

Evening, board members. My name is Mark Spolitak, and I'm soon to begin my junior year at Gresham High School.

I could come up to this microphone and talk about how we could improve our schools, as I've done in the past. But, the truth is, every problem and every solution is in God's hands, not our own.

And the greatest strength that one in a position of leadership could have is to be willing to trust him. So as we approach the start of a new school year, I would like to dedicate this testimony as a prayer for our schools in this new season. So let's pray.

Jesus, thank you for allowing me to speak at this board meeting. Thank you for giving the board members the time to be here to listen to what the community has to say.

Lord, we just take this time to invite you to bless our schools with your mercy and your guidance.

God, we ask that you would bring salvation to this school district, and that you would teach us how to receive the gift of eternal life.

Jesus, we ask that you would bring moral correction into our schools, and that you would show my peers how to act with love.

God, we ask that you show us your own love by bringing comfort into the lives of students who are struggling with their mental health, as well as the strength to keep going.

Lord, if you're willing, give these students a deep hunger for truth and righteousness, and then feed that hunger. Give these kids a thirst for the fountain of life, and then show them where to find it.

God, we pray the same for the adults in these buildings. We ask that you help our teachers, our coaches, our counselors, and our principals seek out the faith, and the guidance that comes with the faith.

If you're willing, help those who work too much find rest, and those who trust in their own leadership find yours. They may be adults, but teach them to be like little children.

And Lord, we ask that you would guide the school board to make decisions rooted in you, and that you would guide the community to give feedback in ways that are loving and fruitful.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray, Amen.

Thank you.