

# Banks School District

## Bond Oversight Committee Meeting

### Summary

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Date: March 4, 2026

#### Overview

The Banks School District Bond Oversight Committee met to review the status of the district's bond-funded construction projects, discuss budget updates, and consider prioritization of remaining project items. The meeting focused on progress at the high school construction site, district-wide facility improvements, and the allocation of remaining bond funds.

Superintendent Sica welcomed participants and noted the time-sensitive nature of decisions as construction continues. The meeting also incorporated questions previously submitted by Cornerstone representative John Abel, which aligned with the topics discussed.

#### High School Construction Project

The primary bond project involves the demolition of the south wing of Banks High School and the construction of a new two-story academic building. The facility will feature larger classrooms, a new library, and a smaller district office space. Construction planning also includes a seamless architectural connection between the new structure and the remaining portions of the high school.

Additional related work includes:

- Re-roofing the high school gymnasium
- Complete renovation of the locker rooms, including identical men's and women's facilities
- Cafeteria HVAC upgrades
- Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office to incorporate historically appropriate elements into the design

Site circulation improvements were also discussed. The district has received approval to utilize the Wilkes Street house property as a student entrance and exit, which will improve traffic flow and campus access.

## District-Wide Bond Improvements

The committee also reviewed updates on other district bond projects:

- Elementary School: Installation of a secure vestibule, replacement of the HVAC system, and replacement of half of the roof, with plans to address the remaining section in the future.
- Middle School: Installation of a secure vestibule to improve campus security.
- Auxiliary Gym: Construction of a pre-manufactured multi-court facility designed for ADA accessibility.
- Maintenance Facility: A new maintenance building will be constructed adjacent to the auxiliary gym.

## Value Engineering and Cost Management

The project team continues to apply value engineering strategies to manage costs while maintaining the integrity of the design.

Adjustments made during this process include:

- Removing a covered walkway between the new academic building and the vocational building
- Eliminating courtyard landscaping elements
- Prioritizing canopies at the bus drop-off area for student safety and weather protection
- Changes in materials without impacting scope/quality

Tree removal and preservation efforts were also discussed, including plans to save a leaning oak tree where possible.

## Budget Update

The committee reviewed the updated financial summary for the bond program.

Original Budget: \$55,305,000

Current Budget: \$55,967,000

The budget reflects additional proceeds from bond sales and an OSCIM grant. Current projections show approximately \$1.2 million, plus potential interest, in unallocated funds, though final available funds will depend on construction bids and remaining project costs.

## Prioritization of Remaining Projects

The committee discussed a “wish list” of potential improvements that could be completed if sufficient funds remain. Timing and cost escalation were important considerations.

After discussion, the committee prioritized the construction of team rooms near the auxiliary gym. These rooms will provide storage and operational space for youth sports programs that currently lack adequate facilities. Committee members noted that completing these rooms during the current construction phase would avoid significantly higher costs in the future.

Cornerstone representative John Abel will review remaining bond line items to determine whether approximately \$400,000 could be reallocated to support the team room project.

### **Future Considerations**

The committee also discussed the needs of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) building. While no immediate funding decision was made, the district committed to continuing to evaluate improvements to the CTE facility as additional funds become available. It was noted that all items on the wish list are priorities for the District and they do not represent every need.

Members expressed interest in viewing the building in person to better understand the scope of potential improvements.

### **Next Steps**

- Schedule an on-site construction tour, including the CTE building.
- Schedule the next Bond Oversight Committee meeting for late April or early May.
- Confirm and communicate the groundbreaking date for the new academic building.
- Review potential reallocation of bond funds to support the team rooms project.