

St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2012

Following the adjournment of a 5:30 p.m. Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (d) regarding labor negotiations, the District School Board of School District #502, Columbia County, Oregon convened in a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of McBride Elementary School on January 25, 2012.

Those present were:

Alan King, Board Chair
Marshall Porter, Board Vice Chair
Matt Freeman, Board Member
Nathan Helwig, Board Member
Raymond Biggs, Board Member
Mark Davalos, Superintendent
Janine Salisbury, Business Manager
Amanda Stuber, Executive Assistant

Call to Order

Alan King called the regular session to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

Agenda Approval

Prior to agenda approval Nathan Helwig entered a motion removing agenda item 6.2 (Instructional Material Reconsideration) from the agenda. With no second to the motion, the motion failed.

Marshall Porter entered a motion to remove 6.4.10 and 6.4.18 from the agenda since the two items had not been received during the January 11th meeting and add the two items as 6.6 as distribution. Nathan Helwig seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Helwig entered a motion approving the agenda as revised. Mr. Porter seconded. The motion approving the amended agenda unanimously carried.

Visitors to Address the Board

Prior to the start of visitor comments, Mr. Helwig explained the intent of the discussion of agenda item 6.2 was regarding the process of the committee's recommendation pertaining to The House on Mango Street reconsideration request. Mr. Helwig reminded the Board that comments during this agenda item were for non-agenda items and asked that input on The House on Mango Street discussion be held during public comment regarding agenda items.

Mr. King proceeded with the public comment agenda item where the following comments were provided:

St. Helens High School graduate Katie VanWinkle provided an emotional and strong statement in favor of The House on Mango Street as a middle school reading.

Keith Meeuwsen read a statement as SHEA President that expressed concern on the district crisis from declined enrollment and declining revenue and advocated to not cut school days because of the impact on student instructional time.

Former St. Helens High School graduate and University of Oregon senior Sam Chapman provided emotional quotes from former St. Helens School District students who were in full support of the continuation of The House on Mango Street at the middle school level. Mr. Chapman also expressed his experience with the tasteful delivery of instruction by Mr. Sanders when the reading occurs.

Mr. King thanked the visitors for their comments then explained there is a formal process for curriculum review appeals that the Board will hear more on later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Nathan Helwig entered a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Regular Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2011

Human Resources Report – January 2012

General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Report – December 2011

Student Enrollment/Attendance Report – December 2011

Marshall Porter seconded. The motion approving the consent agenda unanimously carried.

Special Recognition

In honor of School Board Recognition month Superintendent Davalos recognized each Board Member and presented them with a certificate of appreciation and gift certificate.

Reports and Discussion

SHHS ASB Report

Amanda Katz reported on the successful winter festival week prior to winter break, announced Winter Ball on Saturday January 28th at The Olde School and the Winter Ball Court, and the upcoming annual blood drive.

Instructional Material Reconsideration

Due to a technology issue the Board moved to agenda item 6.4.

First Reading or Proposed New, Revised or Rescinded Board Policies

Optional new policy AD – Educational Philosophy: Mr. Helwig expressed interest to not move policy AD Educational Philosophy forward for adoption. Mr. Freeman seconded. The motion to not move optional new policy AD – Educational Philosophy forward for adoption unanimously carried.

The technology issue was corrected and the Board returned to agenda item 6.2.

SHSD Regular Meeting – January 25, 2012 – Approved March 21, 2012

Instructional Material Reconsideration

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Lisa Rawlings provided an overview of board policy IIA and administrative rule IIA-AR regarding instructional resources/instructional materials. Section three of the administrative rule addresses requests for reconsideration of materials that outlines procedures for district response to reconsideration requests, delineates committee membership, specifies chair and secretary designation, outlines meeting procedures, and lists options for the committee's final decision. Options for the committee's final decision includes taking no removal action, removal of all or part of the challenged material from the total school environment, or limitation of the educational use of the material.

Mr. Helwig interrupted Mrs. Rawlings report and requested postponement to preserve impartiality of the Board if an appeal on the decision was made. Mr. King denied the request.

Mrs. Rawlings continued the report with sharing the reconsideration committee decision to limit the educational use of The House on Mango Street as required reading in its entirety to the 9th - 12th grade level. Then explained committee's decision was based on the following concerns of:

- Mature content may not be appropriate for all students at the Middle School level.
- Text being required reading at this level.
- Social issues portrayed in the text, even though the material clearly has literary merit.
- Content standards taught using the reading may be effectively taught using other available resources.

Superintendent Davalos read a statement addressing the reconsideration committee decision where he thanked the committee was their time, input, honesty, and fairness in the difficult decision. The decision was clarified to limit use of the material which continues the availability of the material as an optional reading at middle school level and an allowable required reading at the 9th-12th grade level. The reading will still be available in the middle school library as a work of literature with merit and importance. Superintendent Davalos explained he believes the district's policy administrative rule falls short and does not provide for counter arguments to be considered in addressing the committee recommendation. Prior to accepting the committee's decision, Superintendent Davalos asked for time to revise the administrative rule and requested the reassembly the committee to review where and how the highly acclaimed novel is used, educationally, and where, if at all, the material was challenged as inappropriate. Therefore, at this time Superintendent Davalos did not accept the committee's recommendation at this time.

Mr. Helwig thanked the reconsideration committee for the work and for honoring the process.

Configuration of Schools Recommendation

Superintendent Davalos provided an overview of the Configuration Design Committee's charge and the work during December and January. Following the committee's work, the community and staff survey gathered 260 community and 87 staff member responses. The responses to retain the current configuration were to preserve the cost and to maintain current successes. The next favorable

configuration options were K-5 then K-6. Concerns shared in the survey included cost, time, human toll, splitting neighborhoods and a district divide. Benefits include less bus time and fewer routes, increased learning, more parent involvement, connections and consistency.

Superintendent Davalos also shared a first year budget analysis that included the closing of Columbia City School, two K-6 schools, and two K-5 schools and a 6-8 middle school. The net savings of two K-6 schools after using the savings of closing Columbia City School is \$156,482. The net cost of two K-5 schools and 6-8 middle school after using the savings of closing Columbia City School is \$61,198.

Prior to sharing of Superintendent Davalos' recommendation he acknowledged the short timeline for the Board to review the survey results and reminded the Board of the option to postpone Board action until the February 8th Work Session to allow more time to review the survey results and budget information. To achieve the goal of a sound education that would reduce some of the budget reductions the district will need to make, Superintendent Davalos recommended a K-6, 7-8 & 9-12 configuration the included the closing of Columbia City School.

Raymond Biggs asked if closing St. Helens Middle School would be an option instead of closing Columbia City School.

Superintendent Davalos expressed concern with Columbia City being able to handle the capacity.

Matt Freeman asked if closing Columbia City School would eliminate community use of fields, etc.

Superintendent Davalos explained it would have to close in its entirety unless a user fee is implemented for all use.

Nathan Helwig questioned the moving expense estimates. He noted the cost was higher the last time than it was now and asked if input from staff that moved the last time provided. Janine Salisbury explained the moving costs were obtained from maintenance and explained not as many staff would be moving in this reconfiguration scenario. The reconfiguration scenario for a K-6, 7-8 & 9-12 configuration includes all of Columbia City, half of McBride and half of Lewis & Clark staff.

Mr. Helwig expressed a need to see the moving cost increased and the need to compensate staff for the time put into the move. Janine Salisbury agreed to revise the moving cost and Superintendent Davalos encouraged Board Members to meet with Mrs. Salisbury prior to next meeting where revised budget information will be provided.

Mr. Biggs expressed concern with the condition of SHMS and asked if upgrades have been considered. Superintendent Davalos noted there is a long standing postponed maintenance projects due to budgetary issues.

SHMS Principal Joanna Tobin shared information on recent upgrades and, even though the building is not as beautiful as most, noted she is not aware of any major structural needs.

Marshall Porter concord with Mr. Biggs concerns of SHMS condition and questioned what the district will do to improve the condition if the configuration occurs. Superintendent Davalos answered repairs would need done a little bit at a time.

First Reading

During review of the provided policies, changes were made or information was requested as listed:

- AE – District Goals: No additional comments provided
- BDDH – Public Participation in Board Meetings: Marshall Porter questioned removal of “and address” language. It was explained the removal was consistent with the Board not requiring the information from speakers who address the Board. Following discussion between Board Members on retention or removal of the language, consensus to revise the language to include identification of a speakers resident district as follows: Raymond Biggs, yes; Alan King, yes; Marshall Porter, yes; Nathan Helwig, no; and Matt Freeman, no.
- EB - Safety Program: Required rescind, no comments provided.
- EB – AR - Regulations Regarding the Application of Pesticides: Required rescind, no comments provided.
- EBB – Accident Prevention & Safety Procedures: Superintendent Davalos was requested to identify the designate maintenance person as the Integrated Pest Manager
- EBB – AR Regulations Regarding the Application of Pesticides: It was noted the Board does not adopted administrative rules, the item was provided as an information only item.
- EFAA – District Nutrition & Food Services: Required revisions reviewed, no comments provided.
- ECAB – Vandalism/Malicious Mischief/Theft: A typo was noted in the fourth paragraph. This item will be corrected and reflected during the second reading.
- IGBHE – Expanded Options Program: Questions on IGBHE were deferred to the Curriculum Director. The required policy revisions were tabled to the February 8th Work Session.
- IKA – Grading System: Required revisions reviewed, no comments provided.
- IKF – Graduation Requirements: During review of the required revisions, Superintendent Davalos, on behalf of St. Helens High School administration, requested the elimination of the option for SHHS student participation in graduation exercises if he/she is within one half credit of the total number required to receive a diploma. Mr. Freeman questioned how many students the revision will impact. This was unknown at this time. Mr. Helwig was not in favor of the recommended change. More information was requested for the February 8th Work Session.
- IKFB – Graduation Exercises: Mr. Porter noted ORS 329.035 is no longer valid. This will be removed for the second reading. Superintendent Davalos requested, on behalf of SHHS administration to remove the one half credit item that allows for students to participate in graduation exercises. More information was requested from SHHS at the February 8th meeting.
- JE – Attendance: Required revisions reviewed with no additional revisions requested. Information on when and how the calls go out was requested and will be forwarded.
- JECB - Admission of Nonresident Students: Required revisions reviewed with no additional revisions requested.

- JED – Student Absences & Excuses: Required revisions reviewed with no additional revisions requested.
- JGAA – Use of Restraint & Seclusion: Required revisions reviewed. Nathan Helwig asked if the district has a system in place. Jeri Deady, Director of Special Programs confirmed the district does and was proactive in development prior to requirement. Required revisions reviewed, no additional comments provided.
- JHFE - Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse: Required revisions reviewed with no additional revisions requested.
- JN – Student Fees, Fines & Charges: Required revisions reviewed with no additional revisions requested.
- JO/IGBAB - Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities: Required revisions reviewed with no additional revisions requested.
- KBA – Public Records Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities: Required revisions reviewed, no comments provided.

Superintendent Evaluation Process & Meetings

Mr. King announced the superintendent evaluation will begin at the February 8th Work Session during executive session. Comments and ranking will be compiled on February 8 then reviewed and approved at the February 25th Regular Board Meeting. Mr. King requested the Board send information requests to him prior to the February 8th meeting.

Public Participation Regarding Agenda Items

Jennifer Greely with students in the district questioned why the district is considering reconfiguration again when it was postponed in 2008 due to a budget shortfall.

Action Items

SHSD Configuration

The configuration recommendation from Superintendent Davalos was a K-6, 7-8 and 9-12 configuration.

Matt Freeman entered a motion to approve Superintendent Davalos' recommendation to move to a K-6, 7-8 and 9-12 configuration and close Columbia City School. Alan King seconded.

Nathan Helwig expressed concern of it being too early for him to make a final decision and asked for action postponement for more time to review the budget and survey information further.

Mr. Freeman explained his motion to move forward was due to the projected timeline. Mr. Freeman noted he was not on the board during the 2008 reconfiguration process so he did not understand how it was a cost the district when the K-6 budget information presented tonight was a savings. Mr. Freeman expressed a desire to see the savings used to retain staff, school days, or reduce class sizes.

Mr. King explained his second to the motion was based on the research that shows student achievement increase with fewer transitions. Mr. King expressed confidence in the provided budget figures and noted that a majority of the survey and public comments were regarding spending money the district does not have. With the budget information reflecting a savings, Mr. King expressed his strong interest to move forward and commented on the district's lack of follow through.

A member from the audience asked if additional public comment on agenda items would be taken since no additional comments were asked for after the first comment was given.

Mr. King asked the Board if the Board wanted to open the meeting to a public forum. No input on the request was provided.

Mr. Porter was in agreement with the short timeline to review the survey and budget information and expressed interest in giving more time for community input.

Mr. Biggs spoke against the motion, not the reconfiguration. Mr. Biggs commented on his building/maintenance experience and requested permission to look at the inside of the middle school. He also requested dedication of savings above \$100,000 for SHMS repairs.

Mr. Biggs entered a motion to table the decision until the February 8th Work Session. Mr. Porter seconded. The motion to table official reconfiguration to a K-6, 7-8 and 9-12 configuration carried as follows: Marshall Porter, yes; Nathan Helwig, yes; Raymond Biggs, yes; Alan King, yes; and Matt Freeman, abstained.

Nathan Helwig amended the motion to accept Superintendent Davalos recommendation to reconfigure SHSD to a K-6, 7-8 and 9-12 configuration and to move forward with boundary committee while the board reviews budget concerns and survey information, but not approve the recommendation to reconfigure until the February 8th Work Session. Marshall Porter second. The motion carried as follows: Alan King, yes; Matt Freeman, yes; Marshall Porter, yes; Nathan Helwig, yes; and Ray Biggs abstained.

Adjournment for Executive Session

The Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. into Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (d) regarding labor negotiations. Public, staff and press were not permitted to attend.

Reconvene Regular Session & Adjournment

The regular session was reconvened at 9:20 p.m. and immediately adjourned.

Board Chair

Superintendent