

St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
November 20, 2013

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room of the District, County and State on November 20, 2013.

PRESENT Those present were:
 Marshall Porter, Board Chair
 Gordon Jarman, Board Vice Chair
 Kelly Smith, Board Member
 Raymond Biggs, Board Member
 Jeff Howell, Board Member
 Mark Davalos, Superintendent
 Janine Salisbury, Business Manager
 Amanda Stuber, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER Marshall Porter called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

AGENDA APPROVAL **Agenda Approval**
Gordon Jarman entered a motion to approve the agenda. Kellie Smith seconded.

Ray Biggs noted a needed typo correction on the October 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes and requested removal from the Consent Agenda.

The motion approving the agenda with removal of the October 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes from the unanimously carried unanimously carried.

VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD **Visitors Address the Board**
SHSD resident and parent Chris Poorman addressed the Board with an email send to Superintendent Davalos. In the email, Mr. Poorman expressed concern with the lack of gym availability for student athletic use, both for youth and district sponsored athletics. Mr. Poorman asked for the District to work with him on gaining access to Columbia City School, which could assist with the issue.

SHEA President and SHHS teacher Keith Meeuwsen provided a statement regarding teaching staff reaction to recent Board action to return middle school athletics despite teaching staff opposition and Board question on how to get around terms of the contract about paying licensed coaching staff. Mr. Meeuwsen asked the Board to support, value and respect teaching staff and to foster a collaborative working relationship.

Matt Freeman expressed frustration with the lack of school board attendance at the October 29th STEM informational meeting and the lack of follow-up since the last meeting. Mr. Freeman also expressed concern with the impact to other SHSD schools by pulling the best teaching staff and students into a STEM school and advocated for starting a STEM charter school.

SHSD parent Julie Farrell requested a status on legal counsel research into the proposed policy she sent to the Board and Board discussion about Special Needs student inclusion in the regular education classroom she presented to the Board in August.

SHSD community member and U.S. History teacher Patrick Birkle spoke to the recent weapons policy matter. Mr. Birkle stated he does not feel any safer in the classroom with or without the policy and briefly addressed comments made about the Constitution and Democracy at a recent Board Meeting and the local news paper.

SHSD community member Troy Leach spoke in favor of the recent policy and offered NRA training to SHSD staff for no cost.

SHSD community member Eloise Bates shared concerns with student safety linked to weapons in the school. Mrs. Bates explained the CLP encourages parents to ask families if a home has a weapon and expressed concern with parents not being able to receive information about a teacher with a weapon in the classroom.

Alita Lynch offered support of the 2nd Amendment and individuals being able to concealed carry.

Bridget Harkins, SHSD behavior specialist, shared feelings of appall with the District decision to allow weapons in the schools and the Board not supporting teaching staff input on matters. Ms. Harkins explained that during a threat assessment on students, the assessment asks if the student has access to a weapon at home and the response has a factor on the student placement. Making a weapon accessible at school to a behavior identified student is asking for trouble and very concerning.

Sydney Harkins, SHSD student, spoke against handguns in school. Sydney explained she does not feel a gun will make the school any safer.

Rick Demings congratulated and commended the Board for using common sense to uphold the constitutional right. Mr. Demings referenced a recent closed State Police department training at Columbia City School where OSP disclosed their personnel is not adequately trained for a school shooting incident.

SHSD resident and SHHS teacher Tonya Arnold spoke on behalf of the St. Helens Coalition for Safe Schools against the elimination of Board Policy GBJ. Mrs. Arnold reviewed the previous Board's collaborative process used during the policy adoption, and expressed concern with the new Board's process used to remove the policy and the disruption the matter has caused in the classroom.

Chris Brumbles, SHSD resident and parent, thanked the Board for upholding their Constitutional duty. Mr. Brumbles noted the high number of positive comments he has heard and acknowledged that not all will agree with the Board decision but the decision is in line with the rights found in the Constitution.

Amber Horn, SHSD parent and teacher, expressed her feelings of appall by the email regarding the Board's decision. Mrs. Horn recommended focusing on grading policy and staff training.

Jeremy Hasenkamp, SHSD resident and law enforcement officer, spoke regarding law enforcement trainings where response time, that included the 911 call, police dispatching and emergency responder arrival, was around 3 minutes. Mr. Hasenkamp was in favor of staff ability to protect them self with a concealed weapon.

Marjorie Kundinger, former educator, stated she never felt need to need a weapon in the classroom and was strongly opposed to the recent decision to allow guns on campus.

Jennifer Scholes, SHSD resident, spoke in favor of arming students with better books, etc. and explained she does not expect staff to protect students with a gun so the Board shouldn't either.

Brandon Cutshall, SHHS student, spoke against the Board decision to lift the ban that will now allow staff to bring guns to school.

Ali Hasenkamp, SHSD resident and parent, spoke in support of removing Board Policy GBJ. Mrs. Hasenkamp clarified the Board has not promoted staff carrying handguns during work and is only lifting something that was been in place for a long time.

Alicia Kay Schnersinske, SHHS student, expressed her disappointment with the Board. Alicia stated she does not see the need for guns in the school, especially in St. Helens School District.

Nathan McGilvra, SHSD community member, expressed his support for the second amendment and teachers being allowed to carry a gun at school.

Mikala Bietschek, SHHS student, spoke against guns in schools. She recommended alternate safety options such as tasers and tighter security measures.

Bethany Barnett, SHHS student, spoke against guns in schools. Bethany recommended the Board hear the community and to give the community and teachers the opportunity to be heard.

Brady Preheim, SHSD resident, provided public comment in favor of the policy removal.

Linda Zahl, SHSD resident and parent, shared an email she sent to the School Board expressing concern with the Board decision and Board response to her comment. Ms. Zahl referenced the massive amount of training police undergo versus the short course for obtaining a concealed weapon permit and was not in favor of the policy removal.

Dusty Humphrey, SHSD resident and SHHS teacher, addressed the Board decision to remove policy GBJ. Mr. Humphrey expressed concern with the decision being a

personal agenda not a constitutional right concern and, if the decision is a constitutional right matter, Mr. Humphrey provided a list of constitutional rights of his and students that the Board is violating through Board policies and hiring practices.

Don Lamunyon, SHSD resident and parent, commended the Board decision to remove the policy.

RECESS

Recess

Marshall Porter closed public comment and called a ten-minute recess at 8:05 p.m.

RECONVENE

Reconvene

Marshall Porter reconvened the Board Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

Gordon Jarman entered a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- November 2013 Human Resources Report
- November 2013 Horizontal Salary Schedule Movements
- Revenue & Expenditures Report
- Revenue & Expenditures Projection
- Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2013 Work Session
- Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2013 Regular Meeting

Kellie Smith seconded.

The motion approving the consent agenda with removal of the October 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes unanimously carried.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Reports & Discussion

SHHS ASB Report

SHHS Leadership students reported on Winter Festival events at SHHS during the month of December, the many fundraising drives, and announced the Winter Court.

Full Day Kindergarten & SHSD Class Size Report

Superintendent Mark Davalos reported on legislative action requiring Oregon school districts offer full day kindergarten starting with the 2015-16 school year and, as requested at the October 23, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Superintendent Davalos provided K-12 class size information as follows:

School	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Staffing
L&C	23	27	26	26	28	28	28	26:1
McB	22	23	28	33	28	34	25	26.7:1

St. Helens Middle School	
School-wide class average- All/Core Staffing	27.6/31
High Class Count	Band 54
High Class Count	Choir 60
High Class Count	PE 42
High Department Averages	Low 30s- Soc. Sci. & Lang. Arts

St. Helens High School	
School-wide class average- All/Core Staffing	24.1*/32
High Class Count	Choir 41; PE -42
High Class Count	Citizenship & PE -39
High Class Count	LA12, Phy.Sci., Band, Econ., Cit., Glob.Stu.- one @38
	Statistics 37
High Department Averages	Health(34) Math, LA, SS, Sci.- Low 30s

Mr. Porter questioned the lowest class size. Superintendent Davalos explained the lowest is a SHHS shop class with 13 students. Mr. Jarman noted the low class size for that class is for safety reasons. Superintendent Davalos agreed to forward the detailed class size report from Donna Rethati for Board review.

Kellie Smith shared favorable comments on the recently added classroom assistants and Mr. Porter asked for an update on how the classroom assistants are working. A teacher in the audience confirmed the assistants are working well and have been a huge help.

SHEA Agreement Article 17.4 Legal Interpretation

Superintendent Davalos referenced the October 23, 2013 request for legal analysis of SHEA article 17.4 and explained the article does not tie the District to hiring bargaining unit members for the positions referenced in the article. Superintendent Davalos asked if the Board had any additional questions on the matter.

Gordon Jarman thanked Superintendent Davalos for a response.

Superintendent Davalos also commented on an earlier comment on use of Columbia City Gym. He explained that he and Janine Salisbury met with Cyndy Miller and have a plan to address the concern.

SPED Inclusion

SHSD Director of Special Education Mary Mitchell presented the Board a presentation on SPED Systems Performance Review and Improvement and placement data. The District's 2012-13 placement data compared to the State requirement and average reflects SHSD at 75.4% compared to the State's percentage of 73%.

Mr. Porter questioned curriculum options for inclusion. Mrs. Mitchell explained the District has specialized curriculum for this as is determined in the student's IEP.

OSBA Resolution to Amend OSBA Constitution

The Board received and reviewed the proposed revisions to the OSBA Constitution in the October 23rd Regular Meeting Materials and provided no input under this agenda item.

OSBA Board of Director and Legislative Policy Committee Election

The Board received and reviewed OSBA candidate election information in the October 23rd Regular Meeting Materials and provided no input under this agenda item.

Board Policy Revisions – Third Reading

KG – Community Use of District Facilities

The Board was in favor of the proposed language revision on page two of Board Policy KG. Ray Biggs recommended adding the word “to” in between the words “appeal” and “the” in line three of the paragraph.

Superintendent Davalos asked if the Board would like the appeal submitted to the Board Secretary. The Board did not see a revision in whom to submit the appeal to necessary.

DJ: District Purchasing

Ray Biggs questioned Board interest in reducing the \$100,000 purchasing amount to \$50,000.

Marshall Porter explained the purchasing amount is not an issue to him; his intent of the policy discussion is for more clarity. Mr. Porter added that his concern is with the Board not receiving information about major purchases and referenced Scappoose School District’s purchasing procedures that require School Board approval.

In response to Mr. Porter’s reference to Scappoose School District’s purchasing procedure, Janine Salisbury commented that the Scappoose School Board sees bills after payment through an accounts payable report.

Mr. Porter explained, as he understands by SSD policy, SSD Board receives a report that lays out what is to be spent for approval. Kellie added that the information is only proposals and the Board receives actual spent amounts the next month.

Mr. Biggs expressed discomfort with hindering accounts payable work with board approval of every bill but did express comfort with a revised board approval amount.

Mrs. Smith suggested moving the discussion to another meeting because of the long meeting thus far.

Mr. Porter suggested the Board discuss the matter more in-depth with the Business Manager so the Board receives more clarity as funds become tighter.

Mr. Howell expressed confusion on the matter and questioned the Boards place to micromanage payment of all District bills. Mr. Howell also commented that he did not see that it is as the District has hired qualified personnel to do so and saw the print out of paid bills as a waste of trees.

Mr. Porter explained the Board is responsible for District funds and did not question staff qualification to doing so, but it is still the Board’s obligation to ensure transparency.

Mr. Jarman added that the issue is not the approval amount; the question is if the Board should allow the business department to make purchases in the policy-established amount without prior Board approval.

Superintendent Davalos clarified understanding of the Board desire to determine where to set the purchasing amount.

Kellie Smith clarified that her intent of the request is not the amount; the issue is with communication and need to improve financial transparency. Mrs. Smith expressed with discomfort with being caught off guard by the community about large purchases and recommended condensing the accounts payable report.

Ms. Salisbury explained Mr. Jarman met with her and they generated the report provided. Due to no additional Board feedback about a preferred accounts payable report, the larger and more detailed report was provided.

Mr. Porter acknowledged the need to spend and how budget outlays what a school district plans to spend but expressed concern with the Board not seeing purchasing plans beyond that.

Ms. Salisbury explained the SHHS bleacher replacement and L&C field was work in response to insurance company ruling the areas unsafe and request to cease use. Ms. Salisbury also explained she followed purchasing and bidding procedures and understands, as part of her job, she is to respond to insurance company concerns.

Mr. Biggs added that he learned about the bleacher project in the paper and explained it would be nice to hear about these matters before hand.

Ms. Salisbury added she followed Board policy so did not see need to inform the Board.

Mr. Porter noted the Board was not accusing Ms. Salisbury of breaking board policy but the Board did want information about large projects or large purchases.

Ms. Salisbury explained she was happy to provide more communication if that is what the Board desires. Mr. Davalos re-clarified that the issue is not with the spending amount, it is the communication.

Mr. Biggs recommended proposing recommending proposed wording.

Mrs. Salisbury explained she could provide some communication as a starting point and the Board could provide feedback for adjustment.

ACTION

Action

OSBA Resolution to Amend OSBA Constitution

Ray Biggs entered a motion to approve the OSBA Resolution to Amend the OSBA Constitution. Gordon Jarman seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

OSBA Board of Director Position Two

Kellie Smith entered a motion to approve the OSBA Board of Director Position Two nomination. Ray Biggs seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Election

Ray Biggs entered a motion to approve the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee nomination for position two. Kellie Smith seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

Policy Revisions

DJ: District Purchasing:

Ray Biggs entered a motion to postpone revisions on DJ: District Purchasing. Gordon Jarman seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

KG – Community Use of District Facilities:

Ray Biggs entered a motion to approve policy KG: Community Use of District Facilities as revised and amended. Jeff Howell seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

October 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ray Biggs entered a motion to revise the March 2012 date to March 2013 in the October 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. Kellie Smith seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

**UPCOMING
MEETING
INPUT**

Upcoming Meeting Input

Upcoming meeting items will include:

- SHHS ASB Report
- Superintendent Report
- SHSD Annual Report
- SHSD School Improvement Plans Status
- 2014-15 Budget Calendar
- SHHS 2014-15 User Fees
- OSBA November 2013 Policy Updates
- Backpack Project Report
- SHS Grading Change Procedure & SB: 2220

ADJOURN

Adjourn

The November 20, 2013 Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.