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Dr. Karen Gray
Acting Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD

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March 19, 2025

Dear Columbia County Board of Commissioners,

The St. Helens School District would like to extend our appreciation for the opportunity to utilize the facility at 2370 Gable Rd, St. Helens, OR 97051. This space has been instrumental in supporting our efforts to provide essential health services to our students and community through the St. Helens School-Based Health Center (SBHC).

Due to increasing construction costs, we were unable to move forward with building a dedicated SBHC within the high school as originally planned. Given this reality, we are requesting an extension of our current lease agreement. We are happy to continue under the existing terms and conditions but ask that the lease be extended until 2027 to align with Columbia Health Services' grant timeline. Additionally, we request that the lease include an automatic renewal clause for a five-year period to match the ongoing grant cycle of Columbia Health Services.

As part of our commitment to student success and career readiness, we are also developing a Health Occupancy Classroom to provide Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students. This program will allow our students to gain valuable hands-on experience in the healthcare field. Through our partnership with Columbia Health Services, students will have access to internships and the opportunity to earn a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license upon graduation. This initiative will not only strengthen our healthcare workforce but also provide invaluable career pathways for our students.

If more information or discussion is needed, we are happy to schedule a time to meet. We greatly appreciate Columbia County's continued partnership in supporting the health and future career prospects of our students and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Karen Gray

Acting Superintendent

St. Helens School District