

St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors Meeting
October 9, 2013

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Work Session at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room of the District, County and State on October 9, 2013.

Those present were:

Marshall Porter, Board Chair
Gordon Jarman, Board Vice Chair
Kellie Smith, Board Member
Raymond Biggs, Board Member
Jeff Howell, Board Member
Mark Davalos, Superintendent
Janine Salisbury, Business Manager
Donna Rethati, Executive Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Marshall Porter called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Raymond Briggs entered a motion to approve the agenda. Kellie Smith seconded.

The motion approving the agenda as presented unanimously carried.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Wilbert Mueller, President of St. Helens Sports Booster Club, spoke of the benefits to school sports, including the larger number of students who participate in sports compared to other extra-curricular activities. He pointed out they need to meet behavior and academic rigor to participate in sports and the physical activity is good for their health. He spoke about Club sports filling the void, but how not all families can afford the cost. He also believes the sports are a benefit to the community with students having their time focused and not just hanging around town. He spoke of how the Booster Club would help, but couldn't pay for Middle School sports in whole. He introduced a Letter from Kyle Boggs which was shared with the board.

Rich Bailey, a Booster Club member, spoke of the importance of all middle school sports being reinstated. He voiced his concern about the cost of club sports and the participation of parents on weekends excluding some students from participating. He also spoke of the mentoring that a coach gives to the students and how valuable it is. He mentioned that high school numbers are down.

Michelle Tullock, teacher in district for 23 years, spoke in support of a self supporting sports program, but cautioned that using budget dollars would take away from academic needs we have presently. She pointed out that sports include many costs such as officials, coaches, transportation, bussing, supervision, athletic director, custodian and substitutes for teachers who are coaching. She mentioned that having academic boosters would be a great asset to advocate for smaller class, text books, technology, support staff and library. She believes with the current class numbers students are not getting the individual attention they need. She agreed that students blossom under the challenge of sports and the cooperative spirit, but feels academic growth and achievement need to be addressed first. She passed out an article for the board to read.

Kimberly Brandt, St. Helens School District parent, expressed her concern that the result of no PE or sports is a decrease in muscles, diabetes on the rise and Olympics and military are weakened. She pointed out she is in favor of sports, but parents don't always have the personal budget to accommodate their kids participation. She spoke of being creative for funding such as the possible opportunity to get organizations to help sponsor our sports program. She expressed concern that sports not be pitted against academic needs.

Jake Carter, St. Helens School District parent, stated he was fortunate to have sports when he was in Jr. High. He believes sports develop skills such as the challenge of competition, help learn adaptive skills and learn about resolving conflicts. He gave a challenge to start academic boosters. He shared good leaders comes down to how well you deal and adapt and this can be found in sports.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Davalos spoke of school visits he made this week and the many good things going on in our buildings. He pointed out how McBride teachers are posting learning goals on the board daily to draw attention to the skills the students will be learning that day. He applauded the Daily lesson plans he saw prepared and how the Middle School teachers were hard at work teaching respectful and engaged students.

He spoke of meetings he had this week, in conjunction with the teachers association presenting the budget systems workings through slides. He fielded many great questions and feels that the staff appreciated the meetings. He spoke of the suffering in the lean budget times and the effect the 8 furlough days had on staff.

Superintendent Davalos also shared he accepted the McBride principal's recommendation to place instructional assistants into the 3rd grade classrooms with additional time to assist in 5th grade classrooms to help with large class sizes. A couple of hours at Lewis & Clark will be given to help with math instruction as well, and the Middle School will receive help with lunch

support or computer lab support. This funding will come from shaving off some of the insurance and other buffers.

He announced tomorrow the first STEM meeting will be held at Columbia City School at 6:00 pm. The next meeting will be held in two weeks and advertising will come out soon. These meetings will build information to bring back to the board.

The Race to the Top Grant will no longer be pursued due to the difficult and challenging logistics, competitiveness and small number of grants awarded. There are a number of grants with the Oregon Department of Education coming in three phases that are being considered.

Neil Ford was awarded a Robotics First Grant for \$3,000.

Tom's Driving Academy Facility Use

Superintendent Davalos met with Commissioner Earl Fischer to go over past discussion of this new program. He will need to contact Andy Croley, former St. Helens High School principal, to see what commitments were originally made by him. Details will be available within the next week and possible action will be taken at the October 23rd board meeting.

District Office Staffing

Superintendent Davalos reminded board that talking about individual positions in a public meeting is not allowed. He acknowledged that he had provided the information requested on the dollar amount needed for the added hours at the district office. He voiced his concern on adding anything at the District Office when not everything has been brought back district wide including one furlough day still off the school calendar this year. Mr. Jarman expressed concern that the board was told everything was brought back, however the support staff at the district office that helps to complete tasks in a timely manner has not been reinstated. Concerns were brought up over the paving of the High School parking lot when class sizes and staffing are not where they need to be. It was mentioned that spreading projects out in increments could save some general funds for other needs. The comment was made that the insurance company charges higher premiums if safety standards aren't met such as the High School bleachers and parking lot. There was discussion that the students come first and priorities need to be set with balance in mind, including projects like paving and leaky roofs which can't be postponed indefinitely.

SHMS Athletics

Mr. Howell spoke of a meeting he had with Mark Janke to bring back Middle School sports. Mr. Janke addressed the board with a spreadsheet itemizing cost and revenues he developed after much work with SHEA and the boosters club to bring back a self-supported Middle School sports program. Copies of the spread sheet were presented to the board. The spreadsheet indicates that all sports were included with the exception of football due to its high expense tag

and other factors. He mentioned that the cost of substitute teachers for coaching teachers was not included on the spreadsheet, but it was confirmed by Janine the cost would be about \$100. for a half day which would equate to approximately \$2,800 per year. Mr. Janke spoke to SHEA asking to reduce coach's stipends to \$1000. at the Middle School level to help with cost. This could be of concern since the High School and Middle School sports stipends would be different. He said the Middle School has \$15,000 in an account carried over for sports from 2010-11 to help with any overages. Sports would be funded by user and admission fees. He would propose that if sports are reinstated they start with the winter sports league which begins November 1. His bussing cost were calculated after contacting Durham for a per mile and stand by rate and then used Google maps to estimate the cost. Uniforms and equipment would be provided by the Booster Club, which he has contacted. The need for new Middle School outdoor bleachers was brought up, but it was determined that track was to be held at the High School, so no Middle School sports would be in need of new bleachers at this time. A concern over students who can't afford sports was addressed with 15% being held back in Mr. Janke's proposal to sponsor students. The Booster Club also works with athletics to scholarship students who cannot afford the cost.

There was a motion made by Jeff Howell that Superintendent Davalos move forward to have agreements in place with SHEA and St. Helens Booster Club by next board meeting. It was seconded by Marshall Porter. Kellie Smith was in favor.

Policy Updates – Second Reading

CCG – Licensed evaluations – Required – Superintendent Davalos would like the first line “annually” changed to “annually for probationary administrators and every other year for contract administrators”

He would also recommend renaming the following 6 standards –

Old:

New:

Visionary leadership – Vision and Goals

Instructional improvement – Teaching and Learning

Effective management – Management; managing organization systems and safety

Inclusive practice –Collaboration with families and stakeholders

Ethical leadership – Ethics and integrity

Socio-political context – The educational system

Superintendent Davalos will send this out by the end of the week.

Policy Updates – First Reading

DJ –District Purchasing- Kellie Smith spoke to the Scappoose school district business manager where the board approves every purchase. She stated Scappoose doesn't have a minimum dollar amount, but every purchase is brought to the board for approval. She shared they also are given a check reconciliation every month. Superintendent Davalos stated he goes through the check reconciliation several times a month on behalf of the board. Janine shared that the Payroll checks are in same bank account as general purchases due to the software used, so payroll would show. Mr. Jarman would like to work together with Janine to see what could be done. It was suggested someone contact OSBA. Ms. Smith will move forward with check more
SHSD Work Session – October 9, 2013

school districts for their policies on this issue. There was clarification that each policy has a minimum of three readings.

GBJ – Weapons in Schools –Staff –Mr. Biggs would like this policy rescinded. He believes the district doesn't have the authority to have this policy in place. He stated they had taken an oath to uphold constitution and he believes this policy to be unconstitutional. He referenced ORS 166.370 which he believes stipulates they have control state wide over this issue. Other schools in the county which have this policy are Vernonia, Rainier and St. Helens. Scappoose and Clatskanie do not have this policy according to Mr. Biggs. Concerns were expressed for and against the policy by board members. Superintendent Davalos was directed to check with our lawyers and report back.

KG – Community Use of District Facilities – The AR to this policy is the reason for possible revision. The board would like the superintendent or his designee (possibly principal) to have the authority to make adjustments to rental fees. In the case of an appeal, the board would hear it. It was noted what is best for students and benefits the community would warrant adjustments in the rental amount. Concerns about inside sports damaging facilities and custodians necessary for cleaning were discussed as more costly rentals than outdoors. It may be helpful to have the chain of command for appeals in the introduction to the policy manual.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

October 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Agenda items to include:

- SHHS ASB Leadership Report
- Backpack Project Report
- SHSD 2013-14 School Improvement Plans
- Tom's Driving Academy
- Policy Readings/Updates – List of Third Readings
- SH Middle School Sports – Report/Action item

ADJOURNMENT

The October 9, 2013 Work Session adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Board Chair

Superintendent