

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Work Session Minutes
August 11, 2021**

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Work Session at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, per ORS 192.670 on August 11, 2021. This public meeting was observable at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEc1p7WLIIs>. Members of the community interested in commenting on agenda items were invited to do so by emailing the Board of Directors at: sb502@sthelens.k12.or.us. Members of the community interested in addressing the Board during the meeting were additionally invited to email a summary of the topic and request the Zoom meeting link prior to 5:00 on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

PRESENT

Those present were:

Ryan Scholl, Board Chair
Melody Killens, Vice Chair
Bill Amos, Board Member
Kellie Smith, Board Member
Trinity Monahan, Board Member
Scot Stockwell, Superintendent
Kristi Ward, Executive Assistant

Not Present:

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- Brigid Cassidy addressed members to advocate for students to have a voice in the decisions being made on their behalf.

CONSENT AGENDA

Melody Killens entered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Bill Amos seconded; the motion to approve the consent agenda carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Chair Scholl asked Superintendent Stockwell to address the mask mandate issued by Governor Brown and how it will impact the District. Superintendent Stockwell read

portions of the decision and noted that OAR 333-019-1015 is now in effect. He shared the guidance provided to districts in Oregon from ODE, and noted that non-compliance of the mask requirement for students receiving instruction indoors could result in fines for staff members, schools and the District. From the pool of approximately fifty emails recently sent to the Board regarding requiring masks in school, he selected seven to read in their entirety. He noted that he had chosen emails on both sides of the mask issue, and included parents, students and staff members in the samples chosen. He then suggested that the order of the meeting be rearranged to allow the second opportunity for visitors to address the board take place prior to other agenda items. The Board agreed.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- The following visitors addressed the Board to voice their opposition to the mask mandate for students (names written as presented on the public comment card):
 - Brigid Cassidy
 - Stacy Sullivan
 - Josh Sullivan
 - Christina Sullivan
 - Sarah Heppnes
 - Evelyn Thompson
 - April Burank
 - Jenni Gilbert
 - Caden Willaby
 - Mandy Hawkins
 - Sally Gump
 - Stephanie Ostebauer
 - Lindsay Jones
 - Lori Nasshahn
 - Tiffany Galloway
 - Nick Vosika

Members shared their thoughts about the mask mandate, and pointed out that local control regarding the matter was removed by Governor Brown's order.

- Kellie Smith entered a motion to amend the agenda by adding: 7.4 Request that Superintendent Stockwell Draft a Letter to Governor Brown to Appeal for the Return of Local Control. Trinity Monahan seconded, the motion to so amend the agenda carried unanimously.
- Superintendent Stockwell provided current student enrollment numbers, and pointed to the steady downward trend the District has experienced in the last five years, and in contrast, the increased number of staff members. There has not been a significant change in the last few months. He expects an increase next year, and noted again that the District is planning to open for full-time in-person instruction in the fall.
- Superintendent Stockwell reported that rather than doing an all-staff end-of-year event at a single location, there will be one at each school where retirees and award recipients will be honored. A schedule of the events will be sent to the Board.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

August 25, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Scholl adjourned the Board Work Session Meeting at 8:57 p.m.



Ryan Scholl, Board Chair



Scot Stockwell, Superintendent