

**St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Meeting
May 10, 2010**

Following an executive session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (d) regarding negotiations the District School Board of School District #502, Columbia County, Oregon convened in a Work Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Office of the District, County and State on May 10, 2010.

Those present were:

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

Guests:

Jeri Deady	Nanette Hagen	Erin , The Chronicle
Lisa Rawlings	Lori Thompson	Michelle Johnson

Call To Order

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

Agenda Approval

Bill Crist entered a motion to approve the May 10, 2010 work session agenda as presented. Benita Saatvedt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports and Discussion

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Adams reported the district is on track with the 2010-11 budgeting process timeline. The next step includes administrative team finalization of budget priorities for completion of a balanced proposed 2010-11 budget for the May 19 budget meeting where the Superintendent Budget Message will be delivered. Superintendent Adams explained the district is expecting a shortfall to the 2010-11 budget and has met with licensed and classified staff association representatives last week regarding upcoming reductions. To absorb some of the shortfall it has been recommended to use \$300,000 of the contingency fund and to pull from various accounts to retain staff and advance in the direction outlined in the district's Blue Print for Success. The district will also absorb some of the shortfall through attrition; shifting of staff from school to school to fit with class sizes as they shift from school to school; and there will be reductions to administrative, confidential, licensed, and classified staff.

Mr. Morrisson questioned the financial savings if 6th grade were moved to the middle school.

Superintendent Adams explained the effectiveness of the buildings as they are currently being used would need to be researched before an answer could be provided.

Mrs. Burns added the middle school could not accommodate the 6th grade at this time. The board was reminded that the most fiscally sound configuration would be a K-6 or K-5 configuration.

Superintendent Adams reminded the board of the May 18 Community Partners Student Spotlight Breakfast at the Best Western. The event will showcase Lion's Catering and Lewis & Clark Explorer Newscast Productions, display student art and ceramic work, St. Helens High School student Erik Schmauss will perform, and student speakers Melanie Naillon and Kirstie Yabut will speak to community involvement.

The superintendent report concluded with the results from The St. Helens Student Foundation's Apprentice project from the district sponsored teams who took on a beautification project at St. Helens High School. Both teams provided landscaping updates to outside areas of the high school. The board and community were encouraged to visit the school to observe the projects.

Art Leadership Panel

Mrs. Lori Thompson provided a report on the second year of the Art Leadership Panel. The panel includes staff members Betsy Penziol, Cathy Lambert, Danielle Gahr, Christine Rustan, Nancy Zsak, Noelle Hamblin, Michelle Tullock, and herself. Teacher workshops during the 2009-10 school year included artist from community volunteers Bill Crist and Cathy Lambert, John Early from Young Audiences, and Bruce Orr. With the funds allotted to the Art Panel the team compiled art kits for clay projects, paint brushes, texture and print making materials for kits. Mrs. Thompson thanked the district for the support and announced the district was recently recognized by Young Audiences and received the Young Audiences Sunburst Award. The award is on display in the district office board room.

Mrs. Saatvedt questioned designated areas for art in the buildings. Mrs. Thompson explained McBride has an art room, Lewis and Clark holds art lessons in the classrooms, and the middle school has a clay area. The buildings would love to have a designated area but the current set up does not prohibit Art lessons in the classrooms.

K-2 Assessment

Mrs. Lisa Rawlings reviewed the purpose of formative and summative assessment and explained even though there is no statewide assessment at grades K-2, McBride students are assessed in the classroom. The district has been looking at ways to conduct assessments in a lab type of setting at McBride and has added the ability to do this to the curriculum budget. They will be working to achieve this goal for next school year.

New Teacher Mentor Program

Mrs. Lisa Rawlings announced this year the district joined Beaverton, Gaston, Banks, and Vernonia School Districts in an ODE grant funded New Teacher Mentor Program. The New Teacher Mentor Program has been a success and has connected new teachers with experienced teachers in and out of the district in their content area. The district has signed on as an interested district to continue next year. If the grant is approved, SHSD will only have three of the nine currently eligible teachers who will continue. More information will be provided to the board following an approval of the grant for 2010-11.

9-12 Math Textbook Adoption

Linda D'Amario presented the board with a 9-12 math textbook adoption proposal. The Math Adoption Committee consisted of Linda D'Amario, William Dash, Mary Downey, Alexia Hamilton, Roger Patterson, Tonya Arnold, BG Aguirre and Mary Wells during BG's leave, and Lisa Rawlings. The timeline was presented as follows:

- October 2009 the selection criterion was developed.
- November 2009 ODE's Instructional Materials Caravan was attended. It was learned that many of the publishers merged which means there were three publishers to choose from.
- December 2009 the field of options was narrowed down.
- January 2010 planning of the pilot was done and the piloting materials were received.
- January – March 2010 piloting of the publishers occurred.

The committee's decision was based on the district, not individual classrooms. Prior to budget considerations the pilot resulted in McDougal Littell for Traditional Math and Core-Plus for Integrated Math. However, after budget considerations, the recommendation includes SIMMS for Integrated Math, McDougal Littell for Traditional Math, Calculus: Early Transcendentals and Elementary Statistics: A Step by Step Approach for PSU Challenge Program, and Personal Finance Literacy for Personal Finance.

The next step is to display the selection to parents. This will be available for parent preview at SHHS library May 17 through May 21. Parents will be notified through a School Connects message on May 11.

Budget

Terri Burns commented on a proposed reduction to the contingency fund and the received insurance premium increase notification from OEBC. Mrs. Burns explained the contingency fund is often reserved for emergency situations. In the event of a natural emergency the district's insurance would kick in. The insurance premium increase came in at 25% instead of the initially estimated 20% which means the budget will include a higher amount for insurance benefits.

First Reading New and Revised Board Policies

IKF-AR Graduation Requirements: Principal Hagen explained that since budget discussions are again steering towards more reductions the district's graduation credit requirements have been looked at closer. SHHS is currently one credit above the state required credits of 24 and it was proposed to reduce the requirements by one credit through .5 Social Studies credit and a .5 elective reductions. This would open the window for students to take advantage of SB300, internships, and even work release. The proposed change would be effective the 2010-11 school year.

Mr. King expressed frustration with the request as it tells students we can no longer afford to teach you and reduces teaching staff responsibility.

Principal Hagen reminded the board that it also opens the window to more students accessing SB300.

Following discussion and deliberation on the proposal the board was split on reducing the graduation requirement to 24 credits. A clear explanation of the proposed credit reduction will be provided for consideration in the proposal at the next meeting.

IGAL – Optional All Day Kindergarten: The board received a proposed new policy for all day kindergarten. No questions were provided.

Action Items

April 12, 2010 Work Session Minutes

Alan King entered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2010 work session. Benita Saatvedt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

April 26, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

Benita Saatvedt entered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2010 regular meeting. Bill Crist seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. for a five minute recess and reconvened at 8:10 p.m. and interviewed Budget Committee applicant Jana Mann.

Following a five minute recess the board reconvened in public session at 8:10 and interviewed Budget Committee applicant Jana Mann.

At the conclusion of the interview Mr. King entered a motion to add action item 3.9 appointing Budget Committee members to the agenda. Benita Saatvedt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Benita Saatvedt entered a motion to appoint Jana Mann for a three year term and Adam Sommers for a one year term on the St. Helens School District’s Budget Committee. Alan King seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent