

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Meeting
February 23, 2009**

The District School Board of School District #502, Columbia County, Oregon convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Office of the District, County and State on February 23, 2009.

Those present were:

David Morrisson, Board Chair
Rebecca Wallace, Board Vice-Chair
Bill Crist, Board Member
Benita Saatvedt, Board Member
Jana Mann, Board Member
Patricia Adams, Superintendent
Terri Burns, Director of Finance and Facilities
Marleen Zytniowski, Community Relations

Guests:

Brent Pockrus	Jay Perry	Pete Craemer
Robin Loper	Richard Hoffman	Kathy Hoffman
Jamie Kingery	Nathan Helwig	Kevin Zmolek
Jeri Deady	Judy Valpiani	Bruce Carvalho
Cathy Carson	Bob Balch	Lori Thompson
Lisa Rawlings	Lorraine Coopersmith	Rebecca Stites
Jan Stites	Koti Sakultarawattn	Diana Peterson
Telka Petersen	Joanna Rau	Tonya Arnold
Cecelia Haack, The Spotlight		

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

Agenda Approval

Following the addition of the St. Helens High School's Physics Trip Request and the notation that agenda item 6.7 has been resolved and is removed, Jana Mann moved to approve the agenda as revised. Bill Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Non Agenda Items

Judy Valpiani announced the Coffee for Camp Fundraiser for the Columbia City School Outdoor School is underway. Information on the fundraiser was circulated.

Consent Agenda

Prior to consent agenda approval Mr. Morrisson requested the financial reports be provided in a more timely manner. Bill Crist moved to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Human Resources Report – February 2009
General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report
General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Projection
Student Enrollment/Attendance Information
Accident Report – January 2009

Rebecca Wallace seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Recognition

Volunteer Grandparent

Cathy Carson recognized volunteer grandparent Bob Balch. Mr. Balch has provided an exceptional number of hours to the Lewis & Clark Intermediate School and announced he recently received a PGE volunteer grant in the amount of \$450.00.

Mrs. Carson also recognized the St. Helens High School's Jazz Band for their performance at last week's DARE graduation program.

Band Patrons, Sacagawea Health Center & SHSF

Superintendent Adams recognized St. Helens Band Patrons, Sacagawea Health Center, and the St. Helens Student Foundation. These organizations were thanked for their continued support to the district's programs and the exceptional services they provide to the students of St. Helens School District. Each organization was presented with a You Make the Difference Certificate of Appreciation.

Reports and Discussions

St. Helens High School Vocal Jazz Choir Performance

Mr. Zmolek reviewed the benefits such as development of team work and organizational skills students received through their participation in music programs. The eight students in attendance were introduced and they performed "Dock of the Bay" and "New York State of Mind". The next St. Helens High School concert is on March 12th.

Threat Assessment

Jeri Deady and Troy Monson presented the board with information on the St. Helens School District's Threat Assessment team. The development of the team started last spring and now the district has an established Level I and Level II Assessment Team.

Mr. Monson explained that after several serious school killings research has found that there is no set profile to a shooter, there is just a loss in the perpetrators' life. With this finding, threat assessment teams are developed to assess the level and type of a threat. The goal is to disrupt a problem before it escalates.

After a threat is implied or an act of violence occurs, administration refers the situation to the threat assessment team. The team, within a twenty-four hour period, meets. This meeting consists of staff and the student's parents. The team then makes a recommendation that could include the need for a safety plan or sometimes a referral to a level II assessment. The goal during this time is to provide all children a safe education at all schools.

Mrs. Wallace questioned the identification of students who do not make threats or do not demonstrate violence but may be heading in that direction.

Mr. Monson explained that an administrator can at any time make recommendation to the team and there are other programs in place such as PBS and targeted intervention.

Mrs. Saatvedt questioned an increase in stressors from the economy.

Mr. Monson noted the team is in a position to address those stressors and was confident they could assist should they need to.

Mr. Morrisson recognized the difficulty and unpleasantness of the situations that require this type of work and thanked Mrs. Deady and Mr. Monson for the framework they've provided.

2008-2009 Division 22 Assurances

Superintendent Adams explained the Oregon Department of Education requires an annual assessment of the Division 22 Standards and the district's compliance with the established standards will be reported on to the Board and the community. After an extensive review of the OAR's outlined, Superintendent Adams announced that the district has met all requirements.

Budget Forecast

Superintendent Adams reported on the recent budget forecast. The current forecast reflects a 5% cut to the remainder of the 2008-2009 budget which is a state revenue loss of \$855 million. The \$855 million loss translates to a reduction of \$1.4 million between now and the end of June. For the 2009-2010 year, there is a forecasted loss of \$3.1 billion to the state which equates to a \$2.5 million loss to the district next school year.

Funds that are available to our state and the schools need to be accessed. Currently the three advances are Obama's stimulus package, the state stimulus package, and the Rainy Day Fund. The governor does not want to utilize or use them; however, without these funds, schools will close early. The community was encouraged to contact the legislature to make the school year whole and to address next school year. Superintendent Adams also reviewed Obama's stimulus package. These funds will help and are established to go towards title services and special education, but they include very strict spending options. Updates will be provided to the board and staff as they come in and information on how to contact legislature will be posted on the district's webpage.

Deer Island Property

Mrs. Burns explained that the Deer Island Property estimate came in at approximately \$250,000.

Mrs. Wallace questioned the process and steps the board needed to take.

Mr. Morrisson explained the property would need to be declared surplus property and provided a brief explanation of the process from there.

The board was not prepared to take action on the item and requested information on leasing or renting the site prior to the next meeting.

Land Swap Update

Mrs. Burns reported the district signed contracts to finalize the land swap between the city, the district, and the hospital. The approximate money coming to the district for the capital fund is \$408,000. Discussion occurred on the length of time this swap has taken and it was noted this was due to easement issue.

ACTION ITEMS

St. Helens High School Physics Trip Request

On behalf of Jay Groom, Nanette Hagen requested permission for the SHHS physics group to travel out of state to San Francisco California and details of the March 13-17 trip were provided.

Jana Mann moved to approve the SHHS physics trip to San Francisco California. Bill Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Lisa Rawlings brought attention to the displayed pictures promoting reading. This donation was provided from Fred Bell Studios and the pictures were donated for the kick-off of Read Across America event.

Superintendent Adams addressed last week's illness related school attendance issue. Closing of schools in situations such as this was discussed and, unless the Public Health Department determines an epidemic that requires closure, schools will more than likely remain open. The attendance rate will continue to be monitored.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent