

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Meeting
September 8, 2008**

The District School Board of School District #502, Columbia County, Oregon convened a work session at 6:40 in the Administration Office of the District, County and State on September 8, 2008.

Those present were:

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

Guests:

Jeri Deady	Joanna Rau	Bruce Carvalho
Burt Sweet	Alison Charbonneau	Judy Valpiani
Michelle Johnson		

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

Agenda Approval

Jana Mann moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports and Discussions

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Adams shared a summary of the 2007-2008 OAKS results. Subjects and grades that meet the 5% academic achievement goal, subjects and grades that meet or exceeded the state average, and subjects and grades that did not meet the 5% student achievement goal were provided. The information shared will also be reviewed at each building's site council and staff meeting through the next couple of weeks. Those who meet and exceeded were applauded. The grade levels and subjects that did not meet will be addressed.

Special education data and it's relation to the AYP report was also shared. Although the district did not make AYP in the areas of Special Education, there were significant gains in all grade levels except for the high school.

Superintendent Adams also provided an update on the November 2008 bond campaign. An energetic bond committee met on September 4th and the committee members shared a lot of great ideas for getting information out to the community. The committee will meet again on September 18th at 3:30 p.m. in the district office board room.

Mr. Crist commented on the use of yard signs during bond campaigns and reported during the OSBA Bonds and Ballots Workshop the message that yard signs are an annoyance was projected and Mr. Crist agreed as he finds them difficult to read. The discussion on the use of yard signs concluded with the note that yard signs will be available to patrons interested in displaying them and will be distributed by the committee member in charge of their distribution.

Discussion was also held on the production of an informational DVD and the make up of the video participants. The high school's leadership students agreed to head the DVD project the make up will consist of students, community members, and bond committee members. Mrs. Saatvedt agreed to assist with media work on the bond campaign and to participate on the bond committee.

Science Textbook Adoption

Bruce Carvalho from the St. Helens Middle School reported on the middle school's science textbook adoption process and submitted a proposal to the board. It was explained that during the selection process the committee reviewed approximately 40 textbook samples and compared the textbooks to the state standards and the textbooks readability. The science committee's proposal includes a classroom set of textbooks, online versions students can access from home, and, like the high school, textbooks will be available for checkout through the library for students without internet access for homework completion. The savings from the proposed selection will remain in the science department and will be applied toward technology such as a base computer, a document camera, and a LCD projector.

Like the high school, textbooks will be available for checkout at the library for students without internet access for homework completion.

Deer Island Property

Mrs. Wallace began conversation on the future plans of Deer Island School that closed June 2008. The board discussed options that included the sale and/or rental of the building but postponed taking action and recommended an assessment be done on the building's condition and the property.

Superintendent Adams requested the board compile a list of specific questions for Mrs. Burns and the findings will be provided to the board at the October 20th board meeting.

Hearing Heath Testing

Mr. Crist presented a recommendation that included the board taking immediate action to direct the director of facilities to conduct testing in the buildings with the district purchased dosimeter to identify possible noise-induced hearing loss environments in the schools. Mr. Crist reminded the board that the district does not have a policy for intervention of or education on hearing loss and stressed the importance of the testing beginning immediately.

Mrs. Saatvedt questioned the purchase of a dosimeter and recommended the board explore campaigning outside advocates of hearing loss prevention. Mrs. Saatvedt was not in support of district staff not specialized in the use of the dosimeter conducting the test and stressed her discomfort with possibly opening the district to liability claims on hearing loss; especially when the district is not able to control or monitor outside factors and behavior the contribute to the problem.

Mrs. Burns noted there are areas in the district, such as the industrial shop, that should be tested for a baseline and agreed this should be done by a specialist in the field.

Mrs. Saatvedt volunteered to work with school district nurse Robin Loper and will research outside organizations who are advocates of hearing loss prevention and who can assist with educating parents and students on noise control and hearing loss prevention. Mrs. Saatvedt also requested she be able to postpone her assignments in the hearing testing until after the bond campaign is complete.

Mrs. Burns recommended the district attempt to return the dosimeter and the district conduct testing through experts in the area during the regularly done air quality testing.

The board was in support of Mr. Crist's recommendation to conduct the testing and requested a cost analyses on professional testing be provided at the October 8th work session.

2008-2009 First Student Transportation Contract

Mrs. Wallace declared a conflict of interest due to a family member being employed by First Student Transportation and stated she will refrain from discussion and voting on the proposed contract.

Mrs. Burns presented the board with a proposed three year contract extension of the First Student Contract. The increase in the three year contract was explained as being in line with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI) and there is the option of a five year contract should First student install and utilize boundary and routing software by Edulog or Versatrans during the 2008-2009 school year. If the contract is extended for five years, the contract would be extended through June 3, 2013.

The board was in favor of the contract and requested an update if the implementation of the boundary and routing software occurs.

Board Communication Plan Objectives

Mrs. Wallace began discussion on the board's communication plan objectives with the announcement that the objectives are intended to be a starting point and requested additionally input. The board discussed the proposed objectives and revisions to the plan included the following:

- 1) Attendance of city and county planning meetings will be revised to include increased communication between the two entities. Especially when meeting agenda items may impact either entity.
- 2) The board member column item in The Chalkboard will be moved from year two to year one. Jana Mann will be the author of the column.
- 3) Board listening sessions will be headed by Jana and will be moved to the second year of the implementation timeline.

An additional item included involvement in the River fest parade and is under consideration and will be revisited when the communication plan is revisited at the September 22nd meeting.

Action Items

August 25, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

Jana Mann moved to approve the August 25, 2008 regular meeting minutes. Benita Saatvedt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2008-09 First Student Transportation Contract

Jana Mann moved to approve the 2008-2009 First Student Transportation Contract extension. The motion carried as follows: Jana Mann, yes; Benita Saatvedt, yes; Bill Crist, yes; and Mrs. Wallace, abstained.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda Input

Agenda items for the September 22nd regular meeting include: St. Helens High School leadership class, Board Communication Plan, and WEB.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent