

GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10 JT.
Minutes of Special Board Work Session

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Education held a special work session on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 in the large conference room of the Public Safety and Schools Building, 1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR 97030. A Zoom link was provided for virtual meeting attendance.

Board Members present:

Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann

Cabinet Members present:

Dr. Tracy Klinger, Superintendent

John Koch, Deputy Superintendent

Athena Vadnais, Director of Communications and Community Engagement

Opening Items

1. Call to Order (5:59 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by the board chair, Kris Howatt.

2. Roll Call (6:00 p.m.)

All members of the board were in attendance at the meeting.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda (6:00 p.m.)

MOTION 1: Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens and seconded by David Ligatich, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 7, No: 0

4. Oaths of Office (6:01 p.m.)

Chair Howatt reviewed the process for taking the oath of office, and administered the Oaths of Office to the elected candidates which included Holly Riegelmann, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, and Heather Coleman-Cox.

The oath of office read as follows:

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oregon and the laws thereof, and the policies of the Gresham-Barlow School District. During my term, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of school board member to the best of my ability.

Discussion Items

5. Gresham Civic/Downtown Urban Renewal Plan (6:06 p.m.)

Chair Howatt introduced the topic, and Superintendent Klinger noted that this came from the city because they want to pursue an urban renewal plan. The board has until July 10, 2025 to provide any comments or response about the

document. Page 5 provides a map of the boundary, which includes the district office, Gresham High School, and the West Gresham building. There are other properties that are just outside of the boundary area. The boundary goes from the downtown Gresham area to the Fred Meyer on Burnside. Board members asked for additional information about what this means. Superintendent Klinger shared that essentially the city would collect additional portions of local property taxes to fund this work. It leads to new opportunities for the city in terms of what development looks like. It impacts the local revenue the district receives from the state school fund, but it doesn't affect the overall amount. Any additional funds are backfilled from the state. It does change the tax structure of how the district receives funds.

Board members discussed the recent Rockwood urban renewal noting that this will cap property taxes, and the typical 3% escalation wouldn't happen. Instead, it would go into urban renewal. There are some advantages for public service workers like teachers, police, and firefighters because they can purchase HUD houses in urban renewal areas through the Good Neighbor Next Door program. The board asked about possible downsides and upsides for the district. Mr. Koch shared that upsides include the potential for safe routes to schools and sidewalks. He doesn't see much in terms of a downside. They aren't losing revenue. There is a potential for wanting to buy property and having eminent domain come into play. Some board members shared that they did notice downsides, specifically that none of the money will assist schools. They felt the district should have some type of response as the biggest employer in the city. They also wondered about appointing someone from the board or district to the committee. Superintendent Klinger confirmed that there is a new advisory committee that will be established as an oversight piece.

Superintendent Klinger clarified that no action is required, but if they want to respond before the 10th they need to move forward. Board members expressed concerns about how the city transportation planning views safe routes to schools, noting that the largest middle school has no sidewalk within 300 feet. The board doesn't think they should be silent about the needs for safer routes, and they noted that the safety of streets and sidewalks is a responsibility for the city. Some board members felt the plan should define what is included for schools. Other members noted that anything having to do with school function and capacity comes back to the district through bonding. There was also discussion around the possibility of the city extending the boundary for this project.

Superintendent Klinger asked about what type of message a non-response sends, and wondered about sending a response with some key points. This would show that they want to partner, but they also have concerns about safe routes to schools. She feels like it could be a missed opportunity to not get some of those key points on the radar. The board would like to submit a written response from the district, and would also like to have an annual update to know about progress. Superintendent Klinger will draft a response and have the board review it prior to submitting it July 10th. The board discussed enrollment and facility capacity for students as new housing is built. Mr. Koch noted that the enrollment numbers are down and they are running at about 70% capacity.

6. Future Board Agenda Topics (6:37 p.m.)

Chair Howatt reviewed the list of board requests, noting that some items have been assigned to the summer retreat. Superintendent Klinger added that they also talked about being proactive in working on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for SRO's in the future, and discussing weighted GPAs. They will make sure that new board members have access to the board requests spreadsheet.

Closing Items

7. Announcements (6:38 p.m.)

Chair Howatt reviewed the announcements in the board agenda packet. A Zoom link for virtual meeting attendance will be provided for upcoming meetings.

July 2, 2025: Regular Board Business Meeting - 7 p.m.

Council Chambers

Public Safety and Schools Building

8. **Adjournment** (6:38 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Sarah Avery

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and
Board of Directors

Note: These minutes were approved by the board on _____:sa