

**GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10 JT.**  
**Minutes of Regular Board Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 2, 2025**

---

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 in the council chambers of the Public Safety and Schools building, 1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR. 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  
Dr. Sara Deboy, Assistant Superintendent  
Michael Sweeten, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Heidi Lasher, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning  
Athena Vadnais, Director of Communications and Community Engagement  
Pete Bejarano, Director of Finance

---

**Opening Items**

**1. Call Regular Business Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (6:59 p.m.)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by the board chair, Kris Howatt. Director Farrens led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call (7:00 p.m.)**

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

**3. Approve Meeting Agenda (7:00 p.m.)**

**MOTION 2:** Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Blake Petersen and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

**4. Land Acknowledgement (7:01 p.m.)**

Chair Howatt read the Land Acknowledgement at the start of the meeting.

**5. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair (7:02 p.m.)**

Chair Howatt reviewed the policies requiring the election of a Board Chair and Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the year. She opened nominations for these positions Blake Petersen was nominated to be board chair.

**MOTION 3:** Move to elect from the nominees Blake Petersen to serve as board chair for 2025-26. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens and seconded by Heather Coleman-Cox, Carried.

Aye: Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann  
Aye: 7, No: 0

Director Petersen took over as chair and opened nominations for vice-chair. Holly Riegelmann and Heather Coleman-Cox were nominated for board vice-chair.

**MOTION 4:** Move to elect from the nominees Holly Riegelmann to serve as vice-chair for 2025-26. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann  
Abstain: Kris Howatt  
Aye: 6, No: 0, Abstain: 1

### **Citizens' Requests of Board**

---

#### **6. Guidelines for Public Comment (7:07 pm.)**

The board did not receive any public comments prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Consent Agenda**

---

#### **7. Minutes from Budget Hearing - June 4, 2025**

#### **8. Minutes from Regular Board Business Meeting - June 4, 2025**

#### **9. Minutes from Regular Work Session - June 18, 2025**

#### **10. Monthly Financial Report as of 05/31/2025**

#### **11. Personnel Report**

#### **12. Approval of Consent Agenda (7:07 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen reviewed information included in the consent agenda.

**MOTION 5:** Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

Aye: Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann  
Aye: 7, No: 0

### **Recognitions**

---

#### **13. Recognition of New Board Members (7:08 p.m.)**

The newly elected board members were recognized and given their Certificates of Election.

### **Superintendent and District Leadership Report**

---

#### **14. Update from the Superintendent and District Leadership (7:10 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger provided an update on meetings and activities she has participated in over the past month. She shared that the wrap up of another school year is a time for celebration and gratitude. She offered congratulations to the students and class of 2025 as they are off to a great start and their next adventures. This year they handed out over 800 diplomas, and she shared that she can't wait to see what they will accomplish. Dr. Klinger added that they are also about to welcome in new kindergarteners and students transitioning from one grade to the next. This is a time of incredible growth and new beginnings. It is now time for rest and rejuvenation. Staff have poured countless hours into work, and Dr. Klinger shared that her deepest appreciation goes out to each of them. Principals recently shared points of

pride including improvements in attendance, increased 9th grade on track, more students meeting behavior expectations, the highest number of students earning the State Seal of Biliteracy, and the first group of DLI students moving to middle school. Dr. Klinger introduced Noah Simonson as the new principal at East Orient Elementary School. Mr. Simonson has a passion for education and his commitment to students came through in the hiring process. He has a strong instructional and professional development background, and they are excited to welcome him to the team.

Superintendent Klinger shared her personal gratitude, and thanked the board for their support and belief in her in this new role. She is looking forward to partnering with them. She also thanked her many mentors over years who encouraged her noting that their guidance has been invaluable. When previous superintendent James Hiu announced his retirement, it set the district on the path of change. Mr. Koch stepped in and guided them over the last 6 months during a time of uncertainty. He met challenges head on and created space for her to learn. She works with an amazing team of administrators and support staff, and will continue to count on them in the journey ahead. Lastly, she thanked her family for all of their support.

Chair Petersen thanked Superintendent Klinger for bringing this opportunity to serve their kids and staff, and noted that he can't wait to serve beside her. He also thanked Mr. Koch for serving in this role for the last 6 months.

## **Board Reports and Requests**

---

### **15. Updates from Board Members (7: 16 p.m.)**

Board members summarized various meetings and other activities they participated in during the past month. Topics included the following:

- Attending graduation ceremonies for Gresham, Sam Barlow, and Springwater Trail High Schools, as well as the REY Academy and ALP celebrations; noting how great it was to shake hands with so many students and recognize their accomplishments.
- Asking for ways to make the Land Acknowledgement they read at their meetings more actionable, and look at how they are incorporating it and making it a living statement.
- Recognizing the JBO senior national team for going to state; this is only the 4<sup>th</sup> time a JBO team has sent students to a state tournament.
- Welcoming new board members to the board; recommending they visit schools whenever they can.
- Thanking Mr. Koch for all of his work serving as interim superintendent the last six months.
- Sharing how no one stood out more in the superintendent interview process than Dr. Klinger.
- Expressing excitement about being a part of the board and learning to serve this community.

## **Recess/Reconvene**

---

### **16. Board Recess (7:22 p.m.)**

The meeting was recessed at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

## **Associations Reports**

---

### **17. Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) (2 minutes) (7:30 p.m.)**

There was not a representative from the Gresham-Barlow Education Association in attendance to provide a report.

### **18. Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) (2 minutes) (7:30 p.m.)**

Tia Ross, an elementary secretary at East Orient Elementary School, was in attendance to report on behalf of the Oregon

School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 8 employees. She shared that members attended the OSEA Conference last week, and confirmed that Erika Fuller gave an update on the changes to the OSEA board last month.

## Action Items

---

### 19. Results of May 2025 Board Member Election (7:31 p.m.)

Superintendent Klinger reviewed the official results of the May 20, 2025 election.

**MOTION 6:** Move to accept the results of the May 20, 2025, board member election as reported by the Multnomah County and Clackamas County elections offices. This motion, made by Kris Howatt 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

### 20. Annual Procedural Business/Designations Resolutions (7:32 p.m.)

Mr. Bejarano reviewed information included in the board agenda packet, and noted that the resolutions can be approved in one motion. These are things that need to be in place for the district to do business. Signatories have been changed to Superintendent Klinger and Mr. Bejarano.

**MOTION 7:** Move to approve by one motion Resolutions 2026-04 through 2026-08 for fiscal year 2025-26. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

### Date, Time, and Place of 2025-26 Board Meetings (7:34 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed information included in the board agenda packet outlining the board policy that requires a board meeting schedule be adopted in July of each year. He shared that there are two possible motions, and one of the days would be motioned which would establish which of the days they end up with for meetings.

**MOTION 8:** Move to adopt the 2025-26 Regular Board Meeting Schedule for Thursdays as presented. This motion, made by Heather Coleman-Cox and seconded by Kris Howatt, Failed.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Kris Howatt, Brenna Puderbaugh

No: Shawn Farrens, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 3, No: 4

Following the motion, there was discussion around how meetings were previously on Thursdays for quite some time. They tried Wednesdays and it didn't seem to help with attendance. Board members noted that having the extra day for staff to get things ready helps things flow better. They asked for members to look at the work impact to staff that provides materials for the meeting. Board members noted scheduling conflicts on Wednesdays and would greatly appreciate the meetings being held on Thursdays. Other board members said they would prefer to stay on Wednesdays for the meetings, noting that many school activities are held on Thursdays instead of Wednesdays.

**MOTION 9:** Move to adopt the 2025-26 Regular Board Meeting Schedule for Wednesdays as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

Aye: Shawn Farrens, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann

No: Heather Coleman-Cox, Kris Howatt,  
Aye: 5, No: 2

Following the motion, Chair Petersen noted he will coordinate schedules and agendas in advance so the board can consider them to allow for attendance at as many meetings as possible. There was discussion about the possibility of having some meetings on Wednesdays and some on Thursdays. Changing days throughout the year could add to some confusion, but it is possible. The district leadership cadence is built around this calendar, and alternating days would cause a big calendar shift week to week.

**21. Amendment to Specialist 2025-2027 Memorandum of Understanding (7:48 p.m.)**

Mr. Koch shared that they realized there were some things not included in the Specialist MOU that should have been. They need to add language around a stipend for those who speak a second language. Board members asked if this changed the budget, and Mr. Koch confirmed it did not. It was just language that needed to be included.

**MOTION 10:** Move to approve the Amendment to the 2025-27 Memorandum of Understanding between Gresham-Barlow School District and Specialist (formerly Confidential) Staff Members as presented in Addendum A. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

**22. Policy Review: First Reading (7:49 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger shared that the local wellness policy was updated a couple years ago, but it has been flagged by ODE for being out of compliance. This update is related to that ODE feedback. In the section around implementation the committee talked about removing the bulleted numbers and going with previous language, but in further review they felt this would leave some things out. Her recommendation is to move forward with the language in the policy. She noted that typically this is a first reading, but if the board feels comfortable, they could entertain a motion. It would be better to approve this policy now rather than waiting until September.

Superintendent Klinger shared that Policy FF was requested by the board to revisit. As part of the process the committee reviewed policies from three other districts. This is a starting point of drafted language based on what she heard from the board. They are at the point of determining if the language starts to meet some of the needs the board talked about for naming facilities and honoring people. The draft has sections covering naming facilities, timeliness for how long a facility or area is named for a person, and the process and review. The first section of naming areas or spaces would require people who are living or deceased less than 3 years. An honorary plaque seemed to be the way to honor someone still living with a 5-year review process for the board.

The board had some questions around the restriction of living or dead for under 3 years, and noted that there are some impactful people who are still living that they would want to honor before they die. They would like to honor people for their amazing things while they are still alive. Board members also noted that part of the delay for naming was so that they could fully know a person. They want to make sure nothing unfavorable about a person comes out, which is where they came up with the commemorative plaque to honor someone and name a space like a library or gym. The district has been inconsistent with how places were being acknowledged and named. Superintendent Klinger clarified that the naming of a whole building is the top paragraph in black, naming a space is the middle section, and the plaque information is at the bottom. The board asked how long the deceased for over 3 years portion has been part of the policy. Superintendent Klinger shared that it was something the committee added based on the review of other policies.

The board noted that it felt like Policy EFA – Local Wellness was ready to move forward, but they would like to have more discussion around Policy FF. They noted that it would be helpful to know what facilities and spaces in the district are currently named after someone and for how long have they been named.

**MOTION 11:** Move to approve the changes to Policy EFA – Local Wellness. This motion, made by Kris Howatt 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

### Information Items

---

#### **23. Monthly Financial Report as of 05/31/2025 (8:02 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen shared that the report is available in the agenda packet for the board's review.

### Closing Items

---

#### **24. Announcements (8:02 p.m.)**

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

August 21, 2025: Board Strategic Planning Session (Retreat) - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location TBD  
Gresham, OR

August 21, 2025: Board Summer Social (No Meeting) - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Location TBD  
Gresham, OR

September 3, 2025: Regular Board Business Meeting - 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Public Safety and Schools Building

#### **25. Adjournment (8:02 p.m.)**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 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