

Date: 5/4/2025

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: David J. Drake Phone: _____

District Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Group / Organization: Friends of Kelly Creek, LLC.

Topic: Protecting Our Children's Future, Stop the Salquist Sale

- 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

Please see below.

Dear Members of the Board,

I am urging you to stop the sale of the Salquist property, and vote to NOT surplus this critical asset. This land is located within a half mile of Kelly Creek Elementary, and sits in the middle of a neighborhood where over 700 new homes are being built within a one-mile radius. This land will be essential to meet the educational needs of our growing student population.

Allowing such a critical property to be sold without fully evaluating its long-term value to the district is incredibly irresponsible. Once it's gone, it cannot be reclaimed and we will have lost a key opportunity to plan for our children's future.

There has been no independent appraisal, no competitive bidding, and no formal vote by the school board to surplus the property, all of which are required for a legal and responsible sale of public school land. Bypassing these steps endangers the future of our students to have the educational experience that we owe to them, undermines transparency, violates legal expectations, and disrespects taxpayers.

Before considering any sale, the district must conduct a detailed, independent study to prove the property is not needed. This must account for rapid population growth and already overcrowded classrooms. Anything less is unacceptable.

At the September 4, 2024 board meeting, Superintendent James Hiu promised community engagement before any decisions were made. That has not happened. The community has been ignored and shut out of the process. I am asking you all to right this wrong while you are all still able to do so.

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: _____