

## **BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT 13.**

Board of Directors – Work Session

450 S. Main Banks, OR

December 8, 2008 5:30 PM

District Conference Room

Present: Doug Nordholm, Duane Lundsten, Kathy Edison, Angi Duyck, Will Moore, Marv Ott, Superintendent, Simon Levear, Marlo Mosser, Secretary, Rick Rainone, Cornerstone Consulting, Schann Nelson, Independent

### Bond Update

Rick Rainone said that he thought it was amazing in such an economic time that the bond election was so close. He said during the post election discussion held on December 2, there were a number of comments made concerning what was learned from the campaign. He handed out a summary of the discussion at the work session, and briefly discussed the different comments made. Mr. Rainone said that in his professional opinion in the current economy, selling bonds on top of bonds to voters was difficult. Mr. Moore commented that the video was discussed the longest. Mr. Rainone said that the current master plan can be built upon, and all sites need to have consideration in the master plan presented to the community. Mr. Moore said at the recent facilities planning committee meeting, people are enthusiastic and ready to re-engage as soon as possible. Mr. Nordholm asked how many no voters attended the meeting. Mr. Moore said he didn't think any did. The board discussed the possibility of a professional campaign manager to help if there is a subsequent campaign. Mr. Lundsten said the next step is to meet and decide what to do. Schann Nelson commented that she would caution the board on using the conditions of the buildings in the campaign as it may be viewed as a fear tactic. Mr. Lundsten said that the economy may be a big deal, and this may be a bad time to go out for another bond election. He said the reasons people voted no on the bond need to be addressed, and people given an opportunity to discuss their concerns. Mr. Rainone said he had a mixed opinion about postponing the next election. He said that the economy could stay the same, or get worse. He said if the district waits 12 months to try again, the momentum would be lost. He said the district has two more tries to get the bond passed. He said currently there are things in place that weren't before that may aid the election. Mr. Lundsten said the board will need to decide whether to go back to the voters with the same dollar amount. Mr. Rainone said he would suggest that the Facilities Planning Committee test the scope of the project – is there anything in the scope that is not needed. Mr. Lundsten said if the board decides to change the amount of the bond significantly there would need to be a full explanation for the change. Mr. Lundsten said his fear is that the district won't have all the "yes" votes on voting day. Mr. Nordholm said that he spoke to some no voters, and the economy was not the reason for their no votes. He said a statement was made that there was no committee formed to oppose the bond. He said that although there wasn't an established committee, there were a number of vocal people in the community with a number of issues, one of which was that they did not know what the money would be used for. Mr. Moore said he would be in favor of community meetings to inform voters, and it would take a huge base of volunteers. Mr. Nordholm said the communicators would need to include influential members of the community. Mr. Lundsten asked for consensus on having the facilities planning committee test the scope and budget of the proposed projects. Mr. Rainone said that DLR has people available experienced in campaign management. Mr. Moore was concerned about keeping the campaign local. Mr. Rainone suggested that Liz Kaufman could advise the board. Kathy Edison said she was concerned about the safety issues, and rumors in the schools. She said students needed to be aware of the bond projects. Mr. Rainone said that even if the bond passed, it takes time to sell bonds and could delay the start of construction. Mr. Nordholm asked what the cost to the district would be to refine and complete the master site plan. Mr. Rainone said he thought it could be done for about \$5,000. Board consensus was to direct the facilities planning

committee to look at the scope of the project, and identify anything not needed. Mr. Moore also suggested the district contact DLR and ask for a cost for completion of the master site plan.

#### Property Acquisition Discussion

Mr. Ott said the decision needs to be made where the funds for the property acquisition will be coming from. Mr. Levear said that his understanding was that the money would come from the Buxton funds if the bond measure did not pass. Mr. Moore suggested the possibility of financing the purchase. Mr. Levear discussed the balance in the Buxton funds – his calculations determined there will be \$320,000 left at the end of 2008-09. Mr. Nordholm said that he was not sure taking on the indebtedness of borrowing at this time, when the district had sufficient funds, was a good idea. Mr. Lundsten said that the Buxton funds were earmarked for property acquisition. Board consensus was to ask the seller for an extension. Mr. Ott said he would contact the seller and ask.

#### Budget Discussion

Mr. Ott said the current budget was built on the March 2008 revenue forecasts. However, revenue is coming in less than anticipated, and expenditures are up. He said the district is looking at the need for a 5% to 10% reduction in the budget for the 2008-09 school year. He said that some districts are cutting school days to reduce expenses. He said that may be a consideration. He said forecasts are anticipating next year may be worse. Mr. Levear said that one way to help meet the potential \$400,000 shortfall is to take \$250,000 from the ending fund balance. He said in that scenario the EFB would go from \$750,000 last year to \$500,000 this year. The board requested line item detail in the monthly financial report.

#### FFA expense discussion

Mrs. Edison asked if the FFA had contacted the high school parents association and asked for money. Mr. Ott said he did not know. A brief discussion followed. Board consensus was to have Mr. Ott contact the FFA advisor and tell him that although the board would like to help, financially it is not possible at this time.

#### Softball shed update

Mr. Ott said that he and Mr. Levear met with Jenny Compton, softball advisor, and asked what items the team absolutely had to have. He said the dollar amount came in at approximately \$5000.00. He said that he has asked for a breakdown of the items to be replaced, and the cost. Board consensus was to work on formulating a contract with outside groups with an upfront statement of what would be covered by the district in the future.

#### Transportation discussion

Mr. Ott said that he wanted to make the board aware of recent concerns from Shafers Bus Company on the transportation of private school students in the district. Mr. Ott said that Mr. Shafer has questioned the transporting of private school students to the elementary school and having them wait for a shuttle at that location. Mr. Ott said he spoke with Mr. Huston, and this has not been a problem. Mr. Shafer also expressed concern with BCA's request of transporting students to the Main Street location, and having them unload there, as there is no bus loading zone there.

Goal discussion and setting

Mr. Nordholm said that there is currently a process in place, and he felt it worked well. He said that having surveys from staff, and having them be anonymous, would generate mostly negative feedback. Mr. Moor said that he likes the idea of the surveys, and the ability of staff to be anonymous. Mr. Levear said that since there are so few administrators, administrative surveys would not be anonymous, as it would be very easy to figure out which comments came from whom. Board consensus was to leave the current process in place, and have administrative surveys sent out and returned to Duane. Mr. Ott said that he is currently working on goals for 2009-2010 and will present the draft to the board at a later date.

The Board adjourned the work session at 9:45 PM.

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Duane Lundsten, Chairman

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Marlo Mosser, Secretary

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Date approved by Board