

Date:

May 1, 2025

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: Kymerlee Lake

Phone: _____

District Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Group / Organization: Community Member

Topic: Serious Concerns Regarding Sale of GBSD-Owned Land

- Please submit this form with your written public comment to the board secretary, Sarah Avery, at avery4@gresham.k12.or.us by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.
- The Board Chair, may require that a proposal, inquiry or request be submitted in writing, and reserves the right to refer the matter to the administration for action or study.
- Written comments may offer criticism of school operations and programs; however, the board will not review personal complaints concerning school personnel or against any person connected with the school system. If there is a legitimate complaint involving individuals, the chair will direct them to the appropriate means for board consideration and disposition.
- Please make sure to include your name for the record, whether you are a resident of the district, and the name of the group or organization you are representing, if applicable.
- Questions asked by the public will be referred to the superintendent for response at a later time.
- The board's regular business meetings are digitally recorded. They are also televised by MetroEast Community Media (www.metroeast.org) and Willamette Falls Media Center (www.wfmcstudios.org).

The board sincerely appreciates your interest in the Gresham-Barlow School District and thanks you for attending this meeting. ■

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

I am a resident of the District submitting this as public comment for the 5/07/2025 School board meeting regarding the recent sale of GBSD-owned land. I believe this sale raises serious concerns that deserve public scrutiny and discussion. Specifically:

1. Lack of Procedural Transparency: There is growing concern that the proper public processes for the sale of public land were not followed. Community members deserve full transparency when public assets are being divested.
2. Lack of Surplus Designation and Strategic Evaluation: To our knowledge, the land was never formally declared "surplus" or evaluated through a public process to determine whether it was no longer needed by the district. Selling district land without a clear and public determination that it is truly unnecessary undermines responsible stewardship and limits future flexibility for school infrastructure or program expansion.

3. Long-Term Impact of Increased Housing Density: Perhaps most troubling is the sale of school district land for development aligned with HB 2001, which encourages denser middle housing. This sale could directly increase the student population within the district—yet it simultaneously reduces the district's land holdings that might be needed to support this growth. In short, the district is selling land that it may soon need, creating a short-sighted tradeoff that burdens future planning and capacity.

This kind of decision-making erodes public trust and sets the district on a reactive course. I urge the board to pause any further land sales, conduct a full public review of this transaction, and engage in a transparent long-range facilities and land-use planning process that puts students and community needs first.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

The Lake Family

Please check the box below and include a phone number if you would like to have someone contact you regarding the topic described above.

☐

I would like to have someone contact me regarding my questions/ concerns at:

Phone Number

☐

Cell

☐

Home

☐

Work

The best time to reach me: _____