

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

**Thursday, April 2, 2026**

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The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, April 2, 2026 in the council chambers 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, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda.

**Cabinet Members present:**

Dr. Tracy Klinger, Superintendent  
John Koch, Deputy Superintendent  
Michael Sweeten, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Carla Gay, Executive Director of Innovation and Partnerships  
Heidi Lasher, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning  
Donna Ravenberg, Executive Director of Student Support Services  
Jeff Gibbs, Executive Director of Technology Services  
Pete Bejarano, Director of Finance

**Opening Items**

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**1. Call Regular Business Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (7:01 p.m.)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the board chair, Blake Petersen. John Koch led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call (7:01 p.m.)**

Director Riegelmann was absent from the meeting. A quorum of the board was in attendance.

**3. Approve Meeting Agenda (7:01 p.m.)**

**MOTION 73:** Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda

Aye: 6, No: 0, Absent: 1

**4. Land Acknowledgement (7:02 p.m.)**

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

**Citizens' Requests of Board**

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**5. Guidelines for Public Comment (7:03 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen reviewed the process for public comment. There were no public comments received before the start of the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

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**6. Minutes from Special Work Session - March 5, 2026**

7. **Minutes from Regular Board Business Meeting - March 5, 2026**
8. **Minutes from Regular Work Session - March 12, 2026**
9. **Financial Report**
10. **Personnel Report: Employee Contracts**
11. **Policy Update**
12. **Approval of Consent Agenda (7:04 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

**MOTION 74:** Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda

Aye: 6, No: 0, Absent: 1

## Recognitions

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### 13. **Gresham High School Cheerleading (7:04 p.m.)**

Principal Aki Mori led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Gresham High School cheerleading students for their accomplishments. Senior Maggie Zelinka, Junior Kady Green, and Junior Daelynne Perez were all named 1st Team All-State individuals. Principal Mori shared that along with being very skilled athletes, these students are social leaders in the school who are well-rounded and achieving A's in several AP courses.

### 14. **Sam Barlow High School Boys Wrestling (7:08 p.m.)**

Principal Jason Bhear led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Sam Barlow Boys Wrestling athletes. Juniors Leon Richard and Froylan Mendez, and Sophomore Layth Qouchbane were all conference champions at their respective weight levels, with Froylan earning 4th place at State and Layth earning 3rd place at State.

### 15. **Sam Barlow High School Girls Wrestling (7:10 p.m.)**

Principal Bhear led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Sam Barlow Girls Wrestling athletes. Sophomore Taylor Ward and Senior Abby Richard were both Mt. Hood Conference Champions in their respective weight classes, and Taylor went on to take 2nd place at State.

### 16. **Sam Barlow High School Swimming (7:12 p.m.)**

Principal Bhear led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Sam Barlow High School Swimming athletes. Senior Powell Jacob was named conference champion in the 200 and 500 meter freestyle, and finished 9th in the 200 at State. Powell was on a college visit and unable to attend the board meeting this evening.

### 17. **Sam Barlow High School Girls Basketball (7:12 p.m.)**

Principal Bhear led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Sam Barlow High School Girls Basketball athletes. Sophomore Adi Fancher was named to 1st Team All-Conference, Mt. Hood Conference Girls Basketball Player of the Year, and to 3rd Team All-State.

### 18. **Resolution: Volunteer Appreciation Week (7:14 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing April 20-24, 2026 as Volunteer Appreciation Week. Director Farrens read the resolution for the record.

**MOTION 75:** Move to ratify the resolution recognizing April 20-24, 2026 as Volunteer Appreciation Week in the district. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda

Aye: 6, No: 0, Absent: 1

**19. Resolution: Teacher Appreciation Week (7:17 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing May 4-8, 2026 as Teacher Appreciation Week. Chair Petersen read the resolution for the record and expressed the board's appreciation to the teachers in attendance.

**MOTION 76:** Move to ratify the resolution recognizing May 4-8, 2026 as Teacher Appreciation Week in the district. This motion, made by Heather Coleman-Cox and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda

Aye: 6, No: 0, Absent: 1

**Superintendent and District Leadership Report**

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**20. Update from the Superintendent and District Leadership (7:19 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger provided an update on meetings and activities she has participated in over the past month. She began by noting that as they return from spring break, this is a season of high momentum and their focus remains on supporting students reaching their year-end learning goals. She gave a "shout out" to the custodians and facilities crew that caught up on building and cleaning needs over spring break. This month, celebrations will be held across the district to honor volunteers and the unique way they support buildings. Looking ahead to the next generation of students, this month they will hold the Connect to Kindergarten events for students starting school in the fall. This gives families the opportunity to visit their future schools, meet dedicated staff, and begin building relationships with their school community. As they move further into April, they are entering the state assessment window. She reminded the community that these assessments are more than just a requirement, they provide useful information. The data gathered provides a check on instruction, including where they are showing growth and where they need to improve.

Superintendent Klinger noted that in looking toward their fiscal and operational future, April and May represent a critical period for budget development. They officially began sessions with the Board and Budget Committee last month. The budget continues to be developed based on the need for reductions and feedback from community engagement. They are working to ensure the 2026-27 budget remains student centered, sustainable, and reflective of community priorities. This is a challenging financial time for many districts across Oregon, and she is grateful to those who are facing these difficulties from a place of problem solving and collaboration. By working together, they have the strongest path moving forward.

**Board Reports and Requests**

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**21. Updates from Board Members (7:23 p.m.)**

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

- Thanking the volunteers that help do so much for students, who don't always get recognition, and who help keep students thriving.
- Expressing appreciation for everything teachers do, noting that without them there would be no school and their children would not be learning what they are learning.
- Participating in the budget committee meetings.
- Reviewing the K-2 social studies books that look phenomenal.
- Looking forward to the 8th Grade family night at Barlow on Monday.
- Celebrating 25 years of service on the board, shaking hands with approximately 5,000 graduating students, and relishing opportunities to see students being successful.

- Training around lobby, policy, legal and board service, and continuing to learn, thrive, and make sure they are doing the best for the students and community.
- Sharing their own recent school volunteer experiences and how fulfilling it has been.
- Giving a shout out to Nicholas Restaurant for their assistance with Hogan Cedars' Around the World event by providing a 30% discount on catering services.
- Looking forward to mock interviews at Barlow April 9th.
- Looking forward to their first year participating in the different graduations.
- Volunteering with Highland at BizTown and seeing students embrace a role learning to manage businesses, nominate leaders, and provide speeches; there was a lot of enthusiasm from the students and volunteers.
- Visiting the intro to education class and talking about their role as a board member, sharing policy, and asking how students feel about the cell phone policy which received a mixed response; asking students about their experience in elementary school compared to now; absolute joy to be with the students.
- Grateful for those who are pouring into students' lives; the future is bright even if they are trying to solve problems they don't necessarily know the answers to.

## Presentations

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### **22. Mt. Hood Community College Update (7:33 p.m.)**

Dr. Lisa Skari, President of Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC), and Board Member Mohamed Alyajouri were in attendance to provide an update on where they are with the recent bond and how they are partnering with Gresham-Barlow. MHCC has been serving the region for nearly 60 years. They serve a large and diverse geographic area covering three counties and three campuses. Through their foundation they are providing almost \$1 million in scholarships this year. Their school is designed to meet students where they are and take them to where they want to go. Programs include dual credit, adult education, technical programs, and 2-year transfer degrees among others. They are the only community college offering an applied baccalaureate degree in cybersecurity.

Dr. Skari thanked the board and community who endorsed and campaigned for them to pass their bond. Each vote was a powerful statement of trust and they take it very seriously. MHCC is the only institution in Oregon to receive the national "Triple Crown" award for commitment to stewardship and transparency of taxpayer money. Since opening their doors, they have served more than a million students. Last year they served over 18,000 students, with 75% attending part-time. MHCC is often the first step into higher education. She shared information around the number of dual enrolled Gresham-Barlow students from the last several years. Hundreds of students enroll in dual credit and earn college credit while still in high school.

Mr. Alyajouri shared some of the bond-funded investments which include upgrading facilities, modernizing classrooms and labs, and enhancing community-serving spaces. When voters approved the bond there were clear expectations of responsibility and transparency. They have appointed a community committee to have built-in accountability, and they operate on a very clear spending timeline with clear benchmarks. Most activity will be completed by 2028 and 2029. They also have a really high credit rating and were able to leverage this in the bond for additional proceeds.

Some major improvements are already complete including the aquatics retractable dome set for 2026, nine parking lots repaved, building roofing and siding, and track resurfacing and ADA parking. Over the next 90 days they will continue the parking lot repaving. They are also onboarding architectural and engineering partners, setting architectural design standards, and engaging subject matter experts. All of these investments lead to community outcomes. Improved instructional facilities mean high-demand fields, expanded partnerships, and stronger college pathways. Improved community spaces allow for year-round aquatics and more public event option. Those wanting to stay up to date on the bond progress can visit <http://mhcc.edu/bond>.

Dr. Skari shared that next year MHCC is turning 60 and showed pictures of the different versions of Barney the mascot they've had over the years. This celebration is an opportunity to build into the future, highlight their success, deepen partnerships, and engage the community. They will start with a kick off celebration in the fall and celebrate the entire year. Throughout the year they will focus on student stories and outcomes, community engagement, and alumni connections. She asked anyone with photos of MHCC events to send them to [bmc@mhcc.edu](mailto:bmc@mhcc.edu).

## **Recess/Reconvene**

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### **Board Recess (7:45 p.m.)**

The meeting was recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

## **Presentations (cont.)**

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### **23. CTE Pathways Update (7:56 p.m.)**

Ms. Gay introduced Diane Santos to provide a presentation on CTE Pathways. Ms. Santos shared that she will give an update on the progress of the post-secondary pathways framework, including an overview of where they were and a visual of the district plan to implement pathways to all six career clusters with multiple onramps to career exploration. Currently they have four of six career pathways, the two exceptions are public services and environmental. Each stage is nested in another to represent the various onramps regardless of student grade or when they enter the district. The framework is based on four stages of awareness, exploration, preparation, and transition. The district recognizes that the road to postsecondary success is not always linear, and the framework is designed to give students multiple opportunities to visit and revisit each step.

At the elementary level, career awareness is explored in play, social emotional learning, foundations for academic skills, and the Tomorrow Bus. Students are introduced to coding through Sphero Ball robots. Exploration starts in middle school through STEAM, career days, CAL Fast Tracks, and the opportunity for CTE Exploration at the high schools where things like automotive and design are offered. In high school students have the opportunity to engage in all four stages with multiple opportunities for career connected learning. She reviewed programs at a glance noting that seven are available at Sam Barlow, five at Gresham, and five at CAL. They are also in the process of creating a fine art program of study at Springwater Trail, which will be the first CTE program at that school and the first fine art program in the district.

Ms. Santos shared pictures of students in action in the training and preparation mode through participation in the various programs available at the high schools. Students also compete in various CTE competitions through these programs and they gain skills for when they enter the job market. CTE and Career Connected Learning are high leverage tools for engagement and graduation. The statewide graduation rate is around 81%, but CTE participation raises this to 90%. CTE completers, which are students earning 3 or more CTE credits, have a 99% graduation rate. For the future they are looking at new CTE programs by adding Fine Arts at Springwater Trail, and Natural Resources. They also continue to work on marketing for CTE to increase enrollment, and will watch for impacts and opportunities from Senate Bill 3 (SB3).

Following the presentation, there was time for discussion and additional questions from the board. Directors noted how much they love the entire CTE Program, and how phenomenal programs like the Auto Tech class are. Board members asked if there is a program at one high school, but not the other, if students can take a class at the other school. Ms. Gay shared that they wouldn't be able to do this and remain at their school because they don't have that set up due to the transportation and master schedule challenges they have. Counselors and teachers spend a lot of time with students so they can request a transfer if they are really interested in one of the programs at a different high.

The board asked for clarification around the application process to apply for a new CTE program. Ms. Santos shared that they go through this process with ODE. They create up to a 3-year plan to meet the different elements of a high-quality program of study. In the fine arts program of study they are paying attention to local market and industry demands, communication with the local community college, and how they can partner with local industry. They have an advisory board so that the curriculum they deliver is on par with the current industry. They want students to be able to get into high-wage, high demand careers. Ms. Gay shared that they had the opportunity to represent the district at the national level for national policy on CTE. It is one of the few topics that is strongly supported across the political spectrum. They recognize the importance for students and the workforce. They were able to speak with staffers of senators about keeping the funding level from the federal government and keeping pace with costs. The board asked if there are limits in terms of the minimum or maximum number of students that can join a course. Ms. Gay shared that it is based on forecasting and the class size itself. Some have to have smaller classes because there are safety concerns for observation like welding or construction. This means some students may get turned away from a class they are interested in.

#### **24. Lupine Community Montessori Charter School (LCMCS) Annual Report - added March 30, 2026 (8:16 p.m.)**

Ms. Gay introduced Courtney McWilliams, Executive Director of Lupine Community Montessori Charter School (LCMCS), to provide their annual report. She began by reviewing their demographic information, noting that their numbers have changed and they have a large number of students, roughly 22%, on 504 Plans or IEPs. They had some very good turnaround in terms of performance with their reading for students in poverty increasing 40%. They also have 75% of regular attenders attending over 90% of enrolled days. Their enrollment continues to grow, and they are up about 20 students this year. They completed their lottery and are looking at 332 students for next year. They would have a lot more students if they had enough space.

Ms. McWilliams shared that their annual evaluation was completed by Kristen Miles of OSBA. Some of the commendations they received was that the Board completed a revision of the board bylaws, and they made acquisitions of two new buildings with significant upgrades made. They have made significant improvements to their website and handouts to clearly articulate the process for special education identification, and they continue to provide a unique education option for Gresham-Barlow School District. The recommendations in the evaluation were to continue focusing on reducing gaps for students with disabilities, underserved races, and ethnicities in ELA and Math.

They are still awaiting their audits for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Last year it was around four months late, and this year they are pushing even further than that. The financials shared in her report were provided by an accounting firm they hired to work with them in the early part of last year. They are now back to having their finances handled in-house moving forward. The biggest highlight was the acquisition of two buildings on Fariss Road. She shared that they are some really beautiful spaces, and they would love to have board members come and visit. Ms. McWilliams shared pictures of the inside of the early childhood program classroom, and adolescent program which is in the building across the grass area. They have over six new classrooms.

Following the report, there was time for questions from the board. They noted that in the past there were questions about how LCMCS could bring diversity into the school, and that the previous struggle had been location. They asked if LCMCS is able to have a more diverse population now with the new location. Ms. McWilliams confirmed they have and are at about 28%. The logistics of getting into town and having access to public transportation has been helpful. There is a new building being built next to them that will also have an early childhood program through IRCO. Board members were curious about the factors driving the increase in performance reading for students in poverty, and asked if they knew what those drivers are. Ms. McWilliams shared they have been able to utilize the early literacy grant which has been amazing. It has taken them a few years to work out the best processes, and having small groups come in and work together has helped.

The board noted that this Montessori is the only charter, partly because they can't take an existing school and make it a charter. Ms. McWilliams noted there is one other, but is a bit different because it is a state charter. LCMCS was the first since 2007. The school district was looking for an alternative model. Board members shared they are pleased that having it in this location provides more opportunity for people to attend the school. They asked if enrollment increases are proportionate with Gresham-Barlow feeder students or if it is rising from other districts. Ms. McWilliams shared the majority is for in-district students, and the lottery prioritizes in-district students. The board also asked about IEP identification and if it is handled in LCMCS alone. Ms. McWilliams clarified that special education services are provided by the district, and IEP identification comes from the district as well. It is a collaboration.

Board members pointed out that LCMCS has a negative ending fund balance on the audit report, and raised concerns about this. They asked if she knew when the audit will be completed. Superintendent Klinger noted that she and Mr. Bejarano have met with Ms. McWilliams and shared questions to provide to the auditors. The board noted that a negative ending fund balance is insolvency, and if the audit comes back with that they hope that the LCMCS board is tracking the danger of having a negative ending fund balance. Ms. McWilliams shared that purchasing the two buildings this last year took a pretty big chunk of their reserve. Board members asked to what degree the Gresham-Barlow Board is liable for insolvency on the part of their charters. Superintendent Klinger noted she would need to check with legal counsel on this. The board noted they will want to have that information before moving forward and getting into contract negotiations.

Superintendent Klinger shared that Ms. McWilliams has been working to make adjustments and course correct this year, and asked if this is something the board wanted to hear about. Ms. McWilliams shared that with recent March numbers they had to do a few layoffs in the program. They knew the budget would be tight with the purchase of the new buildings, and they tried to anticipate as best they could, but they had to have some layoffs of hourly auxiliary staff that help support some one on one with the students doing classwork. The board also asked if they had suspended their food program. Ms. McWilliams confirmed they had, noting they have struggled with staffing for that. There is really only one building that does that and they have to have 1.5 staff members to operate it. The decision was made as a school and their board because the numbers have been pretty low with the food program. They thought they were going to have to cut the bus transportation as well, but they were able to keep that.

## **Recess/Reconvene**

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### **25. Board Recess**

The board took a recess earlier in the meeting. They did not take a recess at this time.

## **Committee Meeting Minutes and/or Reports**

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### **26. Superintendent Evaluation Committee Minutes February 6, 2026 (8:36 p.m.)**

The minutes of the Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting on February 6, 2026 were provided for the board to review. There was no discussion of this agenda item.

### **27. Superintendent Evaluation Committee Minutes February 27, 2026 (8:36 p.m.)**

The minutes of the Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting on February 27, 2026 were provided for the board to review. There was no discussion of this agenda item.

## **Associations Reports**

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### **28. Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) (2 minutes) (8:36 p.m.)**

Kathryn Unger, a teacher at Hall Elementary School, was in attendance to report on behalf of the Gresham-Barlow

Education Association (GBEA) employees. She expressed sincere gratitude to volunteers in her school and in the district. She noted that later in the meeting, the board will be asked to authorize a reduction in force. She asked that they don't reduce numbers in the special education program and faculty. She shared information about caseload numbers noting that while Oregon doesn't have a caseload cap, many resource room teachers have numbers in the 30s-40s. For Occupational Therapists, the recommendation is caseloads don't exceed 60, but therapists in the district have over 100. This fails to recognize students who need significantly more supports. This information is not new or different than what has been expressed for the last several years. They sent a survey to their members and she shared responses showing that many are newer in their positions, don't feel they have adequate materials to do their job, and don't feel that they are able to fulfill the demands of their position during contract hours. Many members work evenings and weekends without pay, and several expressed worry they will have to leave the profession permanently. She noted that if they are looking at cuts, maybe it should be cut from the district pep rally or the salaries at the district office.

**29. Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) (2 minutes) (8:42 p.m.)**

Amanda Morgan, an educational assistant at North Gresham Elementary School, was in attendance to report on behalf of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 8 employees. She shared that during classified appreciation week they heard from a number of members many stories and many pictures shared showing the different ways they were appreciated. They felt very loved and appreciated. They will be going back to negotiations next week, and they recently sent out a survey to their members on upcoming topics to discuss. They received some good feedback from the survey and are looking forward to negotiations.

**Action Items**

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**30. Authorization of Reduction in Force (8:43 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger reviewed information included in the board agenda packet, and clarified that this is a reduction for next year, not their current school year. Chair Petersen noted that they prepared a resolution that is generic and broad, but it does point out the reasons why the board is being asked to provide this authority to the superintendent.

**MOTION 77:** Move to ratify Resolution 2026-09 authorizing a Reduction in Force effective June 30, 2026. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda

Aye: 6, No: 0, Absent: 1

Following the motion, there was additional conversation from the board. Board members clarified that this is not due to anything the district has done in terms of the financial picture, it is something going on because of state and federal levels. Superintendent Klinger confirmed that is correct, adding that this biennium it was projected they needed \$12.1 billion to maintain the current service level. It was also clarified by the board that this is to authorize the reduction in force, not a specific number. Board members shared how stressful a time it was going through a reduction in force in 2008, and how they have been a part of a RIF in their personal life. It is not an easy decision and not one that is made lightly. They hope that the district can do as much as possible to make as little reductions as possible. The board noted that it has been very challenging for all of them. The superintendent and staff have worked diligently trying to crunch numbers, find money, and figure out ways they can operate as a school district in the black. Chair Petersen noted GBEA's advocacy and that they are really good at showing up whether it is uncomfortable or not. He encouraged everyone to continue engaging with their state agency, noting that OSBA continues to be engaged with a solid front to push for additional funding. This is uncomfortable, and one of the more challenging seasons of being a board member.

**Information Items**

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**31. Finance Update (8:52 p.m.)**

Mr. Bejarano shared that the financial cash projections remain stable with minimal change since last month, however, they continue to be below the required 8% ending fund balance. They are projected to be at a 6.2% ending fund balance at the end of the year. With operating under the 8%, the board asked at what point they would need to have a resolution to be operating at a lower number. Being at 6.2% means they are operating outside of policy. They discussed adding this conversation to a future agenda.

**Closing Items**

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**32. Announcements (8:54 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.

April 23, 2026: Board Work Session - 6 p.m.  
Council Chambers Conference Room  
Public Safety and Schools Building

April 29, 2026: Budget Committee Meeting (1 of 2) - 7 p.m.  
Partnership Room  
Center for Advanced Learning

May 7, 2026: Regular Board Business Meeting - 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Public Safety and Schools Building

May 13, 2026: Budget Committee Meeting (2 of 2) - 7 p.m.  
Partnership Room  
Center for Advanced Learning

**33. Adjournment (8:54 p.m.)**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 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