St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Work Session Minutes
January 11, 2023

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Work Session at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office board Room of the District, County and State, and via Zoom, on January 11, 2023. This meeting was open to the public as well as observable at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1z8cLCWDSCKQFSk-H8miXg.

Members of the community interested in commenting on agenda items were invited to so during the portions of the meeting designated for comments by visitors, or, if they wished to address the Board via Zoom, by emailing the Board of Directors prior to 5:00 on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at: sb502@sthelens.k12.or.us with their topic of discussion.

PRESENT

Those present were:

Melody Killens, Board Chair
Bill Amos, Vice Chair
Ryan Scholl, Board Member
Trinity Monahan, Board Member
Kellie Smith, Board Member
Trinity Monahan, Board Member
Colton Freeman, Student Representative to the Board
Scot Stockwell, Superintendent
Jessica Seay, Director of Fiscal Services
Kristi Ward, Executive Assistant

Not Present:

CALL TO ORDER

Melody Killens called the School Board Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Kellie Smith entered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ryan Scholl seconded; the motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- No requests to address the Board were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trinity Monahan entered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ryan Scholl seconded; the motion to approve the consent agenda carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Melody Killens reported that the Board has continued reviewing the following policy and the recommended updates provided by OSBA:
    - JFCHA – Use of Alcohol for Cooking

  The policy and accompanying recommendations were sent to members and posted on the District website prior to the December 14 Regular Meeting. There were no questions or comments by members.
- Tiffany Elvrum from Pauly Rogers & Company presented an overview of the 2021-22 financial audit report for SHSD. A full report and a summary memo were provided to members prior to the meeting, and posted on the District website. Ms. Elvrum noted that Pauly Rogers & Co. issued an "unmodified" opinion on the financial statements presented by the District, which is the most favorable rating. Trinity Monahan thanked Ms. Elvrum for the report, and thanked Jessica Seay for the ongoing great work by she and her team in the District Business Office.
- Superintendent Stockwell provided members the 2020-21 English Learners in Oregon Annual Report and the HB 3499 District Comparisons Supplement in advance of the meeting. He demonstrated how to negotiate the comparisons tool to access information about districts across the state. He noted that the number of ELL students in the SHSD has increased, and that we have an excellent team of educators supporting them. There were no questions or comments from the Board.
- Superintendent Stockwell provided members with an update about the SHHS renovation project. He reported that the global supply chain changes have impacted the project, as they have individuals and businesses. He reviewed the planning phases of the renovation project, and how those have been adjusted, in stages, due to supply delays and increased costs. He provided a list of renovation costs for the original project list, and the current list which was adjusted for due to increased costs. He reflected that the current list is missing some items that the community found to be important at the onset of the project, such as re-paving the parking lots, updating the HVAC, updating the locker rooms and auditorium, new turf fields, etc. He presented some information about a grant opportunity he would like the Board to consider: the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) Program. This program provides matching grants to districts that pass a local general obligation bond, and provide up to $4 million for districts, according to ODE priority parameters. Superintendent Stockwell communicated that the community has an opportunity to take advantage of that funding, as SHSD has been placed on the program "First in Time" list. He expressed that after our community generously demonstrated their support for students by passing the former bonds, it was his wish never to have to propose another. However, due to the inflation challenges, he thinks that a general obligation bond that would not increase levy rates or extend the duration of the bond and would allow the features at the HS that the community asked for, is the best decision. He confirmed that levying a bond in the amount of $4 million would allow the District to double the amount by obtaining the matching OSCIM grant funds. Members discussed the bond option at length and came to a consensus that placing the bond on the May 2023 ballot for the community to vote on is the best decision for the District. They would like to discuss the add alternate and futures items in more detail once the bond passes and the OSCIM funding is

secured, but agreed that the funding is needed to complete the project as it was originally intended, especially if it does not result in a tax increase for residents.

- Superintendent Stockwell reported that he has been meeting with a team of elementary staff regarding some concerns they have presented, including:
  - Safety for students and staff
  - Lack of curriculum and resources
  - Inequities across the district

  At a meeting earlier today, Superintendent Stockwell provided some proposed supports and resources, including increased staffing, additional staff training, a funding allocation for additional curriculum, consideration of bell schedule changes, and adding hours for elementary staff to prep. He asked for the Board to weigh in on the proposal to change the schedule, starting in February, to make one of the early-release Wednesdays for each of the four subsequent months a full prep day for elementary staff, and would result in a day out of school for students. The Board reached a favorable consensus regarding that proposal.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- No requests to address the Board were received.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

The Board discussed whether there was a need for the planning session scheduled for next Wednesday, which they had included in their meeting schedule at the start of the year. The consensus was that it was not needed. Kellie Smith noted that she will not be available for the Regular Meeting on March 15, and asked if the date could be swapped with the Planning Session scheduled for March 8th. Members agreed to make that scheduling change.

ADJOURMENT

Chair Killens adjourned the Board Work Session at 7:38 p.m.

Melody Killens, Board Chair

Scot Stockwell, Superintendent