

Date: May 5, 2025

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: Danielle Durham Phone: _____

District Resident: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Group / Organization: Resident of Kelly Creek Estates

Topic: Lack of Trust re: GBSD Property on Salquist Rd.

- 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. ■

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I am writing today to express deep dissatisfaction and concern over the District's lack of transparency regarding its secretive real estate dealings and the mishandling of the Salquist property transactions. These backdoor negotiations and legal entanglements raise serious questions about accountability, legality, and the District's relationship with the very community it claims to serve.

On October 18, 2024, legal counsel for HEX—Schwabe Williamson and Wyatt—threatened the District with a lawsuit over the Salquist property, citing a breach of contract and seeking damages or forced performance.

The claim stemmed from the District's own discussions about whether or not to declare the land surplus. This omission, whether intentional or negligent, demonstrates a fundamental failure to uphold legal and ethical standards.

Then, on January 15, 2025, John L. Scott of Sandy—acting as HEX’s agent—further threatened litigation for \$2.9 million in lost commissions. Referring to concerned Gresham residents as "disgruntled neighbors" shows a profound lack of respect for the community. It’s alarming that a local developer and real estate office would threaten to sue a public school board—an institution meant to serve our children and families—simply to protect profits. If this is the kind of "local" partnership the District boasts about, then the word “community” has clearly lost all meaning here.

This situation reeks of a deal made in the shadows, without proper public disclosure or process. How can the District possibly justify this to the taxpayers, families, and educators who expect transparency and integrity?

The Board must answer for how and why this happened. The community deserves a full public accounting of the Salquist negotiations, the legal threats, and any profits that stood to be made at our expense. The District must recommit itself to transparency, legality, and its actual community—not just developers and outside interests.

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: any time