

# SHSD GOOD NEWS EDITION

*Learn, Connect, Commit*

## IN THIS EDITION:

- School Board Appreciation Month
- School Board Highlights
- Elks Teen of the Month
- Community Impact Award Winners
- Les Schwab Tire-Less Teacher
- SHSD Listening Session
- Budget Committee Vacancies
- NO SCHOOL 2.2.2024
- Ready Freddy Events
- We Are Hiring!

## JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Please join us in celebrating the countless hours these elected volunteers give to our community. During our January 24 School Board meeting, the District recognized each board member for their contributions and thanked them for their unwavering support for the children and staff of the St. Helens School District.

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

We thank our incredible, dedicated, hardworking St. Helens School District School Board.



*Thank You*

**Bill Amos**  
**Ryan Scholl**  
**Trinity Monahan**  
**Kellie Smith**  
**Melody Killens**  
**Lucie Polvogt**

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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 10th 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 who are at their best and sometimes their worst is what makes this 'job' real. Our school community is full of very passionate individuals who put children first; I'm very proud of them."

*Thank you, Kellie, for your service!*

**BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH VIDEO**



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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, Melody Killens.

A resident of Columbia County for 58 years, Melody Killens, has been a St. Helens School District Board Member for twenty-two 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!"

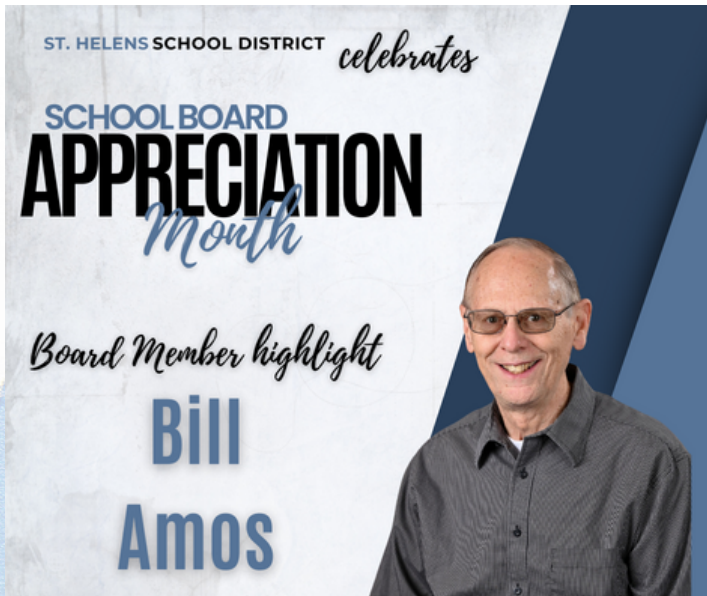
When asked about what she is most proud of while on the school board, Melody stated, "I am so proud of the staff here! Our district has been through so much, from new buildings constantly being built since 1992, with McBride being replaced by the fire, to our current work at the high school. Also, our 1970s staff stayed here for over 30 years, from 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. I couldn't ask for more!"

*Thank you, Melody, 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, Bill Amos.

A resident of Columbia County since 1970, Bill Amos has been a St. Helens School District Board Member for over nine 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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## ELKS TEEN OF THE MONTH DAKOTA HARRIS

St. Helens High School is pleased to announce Dakota Harris as the January Elks Teen of the Month.

Dakota is a well-known and loved student-athlete, participating in three sports during the school year and volunteering when help is needed. When she first heard that she was chosen, she was extremely surprised and flattered.

Dakota is involved in volleyball in the spring, a team manager for boy's basketball in the winter, and golf in the spring. Coach Kali Moore for girls varsity volleyball says, "Dakota shows determination to strive for success in all she encounters." The high school's athletic director, Ted Hirning, says, "Dakota displays a strong work ethic, integrity, and commitment in everything she does."

Volunteering for the Disney Grad Trip at Halloweentown and the Safe and Sober booth at the fairgrounds for the coast run, Harris says that they were amazing experiences and that she learned a lot and met a lot of people from around the world.

Coach Mo from the boy's varsity basketball team says, "She's very unselfish and really puts others above herself. She leads through actions, not by words. She is my right-hand person, and it's very difficult just to imagine the program without her." Harris loves to meet new people and experience new things, and she says that she considers herself outgoing and friendly, which her peers, teachers, and coaches would agree with.

Dakota enjoys being outdoors in her free time, such as back road drives, hunting, having bonfires, and hanging out with her friends. For futuristic plans, she is considering real estate and is very interested in forestry. Mr. Reed from St. Helens High School states, "Dakota is a great student, very bright and friendly. She is respected by her classmates and will be a great success in her future years after high school."

***Congratulations Dakota!***



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## ***Student Community Impact Award Winner Hayley VanWinkle***



During the board meeting conducted on January 24, 2024, Melody Killens, the School Board Chair, along with fellow School Board members and Superintendent Stockwell, presented Plymouth High School student ***Hayley VanWinkle*** with the Student Community Impact Award. Hayley received this honor in recognition of her exemplary dedication and professionalism while serving as a student intern.

Throughout her time as a student intern, Hayley has consistently demonstrated a genuine heart for others. Her compassion and empathy make her a standout team member, contributing positively to the overall atmosphere at the central office.



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## ***Hayley VanWinkle***

Having dedicated three class periods a day to her internship, Hayley approaches her responsibilities with the utmost professionalism. Despite being a student, she treats her duties as if they were a real job, showcasing a level of maturity and responsibility that is beyond her years. This commitment not only reflects her work ethic but also adds tremendous value to the office environment.

Hayley's excellence shines through in her ability to handle a variety of tasks. Whether it's answering questions or addressing issues that come her way, she handles each situation with grace and competence. Her confidence is evident in the way she approaches challenges, demonstrating a resilience that is truly inspiring.

Hayley has proven to be a great addition to our team. Her professionalism, dedication, and positive attitude make her an exemplary student intern.

We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to Hayley. Her impact goes beyond her role, leaving a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to work alongside her.

**Congratulations, Hayley!**



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## ***Staff Community Impact Award Winner Scott Pieper***



During the board meeting conducted on January 24, 2024, Melody Killens, the School Board Chair, along with fellow School Board members and Superintendent Stockwell, presented St. Helens Middle School teacher ***Scott Pieper*** with the Staff Community Impact Award. Scott received this honor in recognition of his dedication and passion for supporting the success and development of his students.

Scott is a dedicated teacher who prides himself on being available when needed, which is why he is typically the first one in the building and one of the last teachers to leave the building at the end of the day. His commitment to education goes beyond the typical classroom responsibilities, as evidenced by his mentorship of three STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) teachers over the past four years in our new facility.



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***Scott Pieper***

Scott's impact surpasses the traditional teacher-student relationship. His passion for learning is evident, especially when observing students completing projects or mastering intricate tasks with the tools in our STEAM classrooms. This infectious enthusiasm establishes an environment where students are not just involved but motivated to dive into and understand the subjects before them.

Scott has a passion for learning and providing the best quality education to his students. This is evident from the most recent announcement that Scott has been awarded a Makerspace Mini-Grant from the NW STEM Hub, which allows its recipients to create or expand their school maker spaces. We are grateful for Scott's passion and the expertise he brings to St. Helens Middle School. He is an invaluable member of our team, and his dedication and commitment to St. Helens Middle School and its students are commendable.

**Congratulations, Scott!**



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## ***Community Impact Award Winner Shanna Duggan***



*Community Impact Award recipient . . .*  
**Shanna Duggan**



During the board meeting conducted on January 24, 2024, Melody Killens, the School Board Chair, along with fellow School Board members and Superintendent Stockwell, presented St. Helens community member ***Shanna Duggan*** with the Community Impact Award. Shanna received this honor in recognition of her unwavering commitment to ensuring affordable and accessible programming for the St. Helens community.

Since the City of St. Helens and the St. Helens School District first joined forces as community partners in 2018, Shanna has been a driving force and an integral member of the successful partnership.



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## Shanna Duggan

With a shared vision to provide a much-needed, streamlined recreation program to the St. Helens community, Shanna immersed herself in creating accessible programming for students and community members.

In 2023, this partnership led to the allocation of \$1,178,590 in funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center After School Program, which will support the program for the next five years, ensuring its continued growth and impact.

This monumental achievement would not have been possible without the vision and dedication of Shanna Duggan and former Director Matt Doyle, who spearheaded the grant-writing process.

She is a bright light in the St. Helens community and has a heart for bringing its members together and building a sense of community. We want to express our profound gratitude to Shanna Duggan for her unwavering commitment and dedication to the St. Helens community, her positive impact, and her heartfelt efforts to foster a sense of community among St. Helens residents.

**Congratulations, Shanna!**



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## Les Schwab Tire-Less Teacher

Jennifer Bartocci serves many unique roles in the district, supporting students and their families, including the role of the McKinney Vento and Foster Student Liaison. She works effortlessly with community partners and district resources to ensure the individual needs of these students are addressed and taken care of.

She supports unaccompanied youth by meeting with them regularly, deeply listening to their needs, and working one-on-one with them so they can attain the goal of High School graduation.

Despite her busy schedule, Jennifer meets with students to assist them with creating resumes and navigating college and job applications, fostering their journey toward self-sufficiency and success as adults.

Her care, compassion, and dedication to this work are admirable, and we are lucky to have her as a part of St. Helens School District's educational team.

***Congratulations, Jennifer!***



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## SAVE THE DATE: SHSD Listening Session 2.1.2024

In our commitment to actively engage with our community and seek meaningful input, the St. Helens School District has planned four district-wide listening sessions. These sessions are an opportunity for you to engage directly with school district staff in an open forum.

There will be no predefined agenda for these meetings. Instead, they will provide a platform for you to discuss district-related matters, share your thoughts, or express concerns. Your input is invaluable, and we believe that open and honest conversations will help us better serve our students, families, and the community.

We are excited to collaborate with you to enhance our school district, and we hope that you can attend the second of four district listening sessions.

*You're Invited!*



**February 1, 2024**

**6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Plymouth High School  
470 North 16th Street**



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## Budget Committee Vacancies

The St. Helens School District No. 502 is seeking applicants for three (3) vacancies on the District Budget Committee. Each term has an initial three-year appointment. Due to the mid-term resignation of some position holders, not all vacancies have a full three-year term remaining.

Each term requires the attendance of several evening meetings during the course of the year. Applications are available for pick up at St. Helens School District Office, 474 North 16th Street, St. Helens, Oregon, or online will be accepted until the close of business on Friday, March 1, 2024.

In the case of multiple applicants, the Board will interview interested persons at the board meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

**For more information or to apply, [CLICK HERE](#)**





**NO SCHOOL**

**Friday  
February 2**





# Ready Freddy 2024 EVENTS

**Open to all incoming 2024-25  
Kindergarten students!**

**FEB 10**

**Kindergarten Ready Event 1**

9:30-11 am, Lewis & Clark Elementary



**MARCH 9**

**Kindergarten Ready Event 2**

9:30-11 am, McBride Elementary

**APRIL 6**

**Kindergarten Ready Event 3**

9:30-11 am, Columbia City Elementary

**MAY 1**

**Kindergarten Welcome**

5:30-7 pm, McBride, Lewis & Clark, Columbia City  
(go to the location your student will attend school)

**MAY 17**

**Family BBQ/Movie Night**

5:30-7 pm, McBride Elementary

**Please RSVP to:**

**<https://forms.gle/fNLDuN123wgBJwXP7>**

**Or Scan The QR Code**





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## Exciting Employment Opportunities Await!

Join the St. Helens School District and explore our current job openings. If you're eager to be part of an exceptional team, discover what we have in store for you!

For a complete list of requirements or to apply, please check out our job postings at <https://sthelens.tedk12.com//hire/Index.aspx>.

Questions may be directed to Director of Human Resources, Pete Moshinsky, at [petem@sthelens.k12.or.us](mailto:petem@sthelens.k12.or.us)

## Substitues



The St. Helens District #502 utilizes services from ESS for the hiring and placement of substitutes in our district. If you want more information, please call 1-866-208-7454 or visit <https://www.ess.com>. This site contains information on the requirements to be a substitute as well as what positions are currently open.