

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Work Session Meeting
September 14, 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 September 14, 2009.

Those present were:

David Morrisson, Board Chair
Benita Saatvedt, Board Vice Chair
Bill Crist, Board Member
Nathan Helwig, Board Member
Alan King, Board Member
Patricia Adams, Superintendent
Terri Burns, Director of Operations and Finance
Marleen Zytniowski, Interim Executive Assistant

Guests:

Dave Clark, The Chronicle
Erica Ryberg, The Spotlight
Michelle Johnson
Telka Peterson
Diana Peterson

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approval

Nathan Helwig moved to remove 4.3 from the action items of the agenda at this time. Benita Saatvedt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan King moved to remove 4.4 from the action items of the agenda at this time. Nathan Helwig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David Morrisson requested adding a discussion regarding the upcoming “Lending an Ear” forum to the agenda. Nathan Helwig moved that “Lending an Ear” be added as 3.11 to the Reports and Discussion items. Alan King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan King moved to add a discussion for notification of safety concerns to parents as 3.12 to the Reports and Discussion items. Benita Saatvedt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nathan Helwig moved to approve the agenda as amended. Alan King seconded the motion. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

Reports and Discussions

OAKS Results

Superintendent Adams shared the results of the OAKS testing with the School Board. Ms. Adams also explained that she would be sharing these reports with staff members at upcoming building staff

meetings. Ms. Adams highlighted all of the areas the district is showing improvement and discussed how the areas of concern would be addressed. The School Board will be hearing more information regarding how these areas will be targeted when the principals share their School Improvement Plans (SIP) with the School Board in October. Ms. Adams also discussed the possibility of having round table content discussions versus individual building presentations for sharing the SIP's. In addition Benita Saatvedt would like to see a better selection of books in some of our libraries. Ms. Adams offered to ask for a media report in the future. Several School Board members expressed concern with our science facilities at the high school. It was suggested to have a science facility task force to work on a 3 year plan for upgrading the science program. Linda D'Amario will be presenting her plan for improving secondary math scores at the next Board meeting.

Blueprint for Success

Ms. Adams presented a draft of the district's 5 year strategic plan *The Blueprint for Success* with the most recent revisions. The next step will be to share this plan at the upcoming staff meetings and encourage staff to give feedback. We will be working on how to get this document to the community.

District Mission Statement

Ms. Adams also discussed the mission statement changes to reflect the School Board's recommended additions of cultural diversity, creativity and science.

Community Safety Series

Ms. Adams shared the recent meeting with the Community Partners for Student Safety. The committee represents many different local organizations such as; Columbia County Mental Health, The St. Helens Police Department, Juvenile Department, Transportation, City of St. Helens, Acti-Dyne, Sacagawea, The Amani Center, Columbia County Women's Resource Center, Public Health, and St. Helens School District. The meeting took place to plan the safety series community forums. The priorities and dates identified were, October 8, 2009, H1N1, December 10, 2009, drug and alcohol, and April 8, 2010 child abuse and mental health.

H1N1

Robin Loper presented the district's plan and preparations under the direction of state and local health officials. The district has been preparing for a pandemic since 2007. Our focus is on prevention education and communications. Ms. Loper shared the different publications that have been posted throughout our schools and that have been sent home with our students as well as locations and how to find information on our website. All of the classrooms now have sanitizer hand dispensers. An all staff e-mail with H1N1 information and direction will be sent tomorrow. The curriculum plan is to teach students prevention procedures. Bill Crist would like to see encouragement for our students to keep their immune systems healthy. Benita Saatvedt mentioned seeing good things in the schools. Robin discussed the vaccinations that will be available in the schools and what that time frame might look like. We will have other prevention measures as the need arises. David Morrisson discussed taking direction from ODE regarding any absence policy adjustments. Ms. Loper also mentioned that this plan was formulated by a diverse group of district representatives made up of; Robin Loper, David Morrisson, Benita Saatvedt, Jeri Deady, Jamie Kingery, Leanne Haresnape and Marleen Zytniowski.

Community Involvement Message

Benita Saatvedt showed a PowerPoint on Community Involvement and discussed the forums that this can be used. She also discussed the information that will be available on the district website and the links. This was created to encourage community and school collaboration and involvement. David Morrisson suggested that we check on royalty or copyrights for the song used on the presentation. Alan King suggested having people who are involved in different community organizations show the PowerPoint at

their events such as; The Kiwanis, RSVP, Elks, Lions, Master Gardeners, Chamber of Commerce (Coffee Klatch), and others.

Budget Calendar for 2010

Terri Burns discussed the possible changes to the budget calendar. After much discussion it was determined that it is too early to make these changes. Alan King suggested that the entire Budget Committee be invited to attend events such as board meetings, site council meetings and any other priority determining meetings that would affect the activities and actions of this committee. Alan King would like to discuss this at an upcoming work session and invite the committee members to that meeting. David Morrisson recommends the priority discussion be on the January work session agenda. Patricia suggested that the January Board retreat could include the priorities affecting the Budget Committee.

Facility Contract

Terri Burns reviews the materials from the board packets indicating this is all of the paperwork that can be found for any written agreements with The Columbia Chorale of Oregon and The ShoeString Community Players. Ms. Burns wants the board to determine how to move forward. Benita Saatvedt asked if any board member has a conflict of interest or benefits financially by this agreement. Alan King announced that he volunteers for The ShoeString Community Players but sees no conflict of interest. David Morrisson recommended that the piano not be used as a leverage point any longer. Multi-year agreements were discussed. The benefits of these groups to the community and to the students were also discussed in detail. These groups want to continue to use the high school auditorium for free. These groups have contributed and plan to continue to contribute the upgrades to the auditorium. It was also suggested that we look at educational organizations, nonprofit, community and retail businesses having different terms. Ms. Burns suggested that we leave things as is for the remainder of this school year with the organizations using these facilities without charge. Next year, after Ms. Burns has a better idea of the costs and in-kind services a new formal contract will be presented. Mr. Morrisson would like something in writing for this year indicating the remainder of this year's agreement as an action item for the next board meeting.

Brown Land Temporary Easement

Terri Burns apologized for the delay and explained that the contract was just received today. This contract addresses a 10 year easement. This will be finalized to present to the Board at the next board meeting.

Columbia River PUD Utility Easement

Ms. Burns explained this easement is for relinquishing a small piece of land at the Yankton property behind the Holly Farm. This will allow an easement for power lines. The approval needed from the Board is to allow for David Morrisson and Terri Burns to sign this easement agreement.

Lending an Ear Community Forum

Superintendent Adams discussed the venues for community communications. Lending an Ear is one of those venues and the upcoming dates were announced along with a discussion whether the full Board should attend these or 2 representatives from the Board along with Superintendent Adams. The Board decided it would be best to have 1-2 members attend. Volunteers were then taken for the first forum which will take place at the St. Helens Best Western on September 24, 2009. The Board decided to attend these forums on a rotating basis with the first volunteers being Nathan Helwig and Benita Saatvedt. Marleen Zytniowski will send the schedule out to board members and the Board Chair will appoint members for the remainder of the meetings. Ms. Adams reiterated that this is a listening session to listen and gather information.

Discussion for notification to parents

Alan King presented a parent’s concerns about the safety in a school building recently. Ms. Adams stated that her goal is to ease and address parent concerns immediately. The parent should either be referred to the principal or the superintendent right away. Individual concerns will be addressed and we don’t want these concerns to be addressed at a later date. This also allows Ms. Adams the opportunity to share what goes into these decisions and why she may chose not to alarm parents and frighten children for what may not have the proven validity. Closures validate the threat. In this particular circumstance several precautions were taken throughout the day.

Action Items

Approval of August 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

Nathan Helwig moved to approve the August 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes. Bill Crist seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2010 Budget Calendar

Bill Crist moved to adopt the 2010 Budget Calendar as presented. Benita Saatvedt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Columbia River PUD Utility Easement

Alan King moved to approve the Columbia River PUD Utility Easement. Nathan Helwig seconded to motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda Input

Approval of Facility Contract with ShoeString Community Players and the Columbia Chorale was removed from this agenda to be placed on the next meeting’s agenda after a written agreement is provided by Ms. Burns.

Approval of Brown Land Temporary Easement was removed from this meeting’s agenda due to the contract just arriving and the Board needing time to review. This will also be on the next meeting’s agenda. Ms. Burns asked for individual feedback for the contract as soon as possible so she can be prepared for the next board meeting.

Adjournment

David Morrisson adjourned the September 14, 2009 work session meeting of the St. Helens School Board at 8:38 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent