School Board votes to move ahead with permanent fix of Summit High sink holes

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Bend-La Pine School Board voted unanimously Tuesday night to allow staff to finalize design specifications and develop bid documents for the permanent repair of the Summit High School playing fields. The School Board will identify a funding source at a future meeting.School Board Chair Scott Reynolds says, â€œThis decision will allow our community to move forward and put the storm and the damage it caused at the fields behind us.â€• Reynolds says that he appreciates all of the feedback, negative and positive, that he has heard from community members during the last year. Riddled with huge sink holes after a massive storm in December of 2005, there has been an ongoing debate about how and when the problem will be fixed. â€œI canâ€™t thank you all enough for your patience and support during this process. Tomorrow when we wake-up weâ€™ll know that work to permanently repair those fields for our students and community is underway,â€• he adds.The School Board and Bend-La Pine School team members have identified two possible densification construction approaches for permanent repairs to the field space. Assistant Superintendent John Rexford says, â€œThe final permanent repair method and cost will ultimately be driven by the contractor that meets our requirements and offers the lowest bid.â€• Portions of the 18-acre Summit High School playing fields were damaged on Dec. 30, 2005 following weeks of wintry weather and days of heavy rain and flooding. Temporary repairs have made the fields safe and usable by school athletic teams and academic classes.