

Banks school board discusses career-related student testing

by Dalan Lee

Banks School District board of directors, at their October 11 meeting, approved revisions to Policy and Administrative Regulations, and overnight travel events for students in sports and activities.

On a motion from board

member Will Moore, district policy on the sexual conduct complaint form was moved from a discussion item to an action item. Moore then moved to adopt the policy as outlined, and it was also approved.

Administrators' reports started with Sena Wilmoth, who updated the board on the Title 1 class that is designed to supplement reading education to elementary students deemed to be at-risk of not reaching academic standards. Wilmoth also told the board that great progress is being made in the schools' T.A.G. (Talented And Gifted) program, which provides curriculum designed for top-percentile learners.

Junior high principal Mark Everett reported an energetic and successful spirit week. Asked how sports programs have been managing in this second year of complete

parental control, Everett said he is hoping for overall organization among Junior High sports and is open to help in improving communications between parents, coaches and school. Despite that, he added, sports programs have been operating fine on their own.

High school principal Jim Smith reported smooth sailing through last week's Homecoming Week, and said that parent conferences will be held soon. He also reported that the school's evaluation on recently issued "state report cards" were good, and he is proud of staff and students for their continued hard work and perseverance to make these yearly improvements possible.

Moore asked Smith about certain career-oriented aptitude testing offered at the High School, saying that such career-related tests like the

ASVAB and a particular online typology test are "some of the best predictors of aptitude that exist, period," and he would like to see further use of them, as well as conveying the importance and understanding of these tests to parents and students. "In my observation," Moore said, "it was a huge missed opportunity."

Discussion ensued, including information that the junior high is implementing similar testing, and that both the junior high and high school will work to provide student aptitude information to parents. Administrators also provided information on other areas, including informative Special Education staff development sessions, and technology preparation for upcoming state testing.

In other business, the board:

- Approved an extra duty contract for Jerimy Kelly as high school asst. wrestling coach;
- approved a student expulsion.

Before adjourning, the Board thanked the people and organi-

zations involved with the bond measure, and reminded supporters that it's never too late to promote the bond.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. To be informed personally, attend the next regular meeting scheduled for November 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the district's board room.

— CORRECTION —

An article in the Oct. 7 issue incorrectly stated that the Banks Junior High building was closed to students.

Also, under projects slated for use of bond funding, the following items are NOT included in the current bond projects; new artificial turf for Kelly field, a repaired elementary field, Junior Varsity baseball field, and storage sheds. The items that are included in the Summary of Bond Scope are classroom or school facilities. The only athletic items included are the expansion or renovation of existing gymnasiums, locker rooms, a weight room, and a wrestling room. For a full list of items included in the bond please see <http://www.banksbond.com/>.

The Independent regrets any confusion our error may have caused.

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