St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026

The St. Helens School District Board of School District #502 convened at 5:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.
This public meeting was observable at: https://www.youtube.come/@shsdvideo6360

PRESENT

Those present were:

	Yes	No	Late
Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
Director Melody Killens	X		
Director Rochelle Russell	X		
Student Rep: Joseph Howard		X	

CALL TO ORDER

00:00:04
Board Chair Reed Hjort called the board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute and roll call.

AGENDA APPROVAL

0:01:00
Christine SmithReed entered a motion to amend the agenda to follow policy BDDH and not limit public comment to only items on the agenda. Rochelle Russell seconded.
Discussion: None
The motion to amend the agenda to follow policy BDDH and not limit public comment to only items on the agenda carried unanimously.

Agenda	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		

		Director Kim Walker	X		

Christine Smith-Reed entered a motion to amend the agenda by adding to New Business and an Action Item - Public Record Integrity and Public Comment Responses. Kim Walker seconded.
Discussion: Christine Smith-Reed shared that this would be a presentation making corrections of things the Board has done wrong.
The motion to amend the agenda by adding-Public Record Integrity and Public Comment Responses to New Business and as an Action Item to the agenda carried unanimously.

Agenda	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker	X		

Rochelle Russel entered a motion to amend the agenda by adding Inclement Weather/Transportation Safety report from the Superintendent to the agenda. Kim Walker seconded.
Discussion: Clarification of what was being asked. Information shared with families was discussed. The Board having oversight on this was discussed. The mention of a current KL complaint was mentioned.
This motion failed.

Agenda	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort		X	
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed		X	
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker		X	

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS

00:16:32
Board Leadership presented

ASB PUBLIC RELATIONS PRESENTATION
00:24:01
High School student Casey Werner presented.

NEW BUSINESS
00:27:30

- Blueprint for Student Success Update
  - Dr. Koreen Barreras-Brown and Jeff Byrnes presented a slide presentation.
- High School Bond Presentation
  - Jared Plahn and Christy Woodard
    - For the next work session - Jared and Christy will provide a budget and presentation at the next work session
- Media Requirements -
  - Chair Hjort took ownership of this being brought forward after seeing the City of St. Helen's media requirements.
- Public Record Integrity
  - Kim Walker and Christine Smith-Reed presented a slide presentation with board corrections from July 2025-present.

BREAK
01:26:58

VISITORS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
01:34:28

- Patrick B- Resident of St. Helens, past board member, retired St. Helens teacher, and a current substitute.
  - Finance and budget - The financial issues our district faces.
- Mindy S - Community member, parent
  - Budget committee vacancies
  - Charges for records requests
- Nicholas H
  - Get rid of the comment cards
  - Allowed to cuss at public meetings
- Deanna C - parent, staff
  - With the budget where they are...
    - Why are we even thinking about a new turf
    - How does this align with the goals with our students
    - Students report that the turf is fine
    - Thank you Director Russell for asking the questions
- Ashley C - parent, and risk
  - Proposed resolution for Executive Session Media
    - This proposal needed to go before the board for discussion

- Brady P - I voted for all of you except for Kim Walker
    - I was looking for change
        - I don't see that change
    - You are able to print reports
    - Credit Card -
        - Communication - between the board and finances
        - Statements can be given
            - I shouldn't have to bring this up

      The Board is the boss
            - Not your Superintendent

CONSENT AGENDA

02:00:13

- Meeting Minutes
    - December 10, 2025 Regular Session
    - December 10, 2025 Executive Session
    - January 14, 2026 Work Session
- HR Report
- Financial Reports
- Updated Superintendent Evaluation timeline
- ODE Grant - Comprehensive Literacy State Development - Corrected

- Melody Killens entered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Christine Smith-Reed seconded.

Discussion: Rochelle Russell - questions regarding the financial reports and the Superintendent Evaluation timeline.

- Kim Walker made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the financial report, the updated Superintendent Evaluation timeline, and the ODE Grant. With the Financial Reports, Updated Superintendent Evaluation timeline, and the ODE Grant be added to the next Work Session.
  Rochelle Russell seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.

Consent	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		

		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker	X		

ACTION ITEMS
02:26:07

9.1. Budget Calendar

Recommended motion -
Melody Killens made a motion that the Board approve the Budget Calendar, as presented. Rochelle Russell 2nd the motion.

Discussion: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#9.1	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker	X		

9.2. Media Requirements and Resolution 2025-26-005

Rochelle Russell moved that the Board table the Media Requirements with the Resolution Christine Smith Reed 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Rochelle Russell requested that this be moved to the next Work Session.

Kim Walker moved that the Board table the Media Requirements with the Resolution Rochelle Russell 2nd the motion.

The motion passed unanimously to table.

Action Item#9.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes

		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker	X		

9.3. High School Turf Field Resolution 2025-26-006

Kim Walker moved that the Board tables the HS Turf Field Resolution.
Rochelle Russell 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Melody Killens requested that Jared Plahn be available at the Work Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#9.3	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker	X		

9.4. Public Record Integrity and Public Comment Responses

Christine Smith-Reed moved that the Board adds Public Record Integrity and Public Comment Responses to the agendas moving forward.
Kim Walker 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Christine Smith-Reed would like to continue the Public Record Integrity and give the Board time to respond to public comments.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#9.4	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		

		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens	X		
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
		Director Kim Walker	X		

FINANCIAL REPORT
02:33:27

- Christy Woodard will continue to improve and provide the board with reports that they want to see
- We look at 3 years - This year, last year, and next year
- Concerns on budget shortfalls - Went over initial assumptions 2.6M
    - Looking at additional expenditures we are looking at a 5.2M shortfall
- Revenue page, expenses page,

BOARD REPORTS
03:03:07

- Kim Walker - Will be attending Listening & Learning Community Road Show
- Rochelle Russell -
    - Add to a work session - a tiered reduction process that starts now
    - Read a statement.
    - Request items to be added to future work sessions - district legal council
    - Volunteering every week at McBride and PHS
    - Shout out to the boosters
- Melody Killens -
    - Maybe we can put out a reminder at each school how to drop off your kids.
- Christine Smith-Reed
    - Attended the First Responders event
    - Lewis & Clark - Children's Institute presentation
    - McBride - time in classrooms
    - Went to the boys basketball game
    - Please volunteer for the boosters

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
03:27:58

- None.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

- February 11, 2026 - Work Session
- February 25, 2026 - Regular Session

- March 11, 2026 - Regular Session

ADJOURMENT
03:28:31
Chair Reed Hjort adjourned the Regular Board of Directors Meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Reed Hjort, Board Chair

Koreen Barreras-Brown, Superintendent