work

**CHERRY
PRODUCTS**
Auto Body & Paint
1875 E. Baseline
Cornelius
503-359-5993

**Ye Olde
Dingheiser
Pub & Restaurant**

VISA - MC - ATM Access

KARAOKE
FRIDAY 9 PM - 12 PM

**SUPER BOWL
& PLAY OFFS
ON HI-DEF TV
WITH FREE
MUNCHIES!!**

11:00 am to closing
Closed Mondays
47100 NW Sunset Hwy.
Manning • 324-4848