

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, February 5, 2026 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, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann.

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
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 (7:03 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the board chair, Blake Petersen. Mr. Koch led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call (7:03 p.m.)

Director Farrens was absent at the start of the meeting. He joined the meeting virtually at 7:19 p.m. A quorum of the board was in attendance. Position 7 of the board is currently vacant.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda (7:04 p.m.)

MOTION 57: Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann

Absent: Shawn Farrens

Aye: 5, No: 0, Absent: 1

4. Land Acknowledgement (7:04 p.m.)

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

Citizens' Requests of Board

5. Guidelines for Public Comment (7:05 p.m.)

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

Consent Agenda

6. Minutes from Special Work Session - January 8, 2026
7. Minutes from Regular Board Business Meeting - January 8, 2026
8. Minutes from Regular Work Session - January 22, 2026
9. Financial Report
10. Personnel Report: Employee Contracts
11. Approval of Consent Agenda (7:06 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

MOTION 58: Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann

Absent: Shawn Farrens

Aye: 5, No: 0, Absent: 1

Recognitions

12. 2025 Gresham Community Award (7:07 p.m.)

Mr. Koch led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing the Gresham-Barlow Facilities Department for receiving the 2025 Gresham Community Award from the Gresham Fire Department. He shared that several staff members attended the annual awards ceremony last night, where the district was recognized along with Centennial and Reynolds. The Fire Department was last able to do facility reviews in 2009, and they were impressed with what they saw in the district.

13. Gresham High School Girls Wrestling (7:08 p.m.)

Principal Aki Mori led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Gresham High School Junior, Jeredith Fahnbulleh, for her state and national level wrestling achievements. He noted that building spirit in each school takes steps, and he commended Coach Elijah Kue and his wrestling team this year for building spirit, and for their tremendous amount of positivity. Coach Kue introduced the wrestlers in attendance at the meeting and shared that he is really grateful to have the support. This year the team has brought on a lot more positive energy, and their numbers have doubled in terms of boys and girls participating.

14. Classified School Employees Week Resolution (7:14 p.m.)

Ms. Vadnais led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing March 2-6, 2026 as Classified School Employees Week. Director Howatt read the resolution for the record.

MOTION 59: Move to ratify the resolution recognizing March 2-6, 2026 as Classified School Employees Week in the Gresham-Barlow School District. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann

Absent: Shawn Farrens

Aye: 5, No: 0, Absent: 1

Superintendent and District Leadership Report

15. Update from the Superintendent and District Leadership (7:17 p.m.)

Superintendent Klinger provided an update on meetings and activities she has participated in over the past month. She recently had the opportunity to join local district leaders, the county commissioner, and area mayors for a tour of the Amazon Facility in Troutdale. She was able to see the operations first-hand and it opened doors for conversations that

may lead to educational opportunities or internships for students. When students graduate, she wants to make sure they have a clear, viable path to success right here in the community. This week marked the start of classified bargaining sessions where they completed joint training in their Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB) process. This type of bargaining is rooted in mutual respect and problem-solving. Superintendent Klinger shared they are off to a positive start and expressed deep appreciation for the staff on both sides of the table. They will reconvene in April for their second week of intensive work.

On the advocacy front, she and Chair Petersen were joined by a student from Gresham High School for a legislative breakfast with Multnomah County Representatives. They were able to share data as well as some of their celebrations and challenges. They spoke candidly about real-time impacts of immigration and the significant budget hurdles all districts are facing. Lastly, Superintendent Klinger hosted a community budget forum as an important step in being transparent in financial challenges and listening to the priorities of families and staff. Next week they will have a webinar. She took a moment to speak directly to staff, noting that “budget” is a heavy word. She recognizes the stress and anxiety these conversations and the current uncertainty create in their daily lives. While the district has been in this place before, it doesn’t make it any easier. If they keep lines of communication open and lean on each other they will get through this. Superintendent Klinger closed by reflecting that they have officially reached the halfway point of the school year. They can look back at the growth students have achieved and look forward to the finish line. She asked staff, students, and families to take a moment to breathe and recognize how far they’ve come.

Board Reports and Requests

16. Updates from Board Members (7:22 p.m.)

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

- Seniors at Gresham High School have the opportunity to direct One Acts; cool to see how they can use their talents and what they have learned.
- Highlighting that the Gresham High School Basketball team beat the Barlow Bruins; energy was strong on both sides, and it was a great battle back and forth from both teams, they played a great game.
- Interviewing for budget committee applicants to fill the vacancy and attending other school functions.
- Thanking the classified staff and what they do for schools; noting they couldn't do what they do without them.
- Being involved this week with classified bargaining for 5 full days working together as a team; one of the best ways to do bargaining, it is a shared interest and people learn more about what is going on. After this week they will come back again in April.
- Attending the first Gresham High School Girls Basketball Game on January 21st against Sandy where they won.
- Traveling to Salem to participate in the Legislative Policy Committee meeting.
- Following back surgery, attending the Middle School Basketball Playoffs for the Mt. Hood Conference.
- Expressing excitement after reviewing applications for the vacant board position; there are a lot of amazing community members and they look forward to serving with them in the future.

Recess/Reconvene

17. Board Recess (7:27 p.m.)

The board did not take a recess during the meeting.

Associations Reports

18. Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) (2 minutes) (7:27 p.m.)

Matt Wallace, a teacher at East Gresham Elementary School, was in attendance to report on behalf of the Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) employees. He shared how they are dealing with a lot in their communities right now, and many are struggling emotionally with what they are experiencing inside and outside their buildings. This is the first year of 12 years of teaching that he feels really overwhelmed with what he is experiencing in his building. Every day he is hearing severe disruptions, and it is a reality they are living in. Mr. Wallace recognized and gave a sincere thank you to the classified staff for the incredible work they do. They are often the first to greet students, comfort them, and keep the buildings safe and welcoming. Their dedication makes a difference for students and staff alike.

He noted they are not only facing ongoing struggles with class sizes, caseloads, and disrupted learning environments and the toll this takes on staff, but now they are facing historical cuts. They are preparing to reduce supports in one of the only places they feel safe. He asked that when these cuts come that they put students' basic needs first, and they consider how many talented educators are already burned out and how many more they will lose. He closed by recognizing his fellow union members that went to Portland to protest ICE last week and asked the board and anyone present to reserve time to recognize these individuals with a moment of silence.

19. Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) (2 minutes) (7:34 p.m.)

There was not a representative from the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 8 employees in attendance to provide a report.

Action Items

20. MESD Programs and Services Proposal, Local Service Plan (7:34 p.m.)

Mr. Koch reviewed information included in the board agenda packet, and shared that a big portion of what the district generally takes advantage of is special services for students who need specialized programs, as well as nurses in the buildings. This a menu of offerings and the district doesn't use them all. They can choose from them and there is an allocation of dollars from the ESD. Board members noted that a few years ago when they looked at this they discussed there would be an accountability for the services provided. They asked if this has happened. Mr. Koch shared that it wasn't as in depth. Dr. Deboy, Ms. Ravenberg and Ms. Gay review the services regularly. The board also asked about outdoor schools and Mr. Koch shared he hasn't heard any concerns after the first outdoor school session. Following the motion, the board noted that it would be worth checking with principals to see if there are any concerns about outdoor school because it is a very high-risk program to provide outdoor school.

MOTION 60: Move to approve the MESD Local Service Plan 2026-27, Programs and Services Proposal, as presented. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Heather Coleman-Cox, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann
Aye: 6, No: 0

21. Replacement Computers and IFP Upgrades (7:38 p.m.)

Mr. Gibbs shared that they need about 379 Chromebooks this summer. They went through a competitive bidding process and selected OETC, a non-profit that specializes in education technology based in Oregon, to purchase the Chromebooks. This is the second low replacement year in a row. Last year they didn't do a big replacement because not a lot of devices were at end of life. Mr. Gibbs noted that he will be back the next several years because now the COVID-19 devices are reaching end of life. They created a fund to save for turf and technology, and he believes this is the first time they will utilize those funds. Interactive Flat Panels (IFPs) bought during the bond also need maintenance and replacement. Teachers use them every day, and while the vendors said they would last 10 years, there have been reliability issues. They are looking at a small upgrade which would mean getting a small computer that would connect to the IFP to push out their life another 5 years.

Board members asked if there was any type of recourse for the IFPs not lasting 10 years. Mr. Gibbs shared the vendors

have provided what they think is a solution, but it is not helpful for teachers. They have gone back and forth, and they are meeting the letter of what they said they would do but not the spirit. The board noted the good longevity of the Chromebooks, and asked if there is something they can do with the old devices. Mr. Gibbs shared that the ones they are replacing this summer are 8 years old, which is longer than they thought they would last. They have a program where graduating seniors are gifted a Chromebook to assist them with college and career. Any extras not claimed get recycled.

MOTION 61: Move to approve the purchase of student computers and upgrades for interactive flat panels not to exceed \$400,000. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

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

Aye: 6, No: 0

Information Items

22. Financial Update (7:43 p.m.)

Mr. Bejarano reviewed information included in the financial report noting that it is a similar report from last month. The district's cashflow projections remain stable. The projections of an Ending Fund Balance (EFB) of 6.2% is a slight increase from the prior month's projection and show that cost savings measures are having a marginal impact.

Closing Items

23. Announcements (7:44 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the announcements in the board agenda packet and noted that the Special Work Session scheduled for February 12, 2026 may get moved to 5:00 p.m. A Zoom link for virtual meeting attendance will be provided for upcoming meetings.

February 12, 2026: Special Board Work Session - 6 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
Public Safety and Schools Building

February 20, 2026: Board Strategic Planning Session (Retreat) - 8 a.m.
Location TBD

March 5, 2026: Regular Board Business Meeting - 7 p.m.
Council Chambers
Public Safety and Schools Building

24. Adjournment (7:44 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 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