

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Work Session Minutes
January 13, 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 October 14, 2020. This public meeting was observable at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMqNw8m1bFM&feature=youtu.be>. 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 invited to email a summary of the topic and request the Zoom meeting link prior to 5:00 on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

PRESENT

Those present were:

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

Not Present:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Monahan called the School Board Work Session to order at 6:37 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chair Monahan read aloud three emails sent by community members regarding returning to in-person instruction.

- Jan Blazek wrote that she is glad to hear that the District is actively planning and preparing to provide in-person instruction. She noted that she hopes the District gives priority to seniors returning as soon as possible, as this will be important for college preparation.
- Dawn Cram expressed her alarm over the District considering a return to in-person instruction due to the rising number of cases in our community. She noted that an outbreak within schools increases the risk of teachers not even being able to continue teaching remotely. She asked the District to postpone opening schools until the

vaccine is more widely available and the number of infections has fallen significantly.

- Melanie Larson noted that not everyone will be able to be vaccinated, and that a return to in-person instruction would cause risk to her family and others that is very concerning. She asked the Board to consider those who are immune-compromised and to wait until the vaccine has been more widely distributed before reopening.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

- A team from the Soderstrom Architect Group provided an update regarding the remodeling plans for SHHS. They presented an architecture character study that included four different building entry styles. Members discussed the options and offered some feedback. The architect team agreed to send a survey to members following the meeting to get the input in writing to be considered in the final planning stages.
- Jerry Colonna has returned to the District to assist with the creation of a 2021-24 Strategic Plan. He reviewed the accomplishments of the District under the guidelines of the 2016-21 Strategic Plan, to include:
 - Increased graduation rate from 73% to 87%
 - Passed a construction bond in 2016 and 2020
 - Increased curricular offerings including summer school at all levels
 - Increased preschools
 - Established a Park and Recreation program that allows for shared facilities and afterschool program options
 - Added counselors, social workers, and wellness staff
 - Received \$600,000 in competitive grants
 - Established the long-abandoned curriculum addition cycle that will be sustainably funded
 - Increased professional development for staff each of the past five years
 - Established a family resource center
 - Implemented a middle/elementary school grade reorganization
 - Built a new middle school and re-opened Columbia City Elementary School
 - Established a funded staff mentorship program

Mr. Colonna presented some plan achievement considerations, and proposed a timeline for completing the plan. He asked each member what they think is the one improvement, program or change that could have the greatest positive impact for SHSD. Those responses are attached.

- Superintendent Stockwell provided a summary of Governor Brown's new guidance regarding returning to in-person instruction:
 - Stay grounded in the evidence and work together to return to in-person instruction by February 15th, especially at the elementary level.

- Partner with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide for on-site COVID-19 testing at schools.
- Transition the health metrics for returning to in-person instruction to advisory recommendations on January 1st.
- Review and possibly update the advisory health metrics for returning to in-person instruction by January 19th.
- Align Ready-School-Safe-Learners (RSSL) guidance and Oregon OSHA rules to ensure all necessary health and safety procedures and protocols are included to allow maximum access to in-person instruction.

Superintendent Stockwell noted that metrics may again change on January 19th which is when Governor Brown's next announcement regarding schools is expected. An update about these changes was sent via letter to the District on Monday, and another will be sent after the new information is received on the 19th.

- Members discussed whether they would like to meet next week for a Planning Session. They agreed that they want to be able to discuss the new guidance expected to be released by the Governor and ODE on the 19th, so they will meet at 6:00 for a Planning Session on the 20th.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

January 20, 2021 – Board Planning Session

- Finalize SHHS Entryway Style Selection
- Graduation Requirements

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Monahan adjourned the Board Work Session Meeting at 9:01 p.m.



Trinity Monahan, Board Chair



Scot Stockwell, Superintendent

Strategic Plan Input: SHSD Board of Directors

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Members were asked the following question by Jerry Colonna:

1. *As you consider the next three years what is the one improvement, program, change, etc. you believe could have the greatest positive impact for SHSD?*

Their responses were as follows:

Bill Amos: Social/Emotional supports with a focus on equity. It is important that all students feel valued and receive the same opportunities. All students “need to feel it’s worth it to come to school.”

Melody Killens: I am concerned that MS students are often needed at home to support younger siblings, resulting in their being unable to participate in extracurricular activities. I would like to see increased after-school activities for grade school students, so that their middle-school aged siblings are free to try extracurriculars of their own. They should be free to explore their dreams; we should help show them what those dreams may be! I would love to involve the community; it would be great to have them come share their skills and talents with our students.

Kellie Smith: Chose to write a vision statement: “Develop a flexible and guided option that allows students the freedom to take ownership of their individual education.” We need to be flexible in the post-COVID climate to help students identify and reach their goals. We should develop a catalog of all options and help them in the next two years.

Ryan Scholl: Would like to see the graduation rate go up higher. He agrees with Bill, Melody and Kellie and would like to see our students have a better education. He would like to find ways to help students be more involved.

Trinity Monahan: We are at a transcendent moment in time. We need to consider “what *is* school?” We have students in two distinct categories right now:

1. Students excelling in the current environment. We do not hear a lot about them. We want to support them and supply them with unlimited opportunities
2. Students that are not excelling. We need to identify how we can best help these students and their families. I am really excited to get the Family Resource Center up and running so we can provide some extra supports.

I want to spend most of our time focusing on the latter, and really energize them. I want to help them find their people and let them know they are worthy of investment and help them find an atmosphere in which they can grow, feel safe to fail, and become whatever they wish to be.