St. Helens School District #502
Board of Directors
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 8, 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.com/@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		
Director Kim Walker	X		
Student Rep: Joseph Howard	X		

CALL TO ORDER

00:00:05
Board Chair Reed Hjort called the board meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. followed by the flag salute and roll call.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

00:00:58
ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records exempt by law from public inspection.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

01:08:49

NORTHWEST REGIONAL ESD PROGRAMS

01:08:55
Lori Thompson, Student Services Director shared an overview of the district's partnership with NWRESD, highlighting key foundational elements. She specifically discussed the Special Education services and support provided through NWRESD.

AUDIT & PLAN OF ACTION

01:22:05

Tara Kamp, CPA, from CLEAR TRAIL CPAS, LLC, presented to the board on the findings of the audit and the district's plan of action.

01:31:04

Interim CFO, Linda Murray spoke to the board to break down the audit findings and answer board members questions.

RIF RESOLUTION

01:48:39

SHSD 502 RIF Resolution 2026-27-008. Whereas, the SHSD 502, has identified a deficit for the 2026-27 school year based upon inadequate funding to support current staffing levels.

AGREEMENT #40460, MENSTRUAL DIGNITY ACT GRANT 25-175

1:50:39

This has been approved prior and can go up to $12,000. This is used for feminine hygiene products and dispensers.

COMBINING COMMUNITY LISTENING & LEARNING SESSION WITH WORK SESSION ON MAY 13, 2026

1:51:24

Discussion about either combining the meetings or shortening the work session to accommodate an evening community listening & learning session for the community.

POLICY JECB - ADMISSION OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

1:52:48

Spoke about student transfer limits and also spoke about changing the application window.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2:12:31

Two members of the community spoke about student transfers.

ACTION ITEMS

02:19:47

12.1. Audit & Plan of Action

Christine Smith-Reed moved that the Board approve the edits as presented. Kim Walker 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Director Russell states the district is being reactive instead of proactive. She believes there needs to be more clear accountability.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
	M	Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens			
		Director Rochelle Russell		X	
	2nd	Director Kim Walker	X		

12.2. RIF Resolution

Christine Smith-Reed moved that the Board approve the RIF Resolution as presented. Kim Walker 2nd the motion.

Discussion: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
	M	Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens			
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
	2nd	Director Kim Walker	X		

12.3. Agreement #40460, Menstrual Dignity Act Grant 25-175

Kim Walker moved that the Board approved the agreement #40460, Menstrual Dignity Act Grant 25-175 as presented. Christine Smith-Reed 2nd the motion.

Discussion: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
	2nd	Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens			
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
	M	Director Kim Walker	X		

12.4. Combining Community Listening & Learning Session With Work Session on May 13, 2026

Kim Walker moved that the Board shorten the Work Session on May 13, 2026 and add a Community Listening & Learning Session after the Board Work Session, as presented. Rochelle Russell 2nd the motion.

Discussion: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens			
	2nd	Director Rochelle Russell	X		
	M	Director Kim Walker	X		

12.5. Policy JECB - Admission of Nonresident Students

Christine Smith-Reed moved that the Board approve the revision of Policy JECB - Admission of Nonresident Students to include an interdistrict transfer date notification between April 1 - October 1 of any given school year. Kim Walker 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Christine Smith-Reed said that she felt better knowing that hardship applications will be reviewed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
	M	Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens			
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
	2nd	Director Kim Walker	X		

12.6. Executive Session - Board Action on Topic #1 Discussed in Executive Session.

Kim Walker moved that the Board accept the claim reviewed in Executive Session with respect to Vice-Chair Smith-Reed, and delegate the authority to Board Chair to respond to the parties regarding holding a hearing in Executive Session in the manner discussed. Rochelle Russell 2nd the motion.

Discussion: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
		Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed			recused
		Director Melody Killens			
	2nd	Director Rochelle Russell	X		
	M	Director Kim Walker	X		

12.7. Executive Session - Board Action on Topic #2 Discussed in Executive Session.

Rochelle Russelle moved to approve the investigation of topic #2 and give Chair Hjort permission to respond and the accused. No board member 2nd the motion. Motion died on the floor.

Kim Walker moved that the Board uphold the findings of the investigator and censure Director Russell with respect to Policies BBF, BBAA, and delegate the authority to Board Chair Hjort to draft a response regarding the board's discussion. Christine Smith-Reed 2nd the motion.

Discussion: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item#11.2	Motion	Board Member	Yes	No	Notes
		Chair: Reed Hjort	X		
	2nd	Vice Chair: Christine Smith-Reed	X		
		Director Melody Killens			
		Director Rochelle Russell	X		
	M	Director Kim Walker	X		

FINANCIAL REPORT

02:36:26

- Linda Murray handed out financial documents to the school board. Overview of ending fund balance.

UPCOMING MEETING INPUT

- April 29, 2026 Budget Committee Info and Training Session
- May 6, 2026 First Budget Committee Meeting
- May 13, 2026 Work Session
- May 20, 2026 Second Budget Committee Meeting
- May 26, 2026 Third Budget Committee Meeting (if needed)
- May 27, 2026 Regular Meeting
- June 10, 2026 Work Session
- June 24, 2026 Regular Meeting

ADJOURMENT

02:53:53

Chair Reed Hjort adjourned the Regular Board of Directors Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

4/22/2026

Reed Hjort, Board Chair

Koreen Barreras-Brown, Superintendent