

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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in a regular session on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 in the Partnership Room at the Center for Advanced Learning (CAL) 1484 NW Civic Drive, Gresham, OR. A Zoom link was provided for virtual meeting attendance.

Board Members present:

Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Cabinet Members present:

John Koch, Interim Superintendent

Dr. Tracy Klinger, Deputy Superintendent

Jeff Gibbs, Executive Director of Technology Services

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 (5:59 p.m.)

Directors Farrens and Gómez were absent from the meeting. A quorum of the board was in attendance. Position 3, Zone 2 on the school board is currently vacant. Director Ligatich attended the meeting virtually through Zoom, and Director Petersen attended by phone.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda (5:59 p.m.)

MOTION 115: Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 4, No: 0, Absent: 2

Action Items

4. Policy Review: First Reading (6:00 p.m.)

To allow for more in depth conversation regarding the policy updates, this item was moved to a future board meeting agenda. The board did not discuss this item at the meeting.

5. Leadership Contracts (6:00 p.m.)

Dr. Klinger shared that there were two contracts included on the agenda for board approval. The first was the Deputy Superintendent contract for John Koch, and the second was the Assistant Superintendent contract for Sara Deboy. These were delayed coming to the board due to Mr. Koch's current role as the interim superintendent. Chair Howatt reviewed information included in the agenda noting that these contracts are negotiated by the superintendent and employees independent of the association agreements.

MOTION 116: Move to approve the leadership contracts for the Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 4, No: 0, Absent: 2

6. Personnel Report: Employee Contracts (6:02 p.m.)

Dr. Klinger shared that there are contracts for new licensed staff members to fill vacancies, and they also have some administrative new hires that are replacements for current positions. Michele Cook will be continuing with us, however the FTE listed is incorrect and should be 0.7 instead. They have also completed some finance hiring, and have accounting positions still needing to be filled. Heidi Lasher was promoted to take Dr. Klinger's spot leading instructional learning.

MOTION 117: Move to approve the list of Licensed New Hires for 2025-26 Recommended for Hire and Administrator New Hires for 2025-26 Recommended for Hire. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 4, No: 0, Absent: 2

7. Purchase of Cybersecurity Software and Services (6:04 p.m.)

Mr. Gibbs reviewed information in the board agenda packet noting that they are participating in a cybersecurity pilot program with the FCC, which allows them to spend funds over the next three years at a 90% discount. They were very lucky to make it into the pilot, and this purchase will use over half the funds. It includes a stronger antivirus that will monitor systems for bad actors. It is monitored 24/7 by a team of cybersecurity experts, so if something happens Friday evening, which is when many attacks happen, someone is monitoring it and will be able to catch an attack much sooner.

MOTION 118: Move to approve the purchase of software and services from Technegon not to exceed the amount of \$273,542.40 over three years. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Blake Petersen, Carried.

Aye: Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 4, No: 0, Absent: 2

8. Oregon Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (6:07 p.m.)

Dr. Collins reviewed information included in the board agenda packet. This grant came out in May, and the state set the due date for the grant as June 30th. The administration has been rapidly working with teachers and coaches to get the grant ready. It is five years of funding that will be spread over four years allowing them to expand their offerings. With the grant they are looking at preschool programs and how they align with the kindergarten transitions. This is really looking at pre-K to grade 12. He outlined the "must do's" versus the "can do's" of the grant.

The board asked how the district engages with families and students that aren't students yet. Dr. Collins shared that the grant asks them to focus on preschool programs, and for them it is the early childhood program at Gresham High. There is an assessment the grant requires for pre-K that they aren't using currently, so a lot of that 16% of funding will be used to purchase the assessment. Dr. Klinger added that it enables them to continue things like EKT (Early Kindergarten Transition) that they wouldn't be able to continue funding on their own. For the younger grades, part of the grant has to be focused on family and community partnerships. They are requesting the board's approval to submit their application for the grant. Dr. Collins shared a sense of where they are in the competitive process, noting that the state listed districts most in need to least in need across the state, and Gresham-Barlow falls as number 13.

MOTION 119: Move to approve the administration to submit a grant application for the Oregon Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

Aye: Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 4, No: 0, Absent: 2

9. Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Plan (6:15 p.m.)

Dr. Collins shared that the planning committee, made up of parents, teachers, administrators, directors, and coaches, met twice in March and April. For the committee they wanted to get a broad representation of the community. Mrs.

Lasher reviewed the goal of the committee which was to develop and update the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Plan of Instruction that reflects the requirements of the state, the needs of the community, and provides a safe and supportive learning environment and curriculum for all students. The committee spent the first evening discussing state laws and policies because a lot is directed by state policies. They also reviewed board policies. They engaged the community and stakeholders for how these get implemented in the community, and they put a website in place so all resources are readily available to access.

Mrs. Lasher noted that they reviewed key terms with the committee to make sure everyone understands them. Key terms included age-appropriate, culturally inclusive, medically accurate, inclusive materials, positive family communication & involvement, and shame or fear based. The committee reviewed current OARs and ORSs to know what is currently required by statute and board policy. They also reviewed the scope and sequence for elementary, middle school, and high school to know when lessons come up throughout the year. After reviewing the standards and laws, they focused on reviewing the parent opt out policy and opt out procedures. They reviewed overall feedback and decided how to make the Gresham-Barlow plan more accessible. Previous opt out letters were really long and wordy, and the committee said they should be shorter and more concise. The parent feedback was tremendously helpful. As a way to make it more accessible, they looked at other websites from other districts. Kenya Osorio in the communications department created a sandbox website. The board viewed the website and opt out forms during the meeting. The opt out forms can be submitted on paper or electronically. Paper forms that are turned in will get entered electronically. Opt outs are also in multiple languages, and the website itself can be translated.

Board members asked once someone opts out if they have to do it again. Dr. Collins shared that it is an annual requirement because lessons change from one grade to the next, so they would need to opt out each year. The board also asked what students do if they opt out. Mr. Koch shared that usually they go to the library with alternative assignments. Dr. Collins added that they also have it prepared ahead of time so the students aren't called out in front of the class saying they aren't supposed to be there. They encourage parent communication with the teachers so they have those conversations and a plan in advance. The board asked if anything within the state standards has changed. Dr. Collins confirmed that they are not aware of any changes to the standards.

MOTION 120: Move to approve the updated Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Plan. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by David Ligatich, Carried.

Aye: Kris Howatt, David Ligatich, Blake Petersen, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 4, No: 0, Absent: 2

Information Items

10. OSBA Summer Board Conference (6:30 p.m.)

Chair Howatt reviewed the dates for the OSBA Summer Board Conference scheduled for August 8-10, 2025 in Salem. She reminded the board that this is not an overnight event since it will be held in Salem. Board members interested in attending were asked to notify the board secretary in order to get registered for the conference.

Discussion Items

11. Superintendent Upcoming Travel (6:30 p.m.)

Chair Howatt reviewed information included in the agenda packet noting that this is a requirement in the superintendent's contract. Dr. Klinger shared that many of the items on the list are related to the COSA Year 1 Superintendent Program. Board members asked for reminders as these travel times get closer.

12. Gresham Civic/Downtown Urban Renewal Plan (6:31 p.m.)

Mr. Koch recommended moving this item to the July 2nd board meeting because it will need comprehensive input from the board. The district has some ideas they would like to forward, and he would recommend they author it with the board's approval. The board discussed possibly adding a work session at 6:00 p.m. ahead of the business meeting on July

2nd. They may need to swear in the new board members at the work session.

13. BoardBook Overview and Training (6:34 p.m.)

Due to some board members attending virtually, this item will be moved to a future board meeting. The board did not receive training at this time.

14. Future Board Agenda Topics (6:36 p.m.)

Vice-Chair Riegelmann noted that she still needs to add the request regarding weighted GPAs. Chair Howatt shared that they have started planning for the August retreat and talking about what it will include.

Closing Items

15. Announcements (6:36 p.m.)

Chair Howatt reviewed the announcements included in the board agenda packet. A Zoom link for virtual meeting attendance will be provided for upcoming meetings. A work session has been requested for July 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

July 2, 2025: Special Board Work Session - 6 p.m. *(added during this meeting)*

Council Chambers Conference Room

Public Safety and Schools Building

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

Council Chambers

Public Safety and Schools Building

16. Adjournment (6:37 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 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