St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
August 25, 2021

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on August 25, 2021. This public meeting was also observable at: https://youtu.be/tSK3U9Dh1nU. Members of the community interested in commenting on agenda items were invited to do so during the meeting or by emailing the Board of Directors at: sb502@sthelens.k12.or.us with a summary of the topic they wish to address and to request the Zoom meeting link prior to 5:00 on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

PRESENT

Those present were:
Ryan Scholl, Board Chair
Melody Killens, Vice Chair
Trinity Monahan, Board Member
Kellie Smith, Board Member
Bill Amos, Board Member
Scot Stockwell, Superintendent
Jessica Seay, Business Manager

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scholl called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Bill Amos 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

- None presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Ted Zehr, St. Helens Virtual Academy Director, updated the Board about the curriculum selection progress for the upcoming school year. A curriculum team was assembled, and reviewed the options as a team, beginning October 2020. The team communicated with a number of other districts that provide an online academy, they presented options to a team of teachers for review in the Spring. The options and recommendations were then presented to the Leadership Team and a decision made. Florida Virtual School was the program selected for the elementary level students, and APEX Learning for at the secondary level.
- Chair Scholl described some of the protocols in place for Board meetings. He noted that the Board welcomes all speakers wishing to address members during the two

opportunities for visitors to speak at each meeting. He noted that speakers will be requested to let the Board know where they live and whether they have students in the District, so that District staff is able to support students referenced during the address, or direct families to supports in other districts, accordingly. He thanked those in attendance for coming.

- Superintendent Stockwell noted that at the Board Work Session on August 11, the Board voted to request he draft a letter to Governor Brown requesting local control regarding requiring masks in schools. He read the letter aloud.
- Superintendent Stockwell reported that the District has hired many positions since Spring, when students first returned to in-person instruction.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- The following visitors addressed the Board (names written as presented on the public comment card):
    - Tiffany Galloway thanked the Board for their decision to write a letter to Governor Brown, and expressed her opposition to the mask mandate in place for students. She additionally expressed her support for staff members that do not wish to be vaccinated. She inquired about whether there is a plan in place for students that choose online or homeschool but do not have internet services, and about mask accommodations for students whom are hard of hearing or deaf.
    - Mandy Hawkins inquired about the Board's plans for mandatory vaccines for students, if one is issued, and how the District will support teachers whom do not wish to be vaccinations. Superintendent Stockwell responded that the District will provide the appropriate type of leave for those staff members, and that there is further guidance expected from the state soon. Once that information is received, we will have our legal counsel review it carefully.
    - Sarah Heppner asked for a clarification about the staff leave available for those declining vaccination. Superintendent Stockwell stated that the District will hold the position for those employees for them return to when the state allows for that. She noted that vaccine manufacturers are liability-free companies. If the District forces the vaccine on students in the future, the liability will lie with the District.
    - Chris Brumbles stated that we have been living in fascism for a year and a half, and it is time to end it. He read some information supporting removing the mask mandate for students and asked the Board to stand up against the tyranny.
    - Kristine Hall reported that the rate of RSV has increased in children since they have been wearing masks and that she does not want her student to wear one. She expressed her belief that everyone should have a right to choose whether to wear a mask and whether to be vaccinated.
    - Aaron Mutt suggested the Board reconsiders their protocol to have a cut-off point during meetings after which the audience can no longer address them. He expressed his agreement with the letter to the governor and his opposition to mandatory mask usage for students.

  Superintendent Stockwell spoke about the District's policy regarding masks and student discipline. He reported that students would not be suspended or expelled for having trouble keeping the mask on, unless it was a matter of defiance. The audience reacted loudly and Chair Scholl called a five-minute recess.

ACTION ITEMS

- Bill Amos entered a motion to direct Superintendent Stockwell to send the letter to Governor Brown regarding returning local control. Kellie Smith seconded; then the matter was open for discussion. Melody Killens suggested that the letter be sent to our County Health team prior to sending it to the governor, as it was referenced that the District would partner with them. Superintendent Stockwell affirmed that he would do so. A vote was taken to send the letter pending the agreement of County Health; the motion carried unanimously.

Item#	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
7.1	Entered a motion to approve	Bill Amos	X		
7.1		Melody Killens	X		
7.1		Ryan Scholl	X		
7.1		Trinity Monahan	X		
7.1	Seconded the motion	Kellie Smith	X		

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

August 30, 2021 – Board Work Session, 3:30 p.m.

- Review and approve the final CM/GC Construction Contract

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Monahan adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Ryan Scholl, Board Chair

Scot Stockwell, Superintendent