

School Board Minutes

Banks School District 13

February 5, 2009

Minutes are official after Board approval

Board Members Present:

Duane Lundsten, Chairman
Angi Duyck
Doug Nordholm
Will Moore
Kathy Edison

Others Present:

Rick Rainone, Cornerstone Management Group
David Duyck
Dan Spiering

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 add an emergency executive session at the end of the scheduled meeting and approve the agenda as amended. Will Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community communications

Mr. Ott said that he had contacted Jeanne Magmer concerning the proposed meeting with the community on input ideas concerning the bond measure. He said that Ms. Magmer was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but she did send a recommendation to the board concerning a May versus November bond election. She also provided timelines for both May and November. Mr. Ott said that Ms. Magmer also made recommendations concerning a community forum. He said that her assistant, Marsha Latta, was available by phone during the board meeting if the board so chose to call her.

Mr. Lundsten said that the board needed to decide to tentatively move forward with the process the board thought would work for the district, or to consider allowing Jeanne Magmer to do focused group input. He said that he thought similar questions and answers would be provided to the community under both options, and that he felt the community meetings need to happen. He said it is important to seek information for opposition voters and understand their concerns more fully. He said that there would not be much time to do this with a May bond, and there would be more time with an November bond election. Mr. Rainone was asked his opinion on May versus November. Mr. Rainone said the momentum from the November election would be difficult to maintain until next November, but the decision was ultimately the Board's. He said the problems such as in the Jr. High walls would not go away; however, the economy has changed much since last November. Mr. Moore said that he felt the economy has taken the wind out of the momentum. Mr. Ott said that the district could be prepared to use the proposed stimulus package for work on the jr. high building. Mr. Rainone said that seismic upgrades at the jr. high could be done invisibly, which would be more expensive, or visibly, which would be less expensive, but visual. Mr. Nordholm said that he felt there were too many things to do, too many people to hear from and questions to answer if the board tried for a May election. Board consensus was to not go out for a May bond election, but to work toward a November 09 election. Mr. Lundsten said that the board owed an apology to the 2 gentlemen present at the board meeting, and he wanted to assure them the board has the desire to listen to their questions, and to get answers. Mr. Spiering said that he was there to find out the pros and cons concerning the bond election. He said we're in hard times, but if there is something structurally that needs to be fixed, then that needs to happen. Mr. Lundsten said that everyone is always welcome at board meetings. Mr. Moore asked if Mr. Spiering or Mr. Duyck had attended the public forums, or had heard about them. Mr. Duyck said that summertime is a very busy time. Mr. Moore said that the board needed to determine a way to communicate things so people are aware. He said that when things are running smooth, and there are no problem issues, no one attends meetings, it takes a major emotional issue for people sometimes to find a reason to attend. Mr. Lundsten said the board wants to get the facts out. Mr. Rainone said that when the Board decides to go forward with the bond election Jeanne Magmer would be a good campaign manager/communications specialist. Mr. Moore said that Kelly at Moore Information Services felt good about working with Jeanne Magmer. The board discussed the stimulus package and the shovel ready in 90 days projects – Mr. Ott said that the junior high was a real possibility. Kathy Edison said the repair work is necessary, but the need is also for more classrooms at the secondary

level. Mr. Rainone was asked to keep trying to get hold of Liz Kaufman, and board consensus was not to hire a communications specialist at this time.

Board consensus was to hold special work sessions/board meetings the 4th Monday of the month until further notice. The next special meeting of the board will be February 23.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Ott reported that the December forecast for revenue was less than what the budget was originally built on. He said that the numbers are changing almost daily. Currently he said the numbers look like a possible \$800,000 revenue decrease to the district. Mr. Ott said that he has met with the union representatives and the administrative team to look at possible scenarios to cut costs. He said that the spring estimates are due February 20, and any cost savings measure would need to be in effect starting in March. Mr. Ott said some discussion was held on making spring sports only conference activities; cutting field trips, and combining some special education instructional assistants. He said that the discussion has included cutting days, programs and people, spreading the cuts across the board. He said that Mr. Levear would discuss this with the board on February 23. Mr. Ott said that exact numbers of the stimulus package are not known; the governor has said he will not approve of spending out of the rainy day fund this year. Mr. Ott said that the projections are getting worse, and next year's budget could look at a 15% decrease, which would result in the decrease of personnel. Mr. Ott said that the administrative team has discussed taking every Friday off starting in April. Mr. Lundsten asked about other districts, and the fact that some districts are moving to 4-day workweeks. Mr. Ott said that this could make sense; right now everyone is waiting on the forecasts due February 20.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Hiring Of Communication Specialist

The item was tabled until a further meeting.

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE SESSION

The emergency executive session, pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i), for the purpose to review and evaluate the job performance of public officers and employees was called to order at 8:00 PM. The Board discussed the evaluation of the superintendent. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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

February 9, 2009

Board Work Session	5:30 PM	District Conference Room
Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM	District Board Room
Executive Session	to follow Board Meeting	District Conference Room