

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

Thursday, April 23, 2026

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, April 23, 2026 in the large conference room 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, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann, Erasto Sedda.

Cabinet Members present:

Dr. Tracy Klinger, Superintendent
John Koch, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Sara Deboy, Assistant Superintendent
Heidi Lasher, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

Opening Items

1. Call to Order (6:01 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the board chair, Blake Petersen.

2. Roll Call (6:01 p.m.)

Directors Farrens and Sedda were absent from the meeting. A quorum of the board was in attendance. Director Sedda arrived at 6:20 p.m. and joined the meeting at that time.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda (6:02 p.m.)

MOTION 78: Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

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

Not present at time of vote: Erasto Sedda

Aye: 5, No: 0, Absent: 2

Action Items

4. Social Science Curriculum Adoption - First Read (6:02 p.m.)

Dr. Tim Collins and Heidi Lasher provided an overview of the social science curriculum adoption. Dr. Collins began by reviewing the adoption team process, explaining that it was a collaborative process grounded in effective and equitable teaching practices. They worked to prioritize the variabilities of their learners and center student voice. There was a total of 38 educators from different positions across the district involved. They postponed the high school adoption until next year to focus on getting the Senate Bill 3 (SB 3) requirements implemented.

Ms. Lasher detailed how they participated in MESD's Social Science for a Better World last year, and then developed lessons on what they learned. Beginning in the fall they reviewed social science standards in collaboration with MESD and ODE, began developing a social science framework, and K-5 began reviewing picture books and lesson plan development. They determined that the 3rd-5th grade picture books weren't robust enough so they looked at a curriculum adoption and decided to move forward with TCI, Social Studies Alive! for those grades. Dr. Collins specified that at the Middle School level TCI and Traverse came to the top. With social science it is usually the teachers on the adoption team interested in piloting materials, however other social studies teachers were also interested in seeing what the materials looked like. The process on the teacher side expanded beyond what they initially anticipated and became a much broader pilot process.

Ms. Lasher described how they used the Oregon Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (OR-IMET) for Kindergarten-2nd grades. The district's current literacy curriculum, wonders and Maravillas meets the OR-IMET criteria as a curriculum for social science. The adoption team continued to curate lesson plans for the picture books based on the vocabulary and talk-cite-write routines. Lessons were piloted in several classrooms throughout the district. After piloting, they conducted empathy interviews with students asking them what they thought of the lessons with the book, what they enjoyed about it, anything they didn't like, and what they learned. 100% of students interviewed gave positive feelings about their experience. Ms. Lasher shared student quotes from the empathy interviews for grades K-2.

Ms. Lasher shared that for grades 3-5 they used a curriculum review tool created by the coach team. Students engaged with TCI (Teachers' Curriculum Institute), Social Studies Alive! curriculum and were super excited about the materials. The decision was made to move forward with this curriculum. It is interactive and engaging and also has Spanish language options. Ms. Lasher shared student quotes from the empathy interviews for grades 3-5. Students found the materials very interesting and liked learning something new. She also shared family feedback on the materials and what is included in the proposed adoption.

Dr. Collins provided an overview of the middle school "look-fors," which included making sure materials are representative of students, cover the content in the updated social science standards, and connect to students' real world experiences. The team really wanted to emphasize the idea of critical inquiry, with students asking questions and doing deep dives into topics of interests. When looking at feedback from teachers, TCI was the overwhelming favorite of teachers. It was the favorite for students as well. It provides a combination of a physical workbook with an online platform and textbook available in the classroom. Teachers were pretty adamant that if the district couldn't purchase the workbook, they didn't want it. The workbook is really the core of the curricula. This year they have elevated vocabulary and are teaching it in ways that are relevant to students. Dr. Collins reviewed the teacher, student and community feedback and discussed how they continue to adjust to find the best way to engage the community in the adoption process. He gave an overview of the proposed adoption materials.

5. Budget Committee Appointment (6:29 p.m.)

Chair Petersen explained that when Director Sedda was appointed to the board, this created a vacancy of Position 5 on the Gresham-Barlow Budget Committee. This position must be filled by a member of the District Equity Committee (DEC). He also reviewed the other eligibility requirements for service on the budget committee. Interested members were interviewed by the Board Chair and Vice-Chair, and they recommended Ashley Tuomi be appointed to the budget committee. She is involved in government, healthcare, and has experience for this position. She also knew of the budget challenges the district is facing.

The board clarified that this position has to be filled by a member of the DEC and confirmed that one person from DEC applied. There was general conversation on how they should handle budget committee vacancies in the future, with board members noting they didn't like that previous members could be asked to continue in their position after their term expired. They would like to review the appointment process. This position will fill the remainder of the term for Position 5 on the committee.

MOTION 79: Move to accept the recommendation to appoint Ashley Tuomi, to Position 5, on the Gresham-Barlow School District Budget Committee. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Heather Coleman-Cox, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann, Erasto Sedda
Aye: 6, No: 0, Absent: 1

6. Policy Review: First Reading (6:34 p.m.)

Mr. Koch shared that this policy was discussed by the board on March 12th and is being brought back for further discussion. There have not been any additional edits to the policy. He added that in the second paragraph there are two sentences of bracketed language and the board will need to decide which sentence to include in the policy. The first

sentence reads, "The amount of the stipend is limited to the amount included in the budget," and the second sentence is, "The stipend amount will be approved by resolution of the Board." Board members clarified there would be a maximum amount of \$500 a month as laid out in state statute.

Board members took turns sharing their perspectives around board stipends. Several board members felt this was a policy they need to have in place, but that this felt like the wrong timing to implement stipends given the current budget forecast. They would like additional conversation at the August retreat about how much time it takes to be a board member, what training they should be doing, what opportunities board members should have, and whether or not it should be compensated. Board member time is valuable and additional requirements that take more board time have been added over the years. The policy is a good first step and it needs to be implemented in a realistic way. Some board members felt that implementing the policy would help increase the diversity of candidates for the board. Folks might want to join the board, but be hesitant to because it causes some type of imposition on their time and finances, which could be addressed by having the stipend in place. Others felt that the stipend amount wasn't enough to draw more candidates.

Board members expressed additional concern around the timing of this conversation and proposed increasing the reimbursement amount for things like childcare. It was clarified that reimbursement cannot be used for childcare. In terms of timing, it was noted that they wouldn't be implementing the stipend tonight, they would be putting the policy in place so they have the option for a decision in the future. Board members would like to have a discussion about what financial situation they would want to have in place before they did a stipend. They could look at having it based on a specific number or how much is in their ending fund balance. This would let them set a benchmark.

The board noted that this is a situation that came about because state advocates looked across the country where board members are compensated and wanted to do that for Oregon. Other states have board members paid near a living wage, but in Oregon it's been voluntary service for a long time. State advocates tried to make it right, but they had a really good idea that is not funded so boards are dipping into the general fund to consider these issues of equity and opportunity, and validating service and time. It is a really difficult ethical conversation to have. A policy in place is not a decision, but they would be readying the decision. They discussed having an overview on the budget for the board noting that there is a budgetary reality that restricts the decisions of the district.

Conversation shifted to discussing the bracketed language in the policy. The current proposed budget does not include money for board stipends. There was extensive conversation by board members and staff present around which bracketed language to use in the policy. When discussing having the amount approved by resolution of the board it was pointed out that the board would vote to have the stipend each year. This would mean new members starting in July would not be a part of that decision. This sentence would give the board an action item each year for them to review. Some board members noted that it could get very complicated doing this every year, and expressed concern that they would be having this same conversation all the time.

The first sentence feels more like a decision by the district because the board doesn't decide line item amounts. The administration noted that they would talk to the board about the amount. If it is approved, they would automatically budget the maximum amount of \$500 a month per person. It would become part of the budgeting process. This option would be an automatic opt in, and if a board member wants to opt out then they would notify the business office. Board members asked Superintendent Klinger if there is an option she is more comfortable with. She shared that at first she thought the resolution could be really clean in July, and they could do it starting a new fiscal year. With the budget process they could have conversations along the way to make sure what is in the budget is what needs to be, then it is more automatic. She thinks they need to build a stronger practice on what is in the board's budget. There was additional conversation on what is included in the board's budget including memberships, election costs, and legal fees. It was clarified that the board decided not to go to national conferences this year, but local conferences like OSBA were still included. Superintendent Klinger noted that all of the board's budget is in the same function, and there is flexibility within a specific line item to address a change like that.

The board discussed including language in the policy that stated a board member could accept less of the stipend amount. It could be adjusted to say, "Board members may choose not to accept the stipend or a less amount by notifying the business office." Board members expressed concern that it would still be earmarking that amount. Superintendent Klinger noted that if it is budgeted and not used the default is it goes back to the ending fund balance at the end of the year. The board can also make a decision to review the policy again if it doesn't work. They are not stuck forever with whatever decision they make.

After in depth conversation, the board consensus was to use the budget option for the bracketed language. Superintendent Klinger pointed out that whether they went with the budgeted language or the yearly resolutions, they would still need to budget for it either way. The board would like to have an overview of the board budget to evaluate the choices they have and look at what needs to be there and what doesn't. They can build a process that works and meets the needs of the stipend being in the budget that is thoughtful to how they spend. The board would like the policy language to read, "The amount of the stipend is limited to the amount included in the budget." District staff recommended including monthly.

There was discussion on how to move the policy forward for next steps. They would like to bring a clean copy of the policy back to the next work session. They would also like to discuss any hangups and contextual information about board costs at that time. Board members asked for staff to look at Beaverton's policy language along with other regional districts. Mr. Koch confirmed that the policy language will read, "The amount of the stipend is limited to the amount included in the budget. Board members may choose not to accept the stipend or less than the maximum stipend by notifying the business office."

Recess/Reconvene

Board Recess (7:26 p.m.)

The meeting was recessed at 7:26 p.m. and reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

Executive Session

7. Recess into Executive Session - Negotiations ORS 192.660(2)(d) and Personnel 192.660(2)(b) (7:32 p.m.)

The meeting was recessed into executive session at 7:32 p.m. in order to discuss Negotiations pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) and Personnel pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(b). Executive sessions are closed to the public and representatives of the news media were not allowed to attend during the negotiations discussion. Members of the public attending virtually were excused from the meeting and the audio and video portion of the virtual meeting was muted until the end of the executive session. No decision may be made in executive session.

8. Reconvene into Regular Work Session (9:35 p.m.)

Following the executive session, the board reconvened into the regular work session at 9:35 p.m.

Discussion Items

9. Future Board Agenda Topics (9:35 p.m.)

Chair Petersen shared that they haven't had a board leadership meeting recently, but they will review and target some items for upcoming board meetings.

Closing Items

10. Announcements (9:36 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the announcements included in the board agenda packet, and informed the board about the location change for the Budget Committee meetings. Instead of meeting at CAL the Budget Committee meetings have been shifted to the library at Clear Creek Middle School. A Zoom link for virtual meeting attendance will be provided for upcoming meetings.

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

11. Adjournment (9:36 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 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