

St. Helens School District
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 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 April 12, 2010.

Those present were:

Benita Saatvedt, Board Vice Chair
Bill Crist, Board Member
Alan King, Board Member
Nathan Helwig, Board Member
Patricia Adams, Superintendent
Amanda Stuber, Executive Assistant

Guests present were:

Nanette Hagen	Joanna Tobin	Keith Meeuwsen
Michelle Johnson	Linda Ayers	Sally Norbom
Julia Clark	Rich Bailey	Bob Ellington
Durrell Kearsley		

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approval

Nathan Helwig moved to approve the agenda as presented. Alan King seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports & Discussion

Construction Excise Tax

Superintendent Adams reported she met with a group of local builders and was presented with a request to waive the Construction Excise Tax imposed between the district and City of St. Helens in 2007. Excise Tax is paid by residential and commercial builders then passed onto the buyer in the selling price at a current rate of \$1.00 per square foot for residential buildings. During the meeting the impact the tax has against building in St. Helens and Columbia County versus other areas was discussed. Not all school districts throughout the state of Oregon capitalize on the additional revenue from the tax and St. Helens School District is one of the main districts who implemented the full collection amount. Some districts have imposed the tax with a sliding scale that gradually increases and one district tied the tax to the economy. The collected revenue from the CET to SHSD per year has been approximately \$75,000.

Three of the four local builders who met with Superintendent Adams, Durrell Kearsly, Rich Bailey and Bob Ellington provided the board with their personal and business experience in the district and requested the board consider waiving the entire tax for a temporary period of time. The builders expressed a concern with the lower new home sales in the area as compared to Scappoose and expressed an interest in increasing those sales to bring in more tax revenue to the city and district.

Options entertained by the board included waiving the tax completely, reducing it, reducing it and basing it on a sliding scale, reducing it and tying it to triggers based on the economy, and tying it to the passing of a bond. The board will revisit the Excise Tax item at the April 26 Board Meeting.

ELL

St. Helens Middle School Principal Joanna Tobin announced ODE has been conducting ELL program monitoring visits throughout the state of Oregon in preparation of a Federal visit and SHSD had their visit last week. The charge of an ELL program is to identify ELL students and develop the curriculum from their currently level of English proficiency to meet the student's educational needs.

Mrs. Tobin shared a summary of ODE's monitoring visit findings. During the monitoring visit exit interview, positive items shared were the peer to peer respect between the lower grade levels and the growth and level of instruction at the secondary level. Areas of continued growth include the improving of cultural awareness and why students are getting stuck in growth. Mrs. Tobin expressed the helpfulness of the monitoring visit and explained the official findings will be communication from ODE via mail at a future date.

Honors Diploma

St. Helens High School Principal Nanette Hagen explained that during to the recent statewide graduation requirements change discussion began between staff and the St. Helens High School's site council on the revision of St. Helens High School's Honors Diploma. The current board policy administrative rule requires students maintain a four year cumulative GPA of 3.4, the completion of AP European US History 11 and Language Arts 12 Honors, one Career Pathway Concentration, and five credits of the 16 courses listed in a menu of rigorous courses. The difference in the requested revision is the moving of the AP European History course to would no longer be required. AP European History would be added to the menu of class options.

Mrs. Saatvedt questioned the ability of a gifted student on a 504 Plan being eligible for an Honors Diploma.

Mrs. Hagen answered that the student's eligibility would need to be reviewed on a case by case base.

Mr. King commented on the student testimony provided at the last meeting regarding the elimination of AP European History and expressed his concerns with moving forward before hearing more.

Superintendent Adams reminded the board that the recommended revision was made by the high school department heads and site council and noted the current forecast for the AP European History reflects nine students enrolled. Her discomfort with going against the site council's recommendation was expressed. To assist with the decision to retain or eliminate AP European History from the Honors Diploma the board was reminded that they will receive a report on Oregon graduation requirements and diploma options at the April 26 meeting. The Honors Diploma will be revisited at the April 26 regular board meeting.

Budget

Superintendent Adams reported building principals have met with staff and have provided the Superintendent's Office their proposed 2010-11 budget priorities and a K-12 budget priorities list has been developed. Class sizes are high, the new graduation requirements and technology standards are requiring a need for staff and computer labs, and there are unknowns tied with contract negotiations. The hope is to maintain the current level of services. Numbers to go with the budget priorities are currently being worked.

First Reading Revised Policies and Administrative Rule

The board conducted a first reading on required revisions to policy IIA- Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials and IKF – Graduation Requirements. The board questioned if the revisions on policy IIA were federal or state. This was unknown at the time of the meeting. OSBA will be contacted for a response.

Budget Committee Applications Review

The interview of Budget Committee applicant Sally Norbom began with a biography of herself and her family that included a number of years of volunteering in the schools and accounting experience in a CPA office. The remainder of the interview included six questions that Mrs. Norbom provided answers to. Action on the appointment or non-appointment of Mrs. Norbom to the St. Helens School District's Budget Committee will occur at the April 26th regular board meeting.

Action Items

Resolution 2009-10 No. 13: Appropriating Special Revenue Funds

Mr. Helwig entered a motion to table the un-provided Resolution 2009-10 No. 13: Appropriating Special Revenue Funds. Mr. Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rescind Board Policy IGAEA: HIV, AIDS, HBV and HCB, Health Education

Mr. Helwig moved to rescind board policy IGAEA – HIV, AIDS, HBV and HCB, Health Education. This policy was replaced by newly adopted policy IGAI. Mr. Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board and Superintendent Correspondence

Mr. Helwig questioned the district's ability to meet the curriculum request in the SHMS site council minutes.

Superintendent Adams explained the budget is tight and a lot of the 2010-11 budget is contingent on negotiations.

Audience member Linda Ayers questioned if public comment on the Honors Diploma would be taken at the April 26 board meeting.

Mrs. Saatvedt confirmed that public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items will be taken at the regular meeting on April 26, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent