

School Board Minutes

Banks School District 13

January 26, 2009

Minutes are official after Board approval

Board Members Present:

Duane Lundsten, Chairman
Angi Duyck
Doug Nordholm
Will Moore

Others Present:

Scott Rose, DLR Group
Rick Rainone, Cornerstone Management Group,

Absent:

Kathy Edison

Administrators Present

Marv Ott, Superintendent
Simon Levear, Business Manager

7:00 Special Session**CALL TO ORDER-FLAG SALUTE**

Chairman Duane Lundsten called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the flag salute.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Doug Nordholm moved to approve the agenda as presented. Will Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS**Approve funding for DLR Group Site Planning**

Mr. Ott said that last work session board consensus was to ask DLR to develop a total site plan involving all three schools. Mr. Lundsten said that he felt a plan needed to be inclusive for the whole campus. Mr. Moore said the site plan needs to reflect the actual definition of what the bond would produce. He said the plan proposed by DLR would show what the community would get versus what is current. Mr. Rainone said that the bus and car situation would need to be separated to the extent it made sense – this was not addressed in the drawing. Mr. Rose said that co-mingling of cars and buses could be problem. Mr. Moore explained the current situation, and Mr. Rose said it was not as serious as he originally understood it to be. The board discussed the new property, the access of buses and cars, and the separation of the buses and cars at the elementary in the future plans. Mr. Rainone said the proposed design would explain what the entire district would be getting. Mr. Rainone said the proposed design would clarify what would be expected by building, e.g., how many classrooms the high school would be getting. He said the total site plan would refine what would be expected. Mr. Lundsten said that one thing that had been missing also is the movement of students, and the location of classrooms during the construction process. Mr. Rose said that there will be displacement, and the project would be two or three phases. He said that the entire project is projected to take 15 months – 2 summers and one school year. He said the plan would be to move portables in during spring vacation, certainly by the month of May. The portables would be in use during the 2010-2011 school year and fall 2011 the project would be done. Mr. Moore said his understanding of board consensus is that the bond needs to be for the entire 25.5 million. Mr. Lundsten said he agreed, and the facilities planning committee came back with the same plan after studying what was needed.

The board discussed the need for a communications specialist. Mr. Ott said that Liz Kaufman, Katherine Pieffer and Jeanne Magmer would be good considerations. Mr. Rainone said the next step is to get the cost of a campaign manager, and the need for a professional communications specialist. Mr. Rainone said that the specialist could have the “go, no go” discussion with the board. He said there are challenges and a specialist would be able to address different aspects of an election. Mr. Ott said that both he and Mr. Rainone had repeatedly tried to reach Liz Kaufman and Jeanne Magmer, but had not been able to talk to either of them (both were involved in the recent bonds and ballots workshop). Mr. Rainone said that the need for a communications specialist is vital, and the board could have a special meeting to talk to the specialist, and make a decision on their hiring.

Mr. Nordholm discussed that some influential members of the community felt they received information concerning the bond second hand. He said there were serious comments made by people using words like “deceit” and “not enough information”. He said he would like to see the board have people come and give these people a chance to voice questions and concerns. He said he would not ask the board to answer or address the questions –he did not want this to be an arena for battle. It would be a meeting for the board to listen. He said he would like to see the board personally invite some of these community members. Mr. Lundsten said that for the board to make decisions without giving this group an opportunity to be heard would

be a bad mistake. He said he wanted the board to be able to say they considered everyone's concerns. Mr. Moore expressed concern about the timing – he did not want to delay the bond process. Mr. Nordholm expressed concern about rushing trying to get the bond measure out – he said that he felt the board rushed in November, and he said the rushing obviously did not pay off. Mr. Lundsten said he would like to see a meeting pulled together next week. Mr. Lundsten said he would like to get the issues of the group, and respond later. He said that with “no” voters there is always a credibility issue. Mr. Ott asked if sending a general invitation would be as effective as having board members call the people and asking them to attend. Mr. Moore said that phone calls were the key to get these people to come to the meeting. Mr. Rainone said that specific people should be contacted and invited to the meeting.

The board returned to the discussion on the approval of the DLR Group additional site plan design services. Mr. Nordholm asked for clarification on the 2nd paragraph and if it was specific to traffic patterns. Mr. Rose said that it was. Mr. Rose said that the site plan could be done by the end of next week, Feb. 5, and could be presented at the February board meeting. Mr. Leaver said the money for this additional work would have to come from the Buxton money. Mr. Ott said that Mr. Rainone should continue on for the bond campaign. The board discussed the stimulus package for states. Mr. Ott said that Oregon has no database on school facilities and level of need. Mr. Nordholm discussed the proposed site plan, and commented that the new sketches would incorporate the new property, and the board could say that the new sketches include the elementary traffic flow proposal and show the benefit to the elementary parents. Mr. Rainone commented that the new site plan could be used to discuss phasing and to look at the entire process. Mr. Nordholm said that he was concerned about the urgency and pressure to proceed with the bond election in May versus November. Mr. Rainone said that a communications specialist can compare the budget advantage on a “go, no go”, they would be paid to write the ballot and the campaign costs would shift to the Political Action Committee. Mr. Rainone said he did not think the cost for a communication specialist would be big numbers. Doug Nordholm made the following motion: "Be it resolved, the Banks School District Board of Directors approves the expenditure of \$7200 for the scope of work in the January 26, 2009 letter of understanding between Banks School District and DLR Group as presented." Will Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Moore stressed the importance of continuing with the meeting with the community prior to the board Meeting February 9. The board directed Mr. Ott and Mr. Rainone to contact Jeanne Magmer, as quickly as possible, and to set up a work session/board meeting to discuss options. Mr. Rainone advised the board not to wait to have the proposed community meeting. Mr. Moore said that phone calls were a good idea, and the letters were a good plan also. Mr. Moore said that it was a good idea to listen, value the input, and make people feel they are part of the process. Mr. Ott said he felt it was important to involve the community key communicators. Mr. Levear asked if people were personally invited if there could be a problem. Angi Duyck asked if the board would be selective about whom to send the invitations to. Mr. Lundsten said the board needed more information. Mr. Nordholm said that he thought the board should do individual, personal letters. He said it was important to communicate to these key community communicators the right information. Mr. Nordholm said that he had a list of 50 people, and the list was growing. Mr. Lundsten said that the board should get the list to the board secretary, and the letter would be sent as a personal invitation to attend a meeting to express their opinion. The board consensus was to hold the meeting next Thursday night, and for the superintendent to arrange for Jeanne Magmer to attend a work session prior to the board meeting. Mr. Lundsten said he would try to get the proposed letter to the board as quickly as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled as follows:

February 5, 2009

Special Board Meeting

7:00 PM

District Board Room

Duane Lundsten, Chairman

Marlo Mosser, Secretary

Date approved by Board