

St. Helens School District #502
Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting
September 27, 2023

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 27, 2023. These public meetings were observable at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bLNuQ_wpShCAb1502WdNmW.

Members of the community interested in addressing the Board were invited to do so during the meeting or by emailing the Board of Directors at: sb502@sthelens.k12.or.us with a summary of the topic they wish to address and to request the Zoom meeting link prior to 5:00 on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

PRESENT

Those present were:

Melody Killens, Board Chair
Bill Amos, Vice Chair
Ryan Scholl, Board Member
Kellie Smith, Board Member
Trinity Monahan, Board Member
Lucie Polvogt, Student Board Representative
Scot Stockwell, Superintendent
Jessica Seay, Director of Fiscal Services
Kristi Ward, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Killens called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30. Kellie Smith entered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ryan Scholl seconded; the motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- No requests to address the board were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trinity Monahan entered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Kellie Smith seconded; the motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Chair Killens thanked Richard Hanks, affectionately known as “Grandpa Richard” for his daily reading and math support at McBride Elementary School. Mr. Hanks has volunteered in the District for many years, and often joins students for lunch and supports them at their sporting events after school. Mr. Hanks asked the principal of McBride, Allyson Dubuque, to receive the award on his behalf.

NEW BUSINESS

- The District Principals and Directors informed members about the work, activities and planning taking place at each school:
 - Dani Boylan, reported that in the Early Learning department:
 - They began the school year fully staffed, and are off to a great start.
 - They have signed another two-year contract with the Children’s Institute, so will continue to benefit from their support and resources. The institute hosted a leadership camp for district staff this summer, and together they mapped out plans for the 2023-24 school year.
 - The team is working to secure subs as fall cold and flu season is impacting staff.
 - Martine Barnett reported that at Columbia City Elementary:
 - The Lodge program (formerly called Crew) began today, and included team building activities that were enjoyable. Each teacher will meet with a group of K-5 students on a weekly basis to build relationship and belonging.
 - They recently decided as a team and after consulting with District leadership about whether to continue with the Expeditionary Learning (EL) model in their building. It was decided that they would continue with the portions of the program that were the most meaningful, but create their own path going forward.
 - Cheri Martin reported that at Lewis & Clark Elementary:
 - They are off to a great start this year, and are working on culture and the school environment. They are using Conscious Discipline strategies and establishing rituals and routines that will help students succeed.
 - Their guiding coalition is helping move the Response to Intervention (RTI) work forward.
 - The team is talking regularly about the District Strategic Plan, particularly the “Learn, Connect, Commit” elements.
 - Allyson Dubuque reported that at McBride Elementary:
 - They have started the year with a focus on belonging. The staff is part of the planning process, and the three elementary principals are working very collaboratively.
 - They are creating systems and organizing classrooms and student’s personal spaces.
 - Their team is adjusting the traffic flow for drop off and pick up to make it more efficient.

- Cris Gwilliam reported that at SHMS:
 - They have had an excellent turn out for fall sports. There are enough students to fill three volleyball teams, and the 8th grade football team is undefeated.
 - Tomorrow is the Back-to-School night, and they will have some family engagement activities as well as focusing on the student experience at SHMS.
 - This week is College and Career Readiness Week. Each teacher has decorated their door with their college colors, and there is a joint effort to make students aware of potential post-secondary choices.
 - A Guiding Coalition of teacher leaders has been established to help move instruction and learning forward. Some current items of focus is improving the assessment culture and developing systems for intervention.
- Cris Gwilliam reported on behalf of Ron Hernley that at Plymouth HS:
 - Attendance rates for those students that received targeted interventions due to non-attendance last year, is nearly perfect, running 95-98%.
 - There is a schoolwide effort to improve culture by focusing on attitudes and communication.
- Martin Hehman reported that at the St. Helens Virtual Academy:
 - They were able to start on time this year, in spite of some hiccups.
 - Students are making progress. Teachers are reaching out right away to any students whom are not engaging. There are currently 190 students enrolled.
 - They learned that the curriculum only offered a single Health option for all 6-12 students, so they have shifted to using FlexPoint for that subject, which offers a unique class for each grade level.
 - The team is working on aligning students forecasting with SHHS so that it is seamless for students at both schools to select courses from the other.
- Dr. Katy Wagner reported that at SHHS:
 - There has been a lot of positive energy at the start of the year. They kicked it off with a Field Day on a Saturday, which was well-attended.
 - This week is Homecoming Week, and the football team is 3-0 at this point.
 - Enrollment has increased this year, there are about 100 more students in attendance than last year.
 - They hosted a College Credit night last week, and invited a representative from the Oregon College Savings Program to come and talk to families about saving for college, as well as Michael Crandall, who spoke about the Early College High School Program. Neil Ford provided information about Oregon Promise and the AP options at SHHS.
 - The team has worked together to develop a system of behavior expectations they call the "Lion Code" which includes list Tier I and II interventions. One expectation is that cell phones will not be used

during class time. Rather than suspensions, a program called My Healthy Futures has been implemented, with a focus on restorative practices.

Trinity Monahan noted that he would like to see college and career planning information made available to elementary and middle school families as well.

- Superintendent Stockwell reported that both gyms at SHHS will again be open for use on Monday.
- Superintendent Stockwell led members in a discussion about the request from SHHS staff regarding releasing 9th grade students from school on October 17th, while the rest of the students have the option to take the PSAT, SAT ACT and ASVAB. Historically, College Board selected a testing date that fell on an early-release Wednesday, but this year they selected a Tuesday. Due to the number of staff needed to proctor the tests, it is not possible to also offer instruction that day. The 9th grade students started school a day prior to the remaining classes at the start of the year, so now all students will have the same number of instruction days. The Board asked questions and came to a consensus to allow the requested schedule change.
- Superintendent Stockwell reported that an elementary STEAM and Art teacher have been hired, and that the District is keeping a careful eye on class sizes.
- Superintendent Stockwell invited members to join the Leadership Team for the CEL training on Tuesday, at 8:45 a.m.

VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

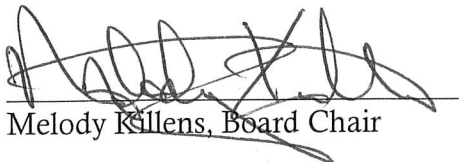
- No requests to address the board were received.

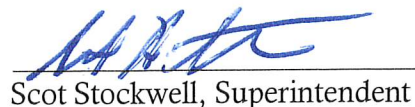
UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

- October 11, 2023 – Board Work Session, 6:30 p.m., District Office
 - Board Operating Agreement
 - Student Board Representative

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Killens adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.


Melody Killens, Board Chair


Scot Stockwell, Superintendent