

Banks School Board hears update from Facilities Planning group

The presentation of the work accomplished to-date by the Facilities Planning Committee 3 (FPC3) was the principal business of the Banks School board at their February 8 meeting. Pete Edison, chairman of FPC3, said that the district is being well served by the dedicated and diverse group of volunteers and professionals who have been working to develop a realistic facilities improve-

ment plan for the district.

Edison told the board that the committee reviewed all of the existing research to identify facilities that needed updating, improving, or planning for maintenance or expansion. Heaping praise on the committee for their enthusiasm and commitment, Edison said all of the meetings have been well-attended by the nine committee members, their alternates, and

members of the administrative team. The district's bond consultants are "fully committed", and attend every meeting, where they provide invaluable input and guidance. Scott Rose (DLR Architects) brings a conceptual drawing which the committee discusses, then Rose transforms each conceptual drawing into another, more comprehensive design for each meeting, while Rick Rainone continues to keep construction costs within the projected budget and Marsha Latta (C&M Communications) collects items to test in public opinion and helps develop a positive conceptual base for the plan.

FPC3 has also done "a considerable amount of work" on traffic according to Edison. Banks City Manager Jim Hough attended a meeting with Kirsten Pennington (CH2MHill) who is completing the city's transportation system plan. The school property, located on state highway 47, is classified as a special transportation area by the Oregon Department of Transportation according to Pennington. ODOT will eventually have to approve a traffic flow design that tries to better meet the needs of pedestrians,

bikes, cars and trucks in the future.

Edison is determined to have FPC3 create a master site plan, or map, showing the physical location and dimensions of facilities with as much detail as possible. The purpose of the plan is to create a framework for future development and utilization of all district property. Edison concluded by telling the board that FPC3 will present three options for board consideration in March.

In an additional attempt to secure support for facilities improvement, the board decided to invite a select group of influential community members to a special meeting with FPC3 on March 10. Following the presentation of options by FPC3 to the board on March 8, the board considers input from this group to be critical to the eventual success of a bond measure. A second meeting of the group will be held March 17 to collect the group's comments.

This month's consent agenda included approval of the budget calendar, minutes of previous meetings and the fiscal report, approval of contract extensions or continuation of probationary contracts for teachers and Special Services Director Shelly Mitchell. Additional items included three-year contracts for high school Principal Jim Smith and junior high Principal Mark Everett; renewal of contracts for Maintenance Supervisor Skip Smetana and Business Manager Simon Lev-

ear; and the approval of Jim Foster as interim superintendent for another year. Items included on the consent agenda, which is used to streamline meetings, cannot be discussed unless specifically removed from the consent agenda before the meeting agenda is approved.

Timelines become increasingly important as the budget season approaches. Concurrent with a public opinion survey in April, the board will be appointing two new members to the budget committee. In an effort to make the budget process more understandable, a preliminary informational meeting with the budget committee is scheduled as part of the April 12 board workshop. The first meeting of the budget committee will be April 29.

At the workshop prior to the business meeting, Foster distributed the Oregon School Board Association "Frequently Asked Questions" about ethics law, along with Levear's response to financial statement findings by the auditor. Three minor findings will be controlled by increased documentation, according to Levear. The auditor also suggested that the board investigate the Local Government Investment Pool which would provide professional management of district investments.

Board chairman Will Moore opened discussion at the workshop by explaining that the

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