

Date: 5/5/2025

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: LeeAnne McAfee Phone:
District Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Group / Organization: FOKC LLC
Topic: Salquist property

- 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

Members of the Gresham/Barlow School Board,

Shawn, Kris, Holly, Blake, Mayra and David, I want to begin by saying that I respect each one of you in your role as elected representative of the citizens in the Gresham/Barlow school district. You have all campaigned and held numerous meetings to sell your skill sets and passions so that you could work to be beneficial in the proper operation of the district and education of our students.

In this communication, I'm asking you to work hard in your elected position for the ethical and legal operation of the district, both in following its own policies and in following Oregon law. You are the voice and action of each district citizen to the district and its operation. You need to hear and act on the loud messages that have been communicated over and over again regarding the sale of the Salquist property. I am not here to repeat the details of what I know you have heard from other citizens. My intent is to call upon your consciences in making a positive difference in your position.

Rumors are flowing around the issues that have been raised about the Salquist property.

(Some of) The issues:

- *The fact that board members have never voted on surplusing the property as required;
- *the fact that Kris Howett with John Koch made the decision to surplus the property – against policy;
- * the fact that no appraisal was done on the property prior to the sale of the property as required;
- * the strong concern that the sale was not an open sale, but a back door deal;
- * the fact that Dr. Hiu promised that the district would ' work with ' the neighborhood and that has not been honored by his successor;
- *the concern that updated research is needed on student population forecasts due to the enormous amount of construction already started in order to determine whether the district should even sell the property.

The rumors:

- *Several board members are sympathetic to the concerns of the neighborhood;
- *there is concern among board members that they feel pushed by the district into making decisions they don ' t agree with;
- *there is concern that the board members are looking the other way rather than push for proper and legal procedures around this decision;
- *there is concern that money (i.e., the threat of lawsuits) is driving the decision making rather than the right thing to do;
- *there is concern that there is corruption at the district level in not following law.

Rumors almost always have at least a nugget of truth. If you are at all sympathetic to the neighborhood concerns, if you at all feel pushed against what you know is right, if you are looking to escape this mess, if you see the illegalities, and lack of ethic – I sincerely press each one of you to look into the values you hold with respect to honesty, integrity, wisdom, and fairness and to speak up where you see wrongs. There are many people culpable in the numerous problems with this proposed sale of the Salquist property – including each one of you. But even one culpable person can make a difference when they hold to their values and stand up for what is right. When you do the right thing to confront the illegalities and lack of ethics in the issues around the sale of the Salquist property, you will find an immense amount of support from the citizens who voted for you. Stand up for what is right.

Many neighbors will be watching what part each of you board members will play in the next board meeting. We will kindly lay out our concerns and even propose some courses of action. We are respectful citizens who are only looking for an honest, transparent process that is fair and creates a future for the Gresham area that is livable and sustainable for our students and their families.

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:

open