St. Helens School District #502
Regular Board Meeting
December 13, 2023

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened in a Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on December 13, 2023. This public meeting was observable at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHquRxuAbUk.

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, December 13, 2023.

PRESENT

Those present were:

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

Not Present:

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.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

- The Board recognized:
  - Mattie Athey, SHMS student, for her acts of kindness and genuine desire to help those around her succeed.
  - Heidi Green, TOSA at McBride Elementary School, for her dedication and commitment to the well-being and success of all McBride students, and the positive and welcoming environment she creates.

- Pastor Rick Worlitz, Caroline Nixon and Jamie Griffin from the Yankton Community Fellowship, for their congregations' continuing support of students and staff at Plymouth High School.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Neil Ford, SHHS teacher and track coach requested permission to take a group of track students to an indoor track meet in Spokane in January. The details about the trip were presented, and questions by board members about cost and accessibility for students answered.
- Ella Taylor, Chief Research Officer for Willamette Educational Service District, reviewed the results of the Bell & Bus Schedule Survey conducted. St. Helens students, staff and families were surveyed, and though there was a fairly low participation rate, statistical significance ranging from 70-95% was achieved for those three groups. Results included:
  - Low support for shared bus ridership (elementary and middle, middle and high)
  - Majority approval for the current elementary school start time
  - Majority opinion that the current middle school start time is too late
  - Majority opinion that the current high school start time is too early
- Lucie Polvogt, Student Board Representative, reported about events taking place at SHHS, including recent band and choir concerts that were well attended and a successful food drive. The choir will perform at the Grotto on December 15th, and students are currently enjoying Winter Spirit week. There will be class competitions during January leading up to the Winter Ball on the 27th.
- The District Principals and Directors informed members about the work, activities and planning taking place at each school:
  - Martin Hehman reported that at the St. Helens Virtual Academy:
    - He is thrilled with the effort and support of the academy staff.
    - The family Science Night was well attended, but the Science Day less so. The teacher is already working on ideas for ways to adapt in order to increase participation.
    - Additional electives will be offered during the second semester, including a hands-on Art course.
    - The team has been working on the website, which now provides more information about the academy.
    - They will host an informational night about the academy at Plymouth HS on January 17th from 6-7:00 p.m.

Superintendent Stockwell reported to members that Mr. Hehman is doing some great work with both the Virtual Academy and reaching out to homeschool students and familes.

- Ron Hernley reported that at Plymouth High School:
  - Nicole Edwards is doing a phenomenal job with the GearUp program. Students have been introduced to post-secondary options they were not aware of previously, and 60 seniors have already applied to a college this year.
  - The attendance rate has increased, and a positive incentive plan to continue that trend is being developed using RTI strategies.
- Dr. Katy Wagner reported that at SHHS:
  - Winter sports are off to a strong start.
  - A team of 17 staff, parents, coaches and students were pulled together to consider rebranding SHHS. The school colors and mascot will remain the same, but they wished to change the motto to reflect their current values. Some phrases being considered are: "Roar with Pride," "Together We Roar," "Lion Pride, Hear Us Roar," and "Roar as One."
  - We are partnering with the City of St. Helens engineers to arrange for a series of engineering pathway presentations and activities during National Engineering Week in February. Students in the pre-engineering class and those that have an interest will be welcomed by the city engineering division to spend the day with them, which will include a tour of the Godfrey Park storm water project, and the streets and utilities extension project on the waterfront.
  - We will roll out our new efficiency program in January to provide a better system for student interventions. A daily master schedule will be built according to teacher requests for intervention, student requests, and any pre-populated groups that staff assign.
- Cris Gwilliam reported that at SHMS:
  - An awards breakfast was held for all students that received a 4.0 and their parents. There were 109 students that achieved a 4.0 during the first quarter.
  - We have a very talented choir director, Kris Bumanlag who is significantly developing the program now. He has introduced the students to a new level of competitions, and 5 choir students have subsequently qualified to compete in state and regional events. The choir had a concert at the HS last week, and will perform for the elementary schools this week.
  - The boys' basketball team is currently undefeated and, there is enough participation to have three teams this season.
  - The MS team is working on making the Focus period more supportive of instruction. One consideration is using the AVID Advisory Program as the curriculum for that class.

- Martine Barnett reported that at Columbia City Elementary:
    - The PTO hosted a very successful Winter Bazaar. Students created buttons and magnets, and manned one of the booths at the bazaar themselves.
    - Some tier-III supports were implemented for students that were lagging in social skills , using things we learned at the RTI conference.
    - We are excited to partner with the St. Helens Parks and Recreation team to get the after-school program up and running this winter at Columbia City School.
    - We are working on streamlining the process of getting supports in place for teachers that request interventions for students.
- Allyson Dubuque reported that at McBride Elementary:
    - Today was Reindeer Days at McBride, and staff and students dressed up in their favorite team gear. It has been a festive week, and included an activity called the "Jolabokaflod" and Icelandic book-giving tradition.
    - Our time on Wednesdays has been used to lean into our PLC's and has been very valuable. Essential standards have been selected for the next cycle, which will start in January.
    - We are working on improving systems, and hiring to fill vacancies.
- Cheri Martin reported that at Lewis & Clark Elementary:
    - Interviews for several Classified positions will take place this week, and positions in our Social Emotional Learning Center have recently been filled. We are really pleased at the changes taking place in that classroom.
    - Our Guiding Coalition is continuing their RTI work. Each day, we are running tier-III Academies. That includes a quick review of procedures and expectations, and we are already seeing good results.
    - We are working on improving the traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up, and plan to remind families that there is only one turn lane onto the school property, rather than the two currently being used.
- Dani Boylan is not present due to illness. Superintendent Stockwell reported that Ms. Boylan is an asset to our Early Learning Program. He noted that she presented about the program at the Annual OSBA conference recently, and did a really excellent job.
- Superintendent Stockwell thanked Jen Nelson, Director of Special Education, for the excellent work she is doing. He reported that she is filling in as a teacher, so has essentially been doing two full jobs for months now, and he really appreciates the "heavy lift."

- Chair Killens reviewed the policy updates recommended by OSBA. The policies being reviewed included:
    - BD/BDA – Board Meetings
    - BDC – Executive Sessions
    - EFA – Local Wellness Program
    - GCBDA/GDBDA – Family Medical Leave/Military Family Leave
    - GCBDF/GDBDF – Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance

- GCPC/GDPC – Retirement of Staff
- LBE – Public Charter Schools

The policies were introduced prior to the meeting on October 25th, and the suggested updates posted on the district website. Kellie Smith noted that she is opposed to reducing the required number of minutes of physical education for grades 6-8 from 225 to 150 per week. Superintendent Stockwell reported that there is no intent to reduce class time, even if this update is approved. Kellie Smith asked for the required number of minutes listed on the last two iterations of the policy, and Superintendent provided those.

- Superintendent Stockwell presented the update 2022-23 Student Investment Account (SIA) annual report. He listed some items of the grant:
  - Extracurricular activities participation fees were waived for all students
  - Additional teachers were hired, which reduced class sizes
  - Additional IA's were hired to support Kindergarten classrooms
  - A Teaching and Learning Team was hired
  - Additional Counselors and Social Workers were hired
  - The Family Resource Center (FRC) was funded

  Superintendent Stockwell presented information about the progress that resulted from the 2022-23 SIA funding by responding to the following questions:
  - What changes in behavior, actions, policies or practices have you observed related to SIA Implementation? How do you see these changes contributing to the goals and outcomes in your SIA plan? He responded:
    - Multiple teachers and administrators across grade levels attended RTI at Work workshops.
    - The practices learned at the workshops are already producing higher student achievement and a greater sense of belonging.
    - The three-year district strategic plan was generated, which focuses on achievement, belonging and community.
  - What barriers or challenges to SIA implementation have you experienced that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of? He responded:
    - The district formed a committee to explore different bell schedules in order to increase teacher collaboration time.
    - SHSD has been challenged in identifying qualified staff to fill critical classroom and special education positions. The result is current staff having to double up in covering classes, leading to lost planning time and teachers feeling overextended.
  - SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with students, focal students, families, staff and community partners. How have relationships with or between those groups changed and/or been maintained throughout this academic year? He responded:
    - The FRC liaison continues to be a valuable resource and thought partner not only for our Spanish-speaking parents, but also for many houseless and recently-arrived families.
    - There is high school representation on our school board and our district strategic planning team. The superintendent continues his

community listening session and convenes community first responders and faith-based community groups on a quarterly basis.

- As you think about what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in this year of SISA implementation, what stands out? How will what you've learned this year impact future SIA implementation efforts? He responded:
  - RTI implementation is enhancing Tire II MTSS supports; this is leading to increased student achievement and a greater sense of belonging.
  - Investment in CEL teacher instructional practices is foundational to our support of all teachers in improving their practice and helping all students be successful.
  - SIA implementation will continue to focus on: improving extra-curricular activity access by eliminating student activity fees; funding our FRC; and continuing our focus on MTSS implementation and supporting teachers in their professional growth.

- Superintendent Stockwell reported that Plymouth HS would like to adopt a new school mascot, and have chosen a panther. The colors will remain the same as prior to the new school being built. The action requires a vote of approval by the board.

ACTION ITEMS

- Kellie Smith entered a motion to approve the suggested updates to policy BD/BDA – Board Meetings. Ryan Scholl seconded; the motion to approve carried unanimously.

Item#	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
8.1		Bill Amos	X		
8.1		Melody Killens	X		
87.1	Seconded the motion	Ryan Scholl	X		
8.1		Trinity Monahan	X		
8.1	Entered a motion	Kellie Smith	X		

- Trinity Monahan entered a motion to approve the suggested updates to policy BDC – Executive Sessions. Kellie Smith seconded; the motion to approve carried unanimously.

Item#	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
8.2		Bill Amos	X		
8.2		Melody Killens	X		
8.2		Ryan Scholl	X		
8.2	Entered a motion	Trinity Monahan	X		
8.2	Seconded the motion	Kellie Smith			

- Trinity Monahan entered a motion to approve the suggested updates to policy BDC – Executive Sessions. Ryan Scholl seconded; the motion to approve carried unanimously.

Item#	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
8.3		Bill Amos	X		
8.3		Melody Killens	X		
8.3	Seconded the motion	Ryan Scholl	X		
8.3	Entered a motion	Trinity Monahan	X		
8.3		Kellie Smith	X		

- Trinity Monahan entered a motion to approve the suggested updates to policy EFA – Local Wellness Program. Bill Amos seconded; the members opened the topic for discussion. Trinity Monahan noted that he feels leery about reducing the required number of minutes of PE for middle school students, even though there is no plan in place to make changes in our middle school right now. Superintendent Stockwell noted that the lower number is more realistic, and the higher number of minutes may require additional teaching staff. Kellie Smith noted she will vote against the change, as she knows of some students that are enrolled in band or choir that are not getting any PE time.

  Chair Killens called for a vote. The motion to adopt carried, as follows:

Item#	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
8.4	Seconded the motion	Bill Amos	X		
8.4		Melody Killens	X		
8.4		Ryan Scholl	X		
8.4	Entered a motion	Trinity Monahan	X		
8.4		Kellie Smith		X	

- Kellie Smith entered a motion to approve Action Items 8.5 to 8.9 at once. Trinity Monahan seconded; the motion to approve carried unanimously. Those items included:

  8.5 Approve Updates to GCBDA/GDBDA – Family Medical Leave/Military Family Leave
  8.6 Approve Updates to GCBDF/GDBDF – Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance
  8.7 Approve Updates to GCPC/GDPC – Retirement of Staff
  8.8 Approve Updates to LBE – Public Charter Schools
  8.9 Approve Plymouth HS Mascot

Item#	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
8.5-9		Bill Amos	X		
8.5-9		Melody Killens	X		
8.5-9		Ryan Scholl	X		
8.5-9	Seconded the motion	Trinity Monahan	X		
8.5-9	Entered a motion	Kellie Smith	X		

VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

- No requests to address the board were received.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

- January10, 2024 – Board Work Session, 6:30 p.m., District Office
  - 2024 Budget Committee Vacancies
  - 2024 Budget Committee Calendar
  - IGA SHSD and City of St. Helens 21st Century Grant
  - 2024-25 Community Calendar- Review Winter Break
  - School Start Times

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Killens adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Melody Killens, Board Chair

Scot Stockwell, Superintendent