

Date: 4/27/25

For Office Use

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Name: Frank Twardoch Phone: _____

District Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Group / Organization: FOKC (Friends of Kelly Creek)

Topic: Salquist Road property owned by school district sale concerns

- 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.wfmcastudios.org).

The board sincerely appreciates your interest in the Gresham-Barlow School District and thanks you for attending this meeting. ■

Gresham-Barlow School District
Citizens Comments to the Board

Board members and Mr. Koch,

We in the community, taxpayers who entrust the board to do the right thing with property owned by the public, have serious concerns regarding the sale of the Salquist Road property. The process by which the property was sold has multiple areas of concern to the community, which had over 100 responses to the issues which are -

1. Property is supposed to be declared "surplus" BY THE BOARD, meaning all board members are asked to vote on this, which to date still has not happened. This is covered by the District's own policy (DN which states sales of property shall adhere to state law). State law (ORS 270.100) requires an appraisal to be made of the property, which, again, to date has not happened. This is unconscionable as the property may be valued higher than the arbitrary price set by the realtor, and without listing it and receiving competitive bids. We know all this is factual, as we have asked for historical emails and letters throughout this process that proves the proper steps were not followed.

2. James Hiu promised the community at a September 4, 2024 board meeting that the sale to HEX was cancelled due to being caught not following the proper procedure, then, when a threat of a lawsuit from HEX for \$12M was announced, changed the decision and never informed the community. We found out in early February when Mr Koch and Ms Howatt sent a letter stating the sale was on, but there has been no proof the Board as an entity voted. NO VOTE/NO SALE is our stance at this time.

The community, who has owned the property for over 40 years, has multiple concerns about the impact this will have on livability, wildlife habitat (since the buyer will be denuding the entire property of all trees), not to mention traffic concerns as well as crime increases we expect. The work done on traffic studies was farcical and though that is a City of Gresham issue, we as community members, especially our elected board members, all should consider as we collectively think about selling school property. The last "study" done for school population evaluation was done in 2019, long before there were over 700 single family homes/ townhomes being built in the Kelly Creek/Spence Acres area. Did you even consider that you might need the property for another school? There are two schools in the GBSD that are on less acreage than the Salquist property, so don't use that excuse that it is too small - we expect you to think creatively and outside the box and not sell property to fund a new district office. Our schools, like most in the state, are NOT scoring well on standardized testing and investing in schools and NOT administrative locations and staff is what we need. Please think about the KIDS, which is the most important thing.

Many of us will be attending the May Board meeting and expect the questions and concerns to be addressed.

Frank Twardoch

Please check the box below and include a phone number if you would like to have someone contact you regarding the topic described above.

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I would like to have someone contact me regarding my questions/ concerns at:

Phone Number

☐

Cell

☐

Home

☐

Work

The best time to reach me: _____