

Date: May 7, 2025

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: Beth Twardoch Phone: _____
District Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Group / Organization: Friends of Kelly Creek aka FOKC
Topic: The sale of the District owned 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

Good Afternoon.

I know you are all aware of this neighborhood group called the "Friends of Kelly Creek"..aka FOKC that was formed last summer after we caught wind of the sale of the district owned property referred to as the Salquist Property. My questions regarding this sale have still not been answered. We have uncovered a laundry list of questionable decisions that warrant a pause on the sale of the property. James Hiu, the previous Superintendent of the district stated at the 9/4/2024 meeting that the sale would be stopped and thanked the citizens for their hard work and promised to work with us going forward. That was all lip service, based on what transpired in October of 2024. There is no longer trust in the board or the district to make the right decisions on behalf of the children and citizens of our community. What recent studies were done to show the land can't be used for educational purposes in the future?

Is the District planning on using the proceeds from the Chase Rd sale and the Salquist property for Administration purposes? If not, then what are you planning on doing with the proceeds? Did you let a well-known realtor in Gresham make these decisions for you, because the money sounded appealing to the district? I know you are all aware of the boom in housing out in and around our area including a development of 271 townhomes to be developed on Chase Rd, a stone's throw away from the Salquist Property. Not to mention the Lennar Homes of approx 450 and the town homes along Lusted Road. I wonder how many children all these developments will bring to our local schools. If you are unsure of what this will look like for our schools, you should vote NO to surplus the Salquist Property. The surplus vote has not been completed yet and is required under law.

One of the responsibilities of a School Board is to ensure accountability. The board holds the superintendent accountable for implementing policies and achieving district goals. Is this the will of the school board to sell the property, without a surplus vote and to use the funds for Admin purposes? If this occurs, this entire community will be up in arms, and we will not stop until our voices are heard by other school districts in our State and nationally. It would appear that Mr. Hiu, his previous finance officer and Sue O'Halloran are calling the shots, not the school board.

Please think twice about the decision you are about to make.

Thank you for your time.

Beth Twardoch

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: anytime