

St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors
Work Session
January 8, 2014

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 January 8, 2014.

PRESENT

Those present were:

Marshall Porter, Board Chair
Gordon Jarman, Board Vice Chair
Kelly Smith, Board Member
Jeff Howell, Board Member
Mark Davalos, Superintendent
Janine Salisbury, Business Manager
Amanda Stuber, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

Jeff Howell entered a motion to approve the agenda. Gordon Jarman seconded.

The motion approving the agenda unanimously carried.

VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Visitors Address the Board

SHSD parent Julie Farrell spoke regarding inclusion of special needs students in the regular education classroom and requested the District consider revising their policy. Mrs. Farrell also advocated for lower class sizes to benefit all students and teaching staff for better success.

REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Reports & Discussion

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Davalos referenced the school board grading policies recently updated and asked the board to review the policies again to provide input on.

Mr. Jarman referenced calls he and Kellie Smith have received and highly recommended communication to families.

Kellie asked if ParentVue is working. Superintendent Davalos explained ParentVue is working but the conversion to standards based reporting has not yet occurred. Administration is working to have standards based reporting district-wide September 2014.

Superintendent Davalos also referenced the new student information system, Synergy, and K-6 staff differences in reporting since the reconfiguration. The School Board was encouraged to send him questions or concerns for sharing with administration.

Kellie expressed interest in a shorter timeline in the conversion since staff training started in August.

Jeff Howell recommended school administration communicate transition information to families.

Gordon Jarman referenced reports claiming schools were waiting on board policy then noted the policy adoption was in late August. Communication through school newsletters was stressed.

Superintendent Davalos stated he would send the grading policy updates ahead of time for thorough review and input.

Mr. Porter commented on frustration with the lack of Board knowledge of the grading tools in use. Superintendent Davalos explained he would have various departments provide a system demonstration.

Facilities Committee

The recently established Facilities Committee was reported on by Jeff Howell. Mr. Howell referenced a recent tour of district facilities with the maintenance department, and announced the first volunteer project the committee is organizing is painting CRYC.

Superintendent Davalos asked if the Facilities Committee was interested in reviewing the Purchasing Policy. It was agreed to discuss this with the Facilities Committee members at their January 9th meeting.

Property Discussions

As requested by Marshall Porter, Superintendent Davalos asked if the Board or Facilities Committee was interested in looking at district property to possibly sale. Mr. Porter added he is not in favor of selling at this time but is interested in seeking rental or other options to bring additional revenue.

Superintendent Davalos explained there was a property analysis presented to the previous Board and asked Jared Plahn to share the analysis with the new Board. Mr. Plahn responded he would provide updated property information. The Facilities Committee will review the updated analysis in depth.

Advanced Courses Progress/Analysis

In response to Board inquiry about advanced courses for SHHS students Superintendent Davalos reported he has discussions in process and will have more information at the pending Special Work Session. The Board asked for course success, class size information for these courses and if online offering is an option. Board response to a requested reporting date was vague and left to Superintendent Davalos to determine.

Mr. Jarman expressed desire to not take AP offering away.

School Board Recognition Month Proclamation

Superintendent Davalos read a proclamation declaring January School Board Recognition Month. The School Board will be formally recognized at the January 22nd Regular Board Meeting.

Superintendent Goal Update

Attendance Support: Reported information on current attendance rates for focus grades of K-3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 reflect a district-wide increase in attendance. Kellie Smith asked if district-wide transportation of kindergarten students would improve kindergarten attendance. Superintendent Davalos explained it could improve kindergarten attendance. Janine Salisbury explained there would be a cost and political issues with families wanting older siblings transported with the kindergartener.

Jeff Howell commended the schools and, especially, Lewis and Clark administration and staff for the turn around.

STEM: Superintendent Davalos reviewed the low attendance rate of the STEM Committee Meetings. Discussion during the meetings included Charter School funding as a possibility, but state officials have confirmed start-up funding for Charter Schools is no longer available. There is one parent assisting with writing a state grant due January 29th. Superintendent Davalos also explained he is connecting with the NWRESD to join a HUB grant that could open more doors to the District. The STEM focus is now at the MS and HS levels.

Mr. Porter expressed frustration with always being behind and lack of follow through.

Kellie Smith questioned hiring a grant writer. Mr. Howell expressed concern with cost of hiring a grant writer.

Instructional Hours & Calendar

Superintendent Davalos presented the District's 2013-14 instructional hours that includes inclement weather reductions. Superintendent Davalos asked the board to consider reinstating one of the three lost days and recommended reinstating Friday, March 21st as a school and work day or adding a school day to the end of the school year.

The Board is in favor of returning one of the weather lost days. Formal action will occur on two recommendations will occur at the January 22nd Regular Meeting.

Policy Updates – Second Reading

During the second reading of School Board policies:

BBB: Board Elections

BBFA: Board Member Ethics & Conflicts of Interest

BBFB: Board Member Ethics & Nepotism

DJC: Bidding Requirements

EBBB: Injury/Illness Reports

EBCB: Emergency Drills

GBC: Staff Ethics

GCBDC/GDBDC: Domestic Violence/Harassment/Sexual Assault/Stalking Leave

Mr. Porter referenced policy EBBB's requirement of the Board receiving reports on serious injuries/illnesses and periodic statistical reports on the number and types of injuries/illnesses occurring in the district and measures being taken to prevent such injuries/illnesses in the future the requiring reports go to the board and reported the

Board is not receiving those reports. Janine Salisbury explained she is not familiar with the policy and after discussion on the requirement, agreed to provide some type of report to the Board in the future.

**UPCOMING
MEETING
INPUT**

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

Superintendent Davalos requested an update on scheduling the Superintendent requested Special Work Session. The Board was unanimously available and in favor of meeting on Sunday, January 19th from 1-5 p.m.

Marshall Porter requested discussion on teacher and classified appreciation from the Board.

Gordon Jarman requested copies of the administrative/confidential and superintendent contracts.

ADJOURN

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Adjournment of the January 8, 2014 Work Session occurred at 8:23 p.m.

Marshall Porter, Board Chair

Mark Davalos, Superintendent