

SHSD UPDATES



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The Oregon School Boards Association, a non-profit member services organization based in Salem, founded "The Promise of Oregon" campaign in 2014. The purpose of the "Promise of Oregon" campaign is to attract attention to the accomplishments of Oregon's students and the need to invest in public education sufficiently. Through its photographs, videos, and stories, the campaign highlights

the aspirations of students and demonstrates their incredible accomplishments and potential.

Districts across the state apply to have their school district recognized, as it is a very competitive campaign with only four districts being chosen to participate. As a district, we wanted to take part in the campaign and have our district students highlighted, so we applied and were notified in September 2022 of our selection in the campaign. As a district, this is a huge honor to have our students participate and be featured in this campaign. ***We are so proud to be one of the four districts selected!***

Superintendent Stockwell states, "Anytime we get an opportunity to showcase our great students and the good work going on across the St. Helens School District, we want to take it. The fact that it is a pretty competitive selection process designed to highlight high-performing School Boards and the bright futures of children in the district that they lead makes it all that much better."

Since January is School Board Appreciation Month, the campaign started off with its video titled, "Do you know what a school board member is?" and features all four school districts and includes our own SHSD Board Chair, Melody Killens, and our Board Vice-Chair, Bill Amos.

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"Our students selected as "Promise Kids" exemplify why School Board Members put in countless volunteer hours and educators get up every morning to help kids achieve their dreams," Stockwell added.

Shortly after the video was created, district students are featured each week on the campaign website as "Promise Kids," explaining in their own words why they represent the Promise of Oregon. So far, the St. Helens School District has featured two students, with another student featured on Monday, January 16. From there, St. Helens

It is exciting to be able to share our participation in this campaign with our staff, parents, and community.



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SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH 2023

The St. Helens School District will join the other 196 school districts throughout Oregon to celebrate January as "School Board Recognition Month," Superintendent Stockwell announced on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

"Our school board members spend countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students," said district Superintendent Stockwell. "They also serve as the corporate board of directors for one of the county's largest employers. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do."

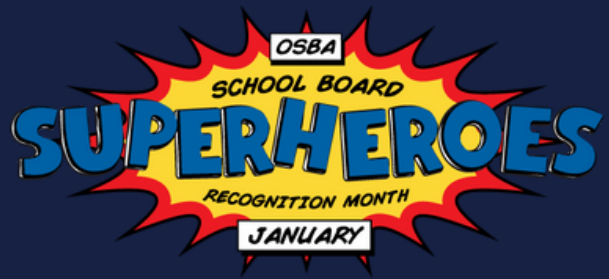
School board members represent their fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complex enterprise of maintaining and running the community's public schools, Stockwell said. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Oregon.

"Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized," Stockwell said. The school board's main goal is to support student achievement," Stockwell added.

To achieve that goal, the board focuses on the following needs:

- Creating a vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority
- Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do
- Assessing whether schools achieve their goals and whether students are learning
- Accounting for the outcomes of decisions and by tracking progress and reporting results
- Aligning the use of the district's human and financial resources
- Creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach
- Collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes
- Focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining, and revisiting issues related to student achievement.

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SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH 2023

"Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to fighting for the best for all of our students," Stockwell said.

Please join us in recognizing our St. Helens School Board Members:

Chair Melody Killens

Vice Chair Bill Amos

Kellie Smith

Ryan Scholl

Trinity Monahan

St. Helens School District Board Members



Melody Killens
Chair



Bill Amos
Vice Chair



Kellie Smith
Board Member



Ryan Scholl
Board Member



Trinity Monahan
Board Member

Thank you for your service!



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January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we want to take this time to highlight one of our amazing school board members, Trinity Monahan.

A resident since 2008, Trinity Monohan was first elected to the St. Helens School District Board of Directors in 2017 and is currently in his second term.

In speaking to Trinity about why he chose to become a school board member, he stated, "I wanted to be more involved with the community and believe it's important to learn as much as possible and give back. I started with the budget committee and ran for the first time in 2015. While I was unsuccessful then, I ran again in 2017."

When asked about what he is most proud of while being on the school board, Trinity stated, "I'm most proud of the continued efforts to elevate our students in their pursuits to become the best version of themselves. Our efforts to continue to provide both college and career readiness programs and the creation and opening of the Family Resource Center. Thank you to all who support our district and our future, our children."

Thank you, Trinity, for your service!

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January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we want to take this time to highlight one of our amazing school board members, Ryan Scholl.

A resident of Columbia County for the past 45 years, Ryan Scholl, was elected to the St. Helens School District Board of Directors in 2018.

In speaking to Ryan about why he chose to become a school board member, he stated, "I became a school board member as a way to be involved in the community and a way to give back to the community."

When asked about what he is most proud of while being on the school board, Ryan stated, "I am proud of the staff and the hard work they put in. They are dedicated to the students and make the most of what they have. I am also proud of all the different opportunities and programs the district has come up with over the years at the middle school and the high school."

Thank you, Ryan, for your service!

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January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we want to take this time to highlight one of our amazing school board members, Kellie Smith.


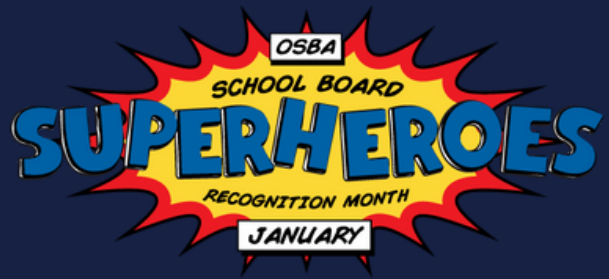
A resident of Columbia County for most of her life, Kellie Smith is in her third term and 9th year as a St. Helens School District Board Member.

In speaking to Kellie about why she chose to become a school board member, she stated, "Simply, I wanted to make a difference. Being a protector, I also needed to know that the people at the top really cared for the needs, wants, safety, and well-being of our children and staff."

When asked about what she is most proud of while being on the school board, Kellie stated, "I love the passion; from the staff, from the parents, from the students. Communicating with individuals that are at their best and sometimes their worst is what makes this 'job' real. Our school community is full of very passionate individuals that put children first. I'm very proud of them."

Thank you, Kellie, for your service!

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Highlight

*St. Helens School
Board Member*

Bill Amos

St. Helens School District Board Members



Thank you for your service! 

January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we want to take this time to highlight one of our amazing school board members, Bill Amos.

A resident of Columbia County since 1970, Bill Amos has been a St. Helens School District Board Member for over eight years.

In speaking to Bill about why he chose to become a school board member, he stated, "For me, it has always been about what is best for our students, so I applied for a vacant position when I saw in the Chronicle that things were not going smoothly. I was hopeful that I could be helpful without being too disruptive."

When asked about what he is most proud of while being on the school board, Bill stated, "I am proud of the fact that we have regained the trust of the community as shown by their incredible support of our students and our schools; both now and well into the future. Our teachers and support staff are doing great work, using innovative methods, through the most challenging of times as they help prepare our students for their future endeavors. There is much to celebrate."

Thank you, Bill, for your service!

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Highlight

St. Helens School
Board Member

Melody Killens

St. Helens School District Board Members



Thank you for your service! 

January is School Board Appreciation Month, and we want to take this time to highlight one of our amazing school board members, Melody Killens.

A resident of Columbia County for 57 years, Melody Killens, has been a St. Helens School District Board Member for twenty-one years.

In speaking to Melody about why she chose to become a school board member, she stated, "Because I love St. Helens schools! I grew up here loving all parts of the school experience, from the staff to the students. I'm even one of the rare ones that loved all principals! Lucky for me, though, Mr. Olmscheid, Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Freeburn were awesome, but they probably never dreamed I would become a school board member 14 years after graduation and be in charge!"

When asked about what she is most proud of while on the school board, Melody stated, "I am so proud of the staff here! Our district has been through so much, from new buildings constantly being built since 1992, with McBride being replaced by the fire, to our current work at the high school. Also, our 1970s staff stayed here for over 30 years to the early 2000s, to our new staff members. So many are past students, coming to work here their entire careers! During these years, too, we kept growing here in St. Helens, making class sizes a continuous topic, but always taken care of by so many who do care! Right now, I believe, is one of the best times our district has ever had with an awesome school board, Superintendent Stockwell, principals, and teachers all working so hard through the COVID times and after. I couldn't ask for more!"

Thank you, Melody, for your service!

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**TIRE-LESS
TEACHER AWARD**



CHRIS ROBITZ



LES SCHWAB TIRE-LESS TEACHER



Chris Robitz has taken a group of girls who were eager to play volleyball but had little prior experience with the sport and helped them develop a joy for team competition and a passion for volleyball.

Parents and students alike have expressed that they are experiencing a tremendous amount of fun and positivity with the volleyball team. After a recent game, parents approached our school leadership to praise Mr. Robitz for the care he provides their student-athletes and the amazing culture of learning and sportsmanship he has established with his team.

Thank you, Mr. Robitz, for creating this opportunity for these students. We appreciate your work and your tireless efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS

Chris!

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SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION EXCLUSION DAY 2023

School Immunization Exclusion Day is Wednesday, February 15, 2023, and we wanted to remind district families to ensure their student(s) immunizations are up-to-date.

Immunizations are required by state law for children and students in attendance at public and private schools, preschools, childcare facilities, and Head Start programs in Oregon. Nearly every facility that provides care for a child outside of the home requires immunizations or a medical or nonmedical exemption to remain enrolled.

Children who are not current on their immunizations by Wednesday, February 15, 2023, will be excluded from school until their immunizations are updated.

Students and families in SHSD can access immunizations through several outlets:

- Primary Health Care Provider
- Sacagawea Health Center | 1.800.244.4870 | option 1 then option 2
- Lions Wellness Center | 1.800.244.4870 | option 1 then option 2
- Walgreens Pharmacy | 503-397-7862
- Walmart Pharmacy | 503-366-5157
- All Childhood Vaccination Clinic | 503-366-7699
 - Monday, January 9, 2023 | 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm | Schedule [HERE](#)

Completed records may be sent to your student's school secretary, emailed to Nursing Services, or faxed to 503-366-7690.



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There will be no school for all St. Helens School District students on Monday, January 16, 2023, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.