

St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 22, 2021

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 22, 2021. This public meeting was also observable at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8TXb9q4Lt4>. 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, September 22, 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 Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Trinity Monahan 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

- Dr. Steven Krager, Medical Director and Health Officer for school-based health centers in the county, provided information about current trends in pediatric COVID cases and expressed the importance for safety measures in schools including masks and other layered strategies.
- Chair Scholl read aloud the questions sent via email to the Board prior to the meeting by Paul Hayduk, who could not attend. Those questions were:
 - Why does the SHSD not offer a hybrid option for “in class” and “online” learning during the 2021-22 school year?

Superintendent Stockwell noted that the District is planning for the possibility of shifting to either a hybrid or CDL model, in the event that the pandemic creates a need for either this year. He noted that our full efforts, however, have been placed on getting kids back to full time, in-person instruction.

- Were you and the school board involved in the decision to change the schedule at SHHS to lime and black days during the 2021-22 school year? How was that decision decided? Were parents and students surveyed as a part of that decision?

Dr. Wagner replied that the schedule was selected by staff and site council members after reviewing several models. This model allows for cohorting and additional interventions and credit recovery.

- During the 2020-21 school year, did the SHSD receive state and/or Federal (COVID) funds to address academic issues, academic implementation, college/career preparedness and overall actions within the district to accommodate all students during the “online” learning?

Superintendent Stockwell reported that we are working on improvements in this area. The federal COVID funds were not used to target college and career readiness, but that was left, rather, to the High School Success grant from the state.

- Why are these kids not afforded the opportunity to prepare with adequate mentors and/or college planners during their freshman, sophomore and junior year in anticipation of a career or college?

Dr. Wagner noted that SHHS has invested in the NAVIANCE program for the last two years for this purpose. It is a K-12 college and career readiness solution that helps identify student strengths, interests and needs so schools can individualize supports to help students with post-secondary planning. SHMS is now onboard as well, so students are being exposed to college and career options much earlier.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

- The District Principals informed members about the work, activities and planning taking place at each school:
 - Martine Barnett, Jennifer Vandershuere and Roger Fink provided information regarding the start of the school year at each of our elementary buildings and the Early Learning program to include successes in:
 - The award of a two-year Children’s Institute (CI) Grant
 - The implementation of AVID and EL Education
 - The addition of a preschool at Columbia City School
 - Hiring that resulted in small class sizes
 - New technology for STEM labs in classrooms
 - Students adapting well to safety protocols
 - Family being supportive

Planning is in place for managing lunch, recess and potential quarantines as well as hybrid option needs. They noted that current challenges include staffing, identifying subs, student performance, and quick responses to exposure reports.

- Cris Gwilliam provided an update regarding the school year start at SHMS to include the following successes:
 - The return of Riverhawk volleyball, football and cross country
 - The transition to 1 to 1 digital learning (each student has been provided a District Chromebook). This will allow remote learning during required quarantines.

The SHMS team is working on improving COVID exposure response protocols and preparing a CDL-Education Support Plan.
- Colleen Grogan provided an update about the start of the year for Plymouth HS. She reported that there are many things going well to include:
 - Proper social distancing
 - Students maintaining safety measures
 - Providing supports for students that are in quarantine
 - The staff is remaining healthy
 - The addition of AVID
 - Taking advantage of the new District Learning Coaches
- Dr. Katy Wagner updated members about the start of the school year at SHHS to include successes in:
 - An in-person registration with many community partners in attendance
 - The scheduled opening of the school-based health center in January
 - The introduction to the Inflexion program for college and career-ready preparedness and for identifying student purpose and identity
 - Creating good classroom spaces in the portable village while the building remodel is in progress

Dr. Wagner noted that the SHHS team is working on adapting to the ongoing construction, improving quarantine protocols, staffing, and supervision and student behaviors.
- Jessica Seay, Business Manager, noted that there are two action items pending related to the new construction excise tax rates. The Board passed Resolution 2021-22 #7 in August to establish those rates, but it has since been requested by one of our partner agencies which processes this tax that we modify the language slightly to make it even more clear that we are establishing two different tax rates. She requested that members vote to rescind the resolution passed in August and approve 2021-22 Resolution #8 – New Construction Tax Rates. The new resolution establishes the different rates for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. There were no questions or comments.
- Superintendent Stockwell summarized the Student Investment Account (SIA) Annual Report. He noted that things that went well this year include:
 - Improvements to Social Emotional Learning with added School Counselors and Social Workers
 - Maintaining Lower Class Sizes by adding teachers
 - Increasing the availability and quality of professional development for staff

Superintendent Stockwell noted that areas of improvement include:

 - Availability of Qualified Staff
 - Internet Connectivity

He noted that the report in its entirety is available on the District website.
- Superintendent Stockwell reported that the District is seeing increased enrollment numbers this year, unlike most other districts in the state.

- Superintendent Stockwell provided an update regarding the current metrics for rates of COVID in Columbia county, and reported that we are still in the “extreme community spread” and “test positivity” categories. He noted that numbers are trending downwards slightly, but that we need to remind the community to take safety precautions. Superintendent Stockwell introduced a county COVID dashboard that has been made available to school Districts from the state. The District continues to work closely with the Community Health team to watch trends and develop some thresholds. He shared some general quarantine protocols being utilized by the District, and provided the current status of confirmed cases and students that have quarantined since September 1st.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- None presented.

ACTION ITEMS

- Kellie Smith entered a motion to rescind RESOLUTION 2021-22 #7 – NEW CONSTRUCTION TAX RATES. Trinity Monahan seconded; the motion to rescind the resolution carried unanimously.

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

- Trinity Monahan entered a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2021-22 #8 – NEW CONSTRUCTION TAX RATES. Kellie Smith seconded; the motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously.

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


UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

October 13, 2021 – Board Work Session, 6:30 p.m.

- LCRB Sole Source Item for SHHS Renovation Project

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Monahan adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.



Ryan Scholl, Board Chair



Scot Stockwell, Superintendent

