

Banks School District
Budget Committee Meeting
April 28, 2011

7:00 PM
District Board Room

Budget Committee Members present: Kathy Edison, Richard Bowden, Ron Frame, Nori Dimeo-Ediger, Laurie Schlegel, Tom Duyck and Pete Edison
Absent: Will Moore

Administrators present: Jim Foster, Superintendent; Jim Smith, BHS Principal; Mark Everett, BJHS Principal; Bob Huston, BES Principal; Shelley Mitchell, Director of Student Services; Simon Levear, Business Manager

Community Members present: Gayleen Bowden, Ryan and Heidi Janeway

Banks School District Board Chair Kathy Edison called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mrs. Edison led the Pledge of Allegiance then asked for nominations for Budget Committee Chairperson. Pete Edison was nominated and voted in unanimously. Ron Frame was nominated for Vice-Chair and voted in unanimously.

Banks School District Budget Committee Chairman Pete Edison stated the agenda should stand as published. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Jim Foster presented a slide show with graphs depicting the changes in funding to schools and what the predictions are for future funding. He talked about the impact of state funding from the general fund, lottery revenue, the drop in student enrollment and what cuts need to be made while maintaining the programs that students need to meet state graduation requirements.

Simon Levear distributed a blue sheet with the "long list of bad items". He explained what steps were taken to compile the list of cuts and stated that the list is **not** in order of priority. He then stated that they are the changes in the proposed budget document and rather than going through page by page, he felt it was easier to have the list. Simon explained each item on the blue sheet with the dollar amounts that need to be cut.

Mr. Foster followed up Simon with the actual number of staff cuts, how the retirements and lay-offs figure in, as well as what will happen to class sizes at the schools.

The committee raised questions of cuts at the administration level. The response was that those cuts were done in previous years. The HS lost the assistant principal and the technology department was cut in half. There are not anymore part-time administrators left. Clarification was made as to the loss of the Athletic Director, cuts in counseling at the elementary, reducing the music program, and if further cuts would have to be made in the future. Mr. Levear stated that he hopes to hold the cuts at the same level and not have to add more in the future.

Jim Smith answered the committee's questions on the class sizes at the high school. He explained how the limited sections of classes will tighten the options for students but that forecasting will help determine the best options for scheduling. Mr. Smith stated that with all programs being retained, students will be able to meet graduation requirements.

Mr. Foster answered questions on the projection of future student enrollment and current number of pre-school age children in the district. Mr. Foster let the committee know that there is no way to predict what families will stay or move away, and that the district is not given any of the data from the U.S. census.

Pete Edison asked for public input. Mr. Ryan Janeway introduced himself and asked about the bond measure and if any of that money could be applied to staffing the schools. He also asked what he could do to help the schools receive the funding that they need. Mr. Foster explained about the bond funds and suggested he contact his state legislators.

Mr. Edison opened the Committee Discussion and Simon answered questions regarding job openings posted for Title 1 and how RIFed staff is recalled. He also answered questions about what would be added back if additional funding became available, if the budget factored in the timber industry figures, and if the numbers in the budget are estimates or actual dollars. Simon also answered questions about property taxes owed on foreclosed homes and when the district receives that money and the impact of the PERS increase. Mr. Levear then explained to the committee the process of approving the budget and gave the committee their options.

Pete Edison called for a motion. The motion was made to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and the budget was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Edison thanked everyone for their hard work and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.