

BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT 13.

Board of Directors – Work Session
Banks Elementary School Cafeteria
42350 NW Trellis Way
April 27, 2009 7:00 PM

Present: Duane Lundsten, Angi Duyck, Kathy Edison, Will Moore, Marv Ott, Bob Huston, Jim Foster, Jim Smith, Shelley Mitchell, Mark Everett, Gary Hartman, Simon Levear, Parents, Students

Mr. Lundsten opened the work session at 7:03 PM. and led the flag salute. Mr. Ott said that the district is facing some difficult decisions, and the administrators and Board do not wish to make decisions in isolation. Mr. Ott said that the district faced some financial cutbacks this year, and after all cuts were made at the administrative level that could be made, one student day was cut from the school calendar. He said that for next year, the budget will be presented to the budget committee for the first time on May 14. He said that districts are being advised to reduce their budget by 15% for next year. He said that the administrative team will propose a budget, which is presented to the budget committee, and final approval rests with the board. He said the meeting tonight is advisory, the decisions will be made at the administrative level, with the final decision to be made by the Board. Mr. Ott introduced Simon Levear, who discussed this year's revenue and expenses. He said that to make it through this year, the administrative team cut supply budgets, reduced professional development and travel expenses, reduced the budget for repairs and maintenance, technology, and reduced expenditures in the Jr. High and High School spring sports programs.

Mr. Levear said that on April 9, the Governor advised school to build their budgets with a projected State School Support Fund of between 5.4 billion and 5.9 billion. Mr. Levear said the district has taken some cost cutting measures, including converting the boilers from diesel to natural gas. He said the PERS rates are down, the recent RFP for audit services for next year resulted in auditing costs lower than the current budgeted amount for audit services this year. Sodexo has already stated they will not raise rates for custodial service for next year, and will also have a reduction in service to the district, which will lower their price further. Mr. Levear said the administrators have proposed a salary freeze for themselves. Mr. Levear said that with a 5.9 billion SSF budget, the district will need to reduce expenditures \$760,000. With 5.4 billion SSF, the reductions will be need to be approximately \$1,240,000. Mr. Levear said there are some very hard choices, and the district is seeking input from the community.

Mr. Levear had a survey handed out that had been prepared by the administrative team on possible considerations for budget reductions. A question and answer period followed. Some of the discussion included:

- ◆ Consolidation of the district kitchen for the high school and jr. high – have food served for secondary at the jr. high.
- ◆ PE at the elementary – Mr. Ott said PE is not legislated at the elementary level.
- ◆ Decrease of school days
- ◆ Reduction of staff

- ◆ Concessions from the unions – Mr. Ott said that the district cannot speak for the unions.
- ◆ Reduction/restructure of special education – Shelley Mitchell addressed the question, and said that the \$158,800 would be a restructuring of the program, and still meet legal requirements.
- ◆ Federal Grant spending – Mr. Ott said grant money had strings attached, and could not be spent for general fund items.
- ◆ A 4-day workweek was brought up. Other districts are looking at this possibility. Mr. Ott said this would need to be negotiated with the unions. Mr. Levear said going to a 4-day workweek, with no reduction in staff pay and benefits, would result in approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000 savings per day for bus services and food/custodial costs.
- ◆ Elementary class blends were discussed. Mr. Huston said that the 2-3 blend would offer the lowest number of students in the blend. He said there is nothing good about any blend situation.
- ◆ Public comments were made about the reduction of certain programs, e.g. music, which would effectively eliminate the program, while there were reductions in sports that would only account to a 12 to 15% reduction in the programs. It was suggested the reductions considered should be across the board on elective/extra-curricular activities.
- ◆ Public comments were made about the administrative proposal for the savings of \$132,000 due to moving a current principal into the superintendent position. Mr. Lundsten said that the Board has not had a chance to discuss this proposal yet.
- ◆ Public comment was made that the current math textbooks are out of date, and cutting the textbook purchases would keep old textbooks in the classrooms.
- ◆ Comment was made by students that some scholarships are based on extra-curricular activities such as band, choir, sports. Without these opportunities, students would not meet the requirements for some scholarships.

Mr. Ott stressed that no decisions have been made, but tough decisions need to be made. He said 80% of the district budget is salaries and benefits.

Mr. Levear asked that all surveys be returned to the district office by Wednesday at 4PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

9:10 Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (a), employment of public officers and employees.. The Board discussed the administrative proposal. The executive session adjourned at 9:45 p.m.