



Banks School District long range facility planning

In the Spring of 2006 in response to increasing class sizes in the elementary school, increasing shortage of class room space in the high school, and continuing deterioration of the older facilities in the district, the Banks school board asked the superintendent to form a volunteer, long range facility assessment and planning committee. After public solicitation, a committee of eight members of the community was formed for this purpose.

This committee was charged with assessing the current conditions and operating status of all district facilities, determining the needs of the district now and into the future and identifying the options available to the district to address those needs. As requested by the superintendent, the committee completed their task and presented their findings and recommendations to the superintendent and school board in December of 2006.

This stage of the facility planning process was not intended to be an exhaustive exploration of every detail of facility use, need and solution but rather a general assessment and determination of the status and considerations involved in ensuring Banks school district facilities meet the needs of the community now and in the future. The committee produced a 19 page summary report with over 200 pages of supporting statistics, studies and documentation of their findings as well as conceptual models of some campus facility options. The complete study is available for public review in hard copy through the district office and via the district website: www.banks.k12.or.us

Summary of the committee findings:

- The elementary school is in good condition though at approximately 625 students is currently operating at maximum practical capacity.
- The Junior High School though originally projected to support 330 students is currently operating at maximum practical operating capacity with approximately 195 students due to the rapid deterioration of the older sections of the school and portable classrooms and changes in educational needs and state requirements.
- The High School though supporting approximately 420 students in facilities projected to hold 500 students is also operating at maximum practical operating capacity due to deterioration of older sections of the facility, changing academic needs and new state regulations.
- Changing academic requirements and expectations as well as additional state regulations have increased the amount and type of space and facilities needed by each school to meet their requirements.
- The High School currently does not have the type of facilities needed to support those changing academic requirements.
- Outdated construction methods and deteriorated condition of the older sections of the Junior High and High School has made some space unusable, created difficulties in meeting current standard of school security standards and could has led to potentially hazardous building conditions.



Banks School District Facilities Planning Committee

- The school district, school campus and school activities including sports, are an integral and important part of the Banks community. Because of this, any and all modifications to the school facilities should be done in coordination with the community, and as much as possible, on the existing campus.
- With the exception of a few land purchases recommended by the committee, the current campus has the capacity to support the facility needs of the district for a minimum of 20 years.

Committee recommendations:

- Based on the anticipated costs of remodeling the older sections of the high school, to meet the needs for the next 20 years, construct a new high school at a different location on the campus, remove the existing high school excepting the gymnasium and conversion of that space to other uses.
- Construct a new addition to the Junior High in the location of the current portable classrooms to house sixth grade students moved from the Elementary school.
- Replace the older sections of the Junior High with a new building.
- Establish a “sports complex” on the West side of Main Street, adjacent to Sunset Park and modify existing sports fields for more effective use.
- Acquire some key parcels of land adjacent to the campus to facilitate traffic flow, parking etc.
- Construct facilities on campus to be used in partner with the city for such services as library, senior services, performing arts, health services, police, etc.
- Identify appropriate timing for construction based on refined growth expectations, changing needs and building lifespan and pursue appropriate bonding for those construction needs as soon as possible.

The committee’s report made clear to the school board the need to explore all of the committee’s findings and recommendations in detail, and to define the proper course of action for the district. To this end the board allocated funds for this purpose, again solicited volunteers from the community and appointed 14 members to a “school board” facility committee in May of 2007.

This committee is charged with bringing forward a detailed evaluation of the district facilities and facility needs as well as specific recommendations of actions to be taken. The committee commenced in May of 2007 and meets in public session twice a month. It has established a goal of producing a thorough evaluation and detailed recommendations for the school board by December of 2007 in order to enable the board to make decisions on actions to be taken including any necessary bonding action during the Fall 2008 election cycle. As the committee works through the necessary evaluation process, the following actions have been taken or initiated:

- Solicitation of facility need assessment from each of the three school principals based on several different district growth scenarios.
- Creation of a facility needs matrix based on different district growth scenarios.



Banks School District Facilities Planning Committee

- Discussions with city planner and other city stakeholders regarding long range community planning, needs and interests of the community and the interests of individuals affected by or interested in participating in the ultimate actions of the district.
- Initial consideration of recommended land acquisitions.
- Commissioning of the following professional studies:
 - o Building hazardous material content (Also required by the state)
 - o Comprehensive demographic study of the school district by Portland State University.
 - o Complete building systems evaluation Mechanical, Electrical, Fire, etc.
 - o Complete structural evaluation of the older buildings in the Junior High and High School,
 - o Architectural evaluation and recommendation of options between remodeling existing buildings and constructing new buildings
 - o Determination of remodel and construction costs for the options available for each school.
 - o Conceptualization of various building designs and campus layout configurations.
- Evaluation of all necessary steps to prepare district and community for bonding process.
- Appointment of a communication sub-committee charged with informing the community of the activities, progress and plans of the facility planning committee as well as current events and/or decisions.
- Discussion with public opinion polling contractor to determine process for assessing community sentiment, interests and expectations for school district facilities.

The results of these studies along with the findings of the committee's in depth analysis of all facilities will be assembled by the committee into a complete report of the district facilities condition, status and needs as well as options available and recommendations for addressing and meeting those conditions and needs. This report will be presented to the school board in December of 2007. The recommendations will include steps required to assemble a bond measure for construction funding should the board determine that step is necessary. Once this presentation is complete, the committee will disband or take new direction from the school board. Should the board elect to proceed with actions that require the issue of a bond measure, additional volunteers from the community will be needed for that effort.

Anyone with questions, ideas, or a desire to help or participate in this process is encouraged to attend a facility committee meeting, contact a facility committee member or the school district office at 503-324-8591. Contact information and current committee activities are available at the district website: www.banks.k12.or.us