

**St. Helens School District #502  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 15, 2010**

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 March 15, 2010.

Those present were:

Benita Saatvedt, Board Vice Chair  
Alan King, Board Member  
Bill Crist, Board Member  
Nathan Helwig, Board Member  
Patricia Adams, Superintendent  
Terri Burns, Director of Operations and Finance  
Amanda Stuber, Executive Assistant

Guests:

Cathy Carson	Nanette Hagen	Joanna Tobin
Karla Thompson	Michelle Nett	Lori Thompson
Neil Ford	Sherrie Ford	Bruce Carvalho
Jerry Meadows	Keith Meeuwsen	Diane Fentress-Rowe
Ben Pardue	Ashley Casey	Landon Roberts
Bill Rash	Landon Roberts	Lisa Rawlings
Eli O'Driscoll-Jones		

**Call to Order**

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

**Agenda Approval**

Nathan Helwig entered a motion to approve the agenda of the March 15, 2010 meeting. Alan King added a revision to agenda item 9.1 that corrected the wording of the April 12, 2010 Regular Meeting to the April 12, 2010 Work Session and seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment on Non Agenda Items**

Eli O'Driscoll-James from St. Helens High School addressed the board in support of the future request to eliminate the requirement of AP Euro in a future proposed revision to the Honors Diploma. Eli understood the courses usefulness but expressed difficulty with pursuing other career goals if history is not a student's major.

Ashley Casey and Arthur Truong spoke in favor of keeping AP Euro as an Honor Diploma requirement.

Sherri Ford from Columbia County Public Health provided an update on the recent change to services from Sacagawea Health Center that will allow for service to all grade levels in the SHSD as of April 5. A handout of the services was provided.

Landon Roberts from St. Helens High School spoke against the future Honors Diploma requirement revision. Landon stated the Honors Diploma is currently something that students work very hard for and

earn. With the proposed changes it gives the perception that the award is only a sticker to the regular diploma.

### **Special Recognition**

Due to an invitation error to the February meeting where Bill Rash was originally recognized for his recent award of the 2009-10 Coach of the Year Principal Nanette Hagen presented Mr. Rash with a certificate of appreciation and a small cake. Mr. Rash was nominated by his swim team and awarded the Coach of the Year for the third year in a row.

### **Consent Agenda**

Nathan Helwig moved and Alan King seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report  
General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Projection  
February 2010 Enrollment Information  
Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 22, 2010

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports and Discussions**

#### **ASB Report**

In place of Spencer Gordon, Ben Pardue reported on the recent Star Search fundraiser assembly where the Senior class came in first place. The February 26 Red Cross Blood Drive resulted in 89 donors with 75 pints of blood being eligible for use in emergency situations. The SHHS also raised \$1,850 for the Haiti Earth Quake relief fund for a total donation of over \$3,000 after the inclusion of the student body matching funds.

#### **Professional Learning Teams**

Superintendent Adams began the Professional Learning Teams report with a summary of the initiative that supports student achievement and introduced the presenters of the information on Professional Learning Teams.

St. Helens High School Principal Nanette Hagen shared a power point presentation on Professional Learning Teams. PLTs are a shift from a focus on teaching to a focus on learning through a coordination of strategies. The initial step in PLTs is to determine what the teacher wants each student to learn, how they will know when each student has learned it, and how the teacher will respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning. To accomplish students learning, strategies are coordinated and the teachers develop a culture of collaboration. Collaboration is achieved through adequate time to analyze and discuss curriculum guides and the will and desire to move from isolation to collaboration.

Lewis & Clark Intermediate Principal Cathy Carson shared her staff experiences with PLTs and provided data that showed student gains.

McBride Elementary School Assistant Principal Karla Thompson provided comments on the previous mind set where students were thought of as the classroom's students; the new thought is the student belongs to the school as a group. McBride Teacher Michelle Nett spoke in favor of PLTs and shared examples of her student gains since the implementation of PLTs at McBride. Student journal writing samples were provided as evidence to student learning.

Columbia City School Principal Lisa Rawlings reported this is the first year of PLTs at Columbia City School and explained the most important thing staff need for PLT success is time for PLT meetings.

St. Helens Middle School Principal Joanna Tobin reported this is the second year for PLTs at the middle school. The middle school is at a cross road and need adequate time to advance to the next level. The time after school from 3:45 to 4:00 is hard to meet with clubs and other after school activities occurring.

St. Helens High School Principal Nanette Hagen also added the high school met with Marta Turner from NWRES on Data Teams. The HS teams have been reviewing test scores and collaborating on how to assign students who are weak in certain areas to students who are strong in that area to assist with growth.

Mr. Helwig applauded the work of the team and encouraged them to continue the direction they are headed.

Mr. King expressed his appreciation for the shift to “are my students learning”. Mr. King made note on the different stages the buildings are in and questioned the trust issue among staff.

Mrs. Thompson shared that McBride spent time the first part of the year addressing trust and noted they are making progress. There will always be changes and staff will handle it accordingly as it occurs.

Mr. Crist applauded the work and understood the time constraint problem, the classroom interruptions, team conflicts, and how to address the upper academic level students.

Mrs. Saatvedt questioned discussion between grade levels at the end of the year.

Mrs. Carson explained there is grade level discussion and the PLT allows for this to occur but staff really need the time to do so.

#### SHSD Mid-Year Report

The board received in the March Board Meeting packet a 2009-10 Mid-Year Review report on the SHSD 2009-2014 Blueprint for Success. Superintendent Adams explained the mid-year review is a progress report on Student Achievement, Communications, Facilities, and Technology. Reported trends found in the progress report include an increase in the students who exceed, data rich people, K-12 teaming, there is collective work of many, and there is K-12 organizational long-range planning.

Areas of focus include ELL, the percentage of students not meeting, failing grades, and graduation. Immediate items put into place for ELL is an ELL data system, an ELL monitoring site visit from ODE at the end of the month, and targeted ELL instruction in specific strand data. Action taken for the percentage of students not meeting includes targeted instruction for specific stand data, increased assessment for grades K-2, and increased reading and math interventions at grades 3-5.

Challenges reported include class size; time for collaboration, they hope to address this through late start or early release on the 2010-11 school calendar; emotional and social needs; facilities; and budget.

There will be another update at the end of the year or the start of the 2010-11 school year after state testing is complete and the data is available.

#### 2010-11 Instructional Calendar

Superintendent Adams presented the board with a proposed 2010-2011 instructional calendar that was reviewed and supported by both the licensed and classified associations. Changes to the next year instructional calendar includes a later fall conference in November, no spring conference, and a Friday late start and/or early release to support Professional Learning Team collaboration.

Board and administrative discussion occurred on the late start/early release and how it would look. At this point the elementary through middle school are in favor of an early release and the high school is split. Either option will be a two hour reduction to the school day every Friday. Fridays were selected because of there amount of Fridays that are already non school days and the lower level of attention from students in the afternoon at the end of the week. The confirmed choice of late start and/or early release is still under review in the buildings.

#### Budget

Superintendent Adams reported Mrs. Burns is building the 2010-11 budget on a \$5.98 forecast. The principals have provided building budget priorities and will begin meeting with her tomorrow.

#### 2008-2009 Financial Audit

Director of Operations and Finance Terri Burns provided the board with a copy of the 2008-2009 Financial Audit. The board had no questions on the contents and findings of the audit.

#### Department of Energy Grant Update

Terri Burns announced the district has been awarded the Department of Energy Grant in the amount of \$137,000 to perform upgrades the HS Auditorium and Loo-Wit Room lighting. The bid will be released on Friday with selection on April 1. The project must be complete by June 15 and the ability to meet the completion deadline while working around scheduled activities will be a requirement of the approved bid.

Mrs. Burns requested board representation for the bid opening and will follow-up with Mr. Morrisson for his participation.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### Approval of eCHAMP Grant

St. Helens High School Math Teacher Neil Ford announced he recently applied for and has been awarded an eCHAMP Grant that will bring an engineering and robotics after school program to SHHS. Mr. Ford reviewed the contents of the grant and requested the board agree to fund the matching \$1,500 towards the eCHAMP coach stipend. The expected number of participants is 10 – 15 students and the program and will start September 2010.

Alan King questioned how to encourage female student participation.

Mr. Ford explained he is currently a 4H leader of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who work with Legos and there are two female students in the group. He is hoping this program will increase female interest.

Mr. Helwig requested an applicant selection process for interested students be developed and entered a motion to approve the eCHAMP Grant with the allowance of the requested matching funds of \$1,500 for the eCHAMP coach stipend. Bill Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Oregon Community Foundation “Improving Literacy Through Teacher Training and Coordination”

Superintendent Adams announced and provided a summary of the Improving Literacy Through Teacher Training and Coordination Grant county grant the Columbia County Superintendents have sought.

Alan King entered a motion to approve the Improving Literacy Through Teacher Training and Coordination Grant. Nathan Helwig seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of New Policy IGAI Human Sexuality, AIDS/HIV, Sexuality Transmitted Diseases, Health Education

Nathan Helwig entered a motion to approve new policy IGAI as previously revised. Alan King seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2010-11 School Year Calendar

Nathan Helwig entered a motion to approve the presented 2010-2011 school year calendar with the late start and early release option being determined at a later date. Bill Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Readiness and Emergency Grant

Superintendent Adams provided a summary of the Columbia County Readiness and Emergency Grant in the amount of \$300,000 and requested board approval for pursuit.

Nathan Helwig entered a motion to approve the Readiness and Emergency Grant. Alan King seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items**

Mr. Meeuwsen addressed the board on the upcoming Honors Diploma. Mr. Meeuwsen expressed his disagreement with the counseling staff’s decision to revise the Honors Diploma course requirements.

**Superintendent and Board Communication & Correspondence**

The board acknowledged the received communication.

**Upcoming Meeting Input**

No upcoming meeting input was provided.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Superintendent