

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Meeting
July 28, 2008**

The District School Board of School District #502, Columbia County, Oregon convened in special session at 4:30 p.m. in the Administration Office of the District, County and State on July 28, 2008.

Those present were:

David Morrisson, Board Chair
Rebecca Wallace, Vice Chair
Bill Crist, Board Member
Jana Mann, Board Member
Patricia Adams, Superintendent
Terri Burns, Director of Finance & Operations
Amanda Stuber, Executive Assistant

Guests:

None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

2008 Bond

The board reviewed updated figures of the 2006 and 2007 bond packages. The 2006 package included both a new elementary school and various remodel jobs and the 2007 bond package included remodel projects only.

Superintendent Adams stressed the fact that the district has a variety of maintenance projects that can not be postponed any longer and they must be addressed.

Mr. Morrisson noted a new item for consideration, the Local Option Levy. The idea of how it could address some of the maintenance items was shared.

Mrs. Burns reviewed the maximum amount of funding that can come from the local option tax and the board weighed the pros and cons of the tax.

Mr. Crist expressed his preference to take action in the November 2008 election. The double majority is not needed during that election and the district's share of the election fees would be lower.

The board also received and reviewed updated prices on the two previous bond packages that included an increase of 30% since the 2007 election. The updated prices for the package that includes a new school and maintenance projects is \$2.10 to \$3.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Updated prices for the package that includes maintenance projects only are estimated at \$1.21 to \$1.57 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Mrs. Mann shared information on the current economic status of the community and concerns she collected from the community organizations she obtained the information from. In summary, all the organizations reported the community is hurting. The local unemployment rate is up and the Department of Human Resources has reported an increase in food stamp cases.

Mrs. Wallace recognized the current economic status of the community and recommended focusing on the middle school only. The middle school is the oldest building and she felt the middle school needs the most work.

Mr. Crist recommended the district take action on some of the maintenance projects and address what they can through the maintenance reserve fund. Mr. Crist stressed the community's need to see an effort from the district.

Maintenance projects on the previous packages were reviewed and following discussion on various bond options, the board was in favor of an approximate \$18 million bond package for the middle school projects.

Discussion was also held on the community's perception of the district changing the previous package to a lesser amount. The board recognized this could be a negative perception but with the economic hardships in the community and the dire need to address the most pertinent projects, the district has no other option but to do so.

Superintendent Adams requested figures on packages that include the following for the next meeting:

- 1) Middle school projects only
- 2) Middle school projects and high school building A & B HVAC upgrades

ACTION ITEMS

Human Resources Report – July 28, 2008

Rebecca Wallace moved to accept the Human Resources Report dated July 28, 2008. Jana Mann seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

Mr. Morrisson requested input from the board on upcoming meeting agenda items. Items discussed included the finalization of the bond, direction and action on use of the capital reserve fund, and plans for Deer Island School.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent