

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

**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

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The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 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  
Dr. Sara Deboy, Assistant Superintendent  
Michael Sweeten, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Carla Gay, Executive Director of Innovation and Partnerships  
Heidi Lasher, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning  
Jeff Gibbs, Executive Director of Technology Services  
Athena Vadnais, Director of Communications and Community Engagement  
Pete Bejarano, Director of Finance

**Opening Items**

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**1. Call Regular Business Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (7:00 p.m.)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the board chair, Blake Petersen. Director Farrens led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call (7:00 p.m.)**

All members of the board were in attendance at the meeting. A quorum of the board was present.

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

Chair Petersen suggested moving the recognitions to next on the agenda, with the remainder of the agenda to follow.

**MOTION 80:** Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented with moving the recognitions to the beginning of the meeting. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

**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 (7:38 p.m.)**

This item was moved down on the agenda and took place after board recognitions (see Motion 80 above). Chair Petersen reviewed the process for public comment. There were nine public comments received before the start of the meeting. Three people submitted written comments only, and six people spoke in person during the meeting.

Becky Caputo is a longtime community member, district employee, and parent of two current Sam Barlow High School students with one that graduated last year. She expressed concerns with the elimination of licensed K-5 music education, noting it is not a small adjustment, it is a fundamental shift. She posed several questions including what is the plan to deliver state required arts education next year, how will it be delivered, and who will provide the instruction. She added that adding five EAs and one district performing arts specialist is not equivalent to instruction currently provided. Ms. Caputo noted at the last budget meeting it was asked if there were cuts to the high school music programs, and the response was there were no cuts, but that did not include Springwater Trail High School losing its two music sections. She asked the board to consider what is the plan, who developed it, and what are the mid and long-term impacts.

Jeremy Weed, a multilingual teacher at Gresham High School, expressed frustration that for the 5th year in a row the board is facing a major budgeting crisis they have failed to resolve. He noted that they have failed to take action for locally sourced revenue by not advancing a mill levy increase even once. He shared that other districts are receiving levy funds, and if Gresham-Barlow had a levy it would eliminate the deficit and restore programs. He is tired of chop and drop, where they chop supplies and drop staff. By denying a levy they are denying voters their rights for more funding. He asked the senior board members to champion the mill levy effort and to plan and support the passage of a mill levy.

Jenna Gagne, a band teacher at Gordon Russell Middle School, was in attendance on behalf of her music educator friends. She restated a proposed plan to make elementary music half time, noting that it existed that way for years. The district proposal eliminates elementary music entirely. She shared numbers for the proposals noting that they could maintain FTE and they wouldn't add the EA's. She explained that the difference between the two proposals is \$45,000. The proposed supervision of EAs would not be needed because music teachers would still provide supervision for the preps. She shared additional information about how elementary music allows all students access to music, not just those that can afford private lessons, and how the district budget survey showed that electives are important. Music reduces behavioral issues, connects students to school, builds community, and provides opportunities for success. She urged leadership and the board to seriously consider this proposal as a path forward.

Andrea Parra, a school counselor at Gresham High School, spoke on the impacts of budget cuts to counseling in the district. She brought awareness by sharing that 7 FTE were cut from counseling and social work in the district, and large counseling caseloads will directly and negatively impact students. Caseloads are currently at 140% of the national standard and will be at 160% next year. On the district survey, student support was listed as one of the most important aspects and ranked second overall. School counseling was recognized as a profession in 1967, and at that time Gresham had 6 full time counselors. She shared that they have fluctuated but have never been down to four which is what they will have next year. She expressed gratitude to district leadership for meeting with them last year to review how students are being or are not being supported. The district listened and really put effort into getting rid of inefficiencies. The only thing left to cut when they have four counselors next year is support to students. She shared the tough decisions counselors will have to face next year due to the limited resource of time.

Paul Nickolas is a 35-year educator and the band director at Sam Barlow High School. He shared that the skills students receive in music are important to development. Over the last 27 years he has seen so many cuts to music and arts education, and noted that they used to have two full time band directors. He shared he doesn't know what the solution is to saving elementary music in the district, but they have some amazing wisdom in the room and they have to find a way. He implored all of them to look again at the books and talk again to each other, noting they have to find a way. They owe it to their students and they have to serve the kids in their district.

Andrea Houck is the mother of a 6th grader at Deep Creek Damascus K-8. She came to the budget committee meeting with concerns last week, and found some of the answers on the district website and audits of the budget. She noted that

the district is spending money out of their general fund without using other funds, and over the past 5-6 years the district has transferred about \$6 million out of the general fund into a special reserve fund. She expressed frustration that the special reserve fund has \$24 million in it, and asked what they are saving that for if they are not spending it on teachers. She added the district is the 2nd biggest employer and the teachers they are employing are directly affecting the economy, and property taxes are directly funding schools. She also contended that the budget proposal was not legal because they can't replace licensed educators with non-licensed staff. She finds it distressing that the budget was even proposed when it should have been stopped. She asked that they hold the administration accountable.

## **Consent Agenda**

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- 6. Minutes from Budget 101 - March 19, 2026**
- 7. Minutes from Regular Board Business Meeting - April 2, 2026**
- 8. Minutes from Regular Work Session - April 23, 2026**
- 9. Monthly Financial Report, March 2026**
- 10. Personnel Report: Employee Contracts**
- 11. Approval of Consent Agenda (8:06 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

**MOTION 81:** Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

## **Recognitions**

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### **12. Gresham High School Dance (7:03 p.m.)**

Principal Aki Mori led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Elaina Nielsen of the Dance Team for being selected to be on the All-State First Team for Dance as a senior. In addition to the work that went into this accomplishment, she also takes four advanced placement (AP) classes and participates in leadership.

### **13. Gresham High School DECA (7:05 p.m.)**

Danna Nelson, the DECA Advisor at Gresham High School, led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Jordan Zollman-Haris for placing 2nd in Food Marketing at the Oregon DECA State Competition.

### **14. Gresham High School Theatre (7:07 p.m.)**

Austin Joseph, theater teacher at Gresham High School, led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing students for their performances at the Oregon State Thespian Festival and Mt. Hood Conference District Acting Competition. Students earned awards in Duo Musical, Contrasting Monologues, Solo Acting, and Duo Acting.

### **15. Gresham High School Basketball (7:10 p.m.)**

Boys Basketball Coach Cliff White led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Gresham High School basketball athletes for their accomplishments at the Mt. Hood All Conference. Students from both the girls and boys basketball team were named 1st Team All-Conference, 2nd Team All-Conference, and received Honorable Mentions. He also shared end-of-season stats for these students.

### **16. Gresham High School Wrestling (7:17 p.m.)**

Wrestling Coach Elijah Kue led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Gresham High School Wrestling athletes for their All-Conference accomplishments. He shared how they have been turning the program

around doubling their numbers for both girls and boys wrestling. They finished in the top 10 in the majority of the tournaments they attended. This season showed that wrestling at Gresham High is on the rise, and he couldn't be prouder of how the team has grown and changed over time.

**17. Gresham High School Art (7:22 p.m.)**

Principal Aki Mori led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing junior Sloane Esler for earning Best of Show at the Mt. Hood Community College 2026 Visual Arts Annual High School Art Exhibit. In addition to this accomplishment, Sloane serves on student council, takes multiple AP courses, and is in the upper level of Japanese.

**18. Sam Barlow High School Theatre (7:24 p.m.)**

Principal Jason Bhear led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Sam Barlow High School Theatre students for their accomplishments at the Mt. Hood Conference Acting Festival in January, and the State Thespian Festival in April. Students won awards in Solo Acting, Large Group Musical, and One-Act Marathon. Theatre Director Jeff Schroeder was also recognized for his award of Oregon Thespians Theatre Teacher of the Year.

**19. Sam Barlow High School Skills USA (7:28 p.m.)**

Principal Jason Bhear led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Sam Barlow Skills USA students for their accomplishments at the ProStart Team Competition, and the Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference. Students designed a 3-course menu that had to be made in 60 minutes with 2 burners. At the Skills USA State Conference students placed in the Baking and Pastry, Culinary Arts, and Restaurant Services categories.

**Recess/Reconvene**

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**Board Recess (7:31 p.m.)**

The meeting was recessed at 7:31 p.m. and reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

**Action Item**

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**20. 2026-2029 Classified Collective Bargaining Agreement (8:07 p.m.)**

Michael Sweeten was joined by OSEA Co-Presidents Erika Fuller and Jessica Houck. They recently negotiated the classified bargaining agreement. Contract language was negotiated and incorporated into a new 3-year agreement from 2026-27 through 2028-29. They use interest-based bargaining and in this process they come together as a whole team, propose their shared interests, and go through the things that can improve employee's work interests. Association members had a presentation and a vote. Ms. Houck shared that they had an incredible voter turnout of 51% with 100% voting yes. The contract was overwhelmingly approved. They thanked the OSEA and district team. Director Howatt shared that as the board representative she enjoyed the process. It allows for closer conversation and getting to know people as you work through issues. They have used this process for over 15 years.

**MOTION 82:** Move to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Gresham-Barlow School District and the Oregon School Employees Association for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

**Recess/Reconvene**

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**21. Board Recess (8:12 p.m.)**

The meeting was recessed at 8:12 p.m. and reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

### **22. Update from the Foundation (8:28 p.m.)**

Cindy Mumford was in attendance to provide a Foundation update. She shared information on two recent grants they awarded. One grant was for math supplies, and the other was for a chop saw that the art department at Gordon Russell can use to cut cardboard. On the opening day of the district clothing co-op, they served 79 families and 1,533 items went out the door. It is open to anyone in the district to come and people are also bringing clothes and donating. The Foundation is adding a new fundraising event this year. They will be manning a fireworks stand across from Whites Meats and will be open 11am-9pm. Their annual golf scramble for students is scheduled for Monday, August 17th, and people don't actually have to play golf to participate. Registrations are available online on the foundation website, and morning and afternoon tee times are available. Board members also reminded the group that they can set up donations through Fred Meyer so that a donation is made to the Foundation every time they shop.

### **Superintendent and District Leadership Report**

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### **23. Update from the Superintendent and District Leadership (8:33 p.m.)**

Superintendent Klinger provided an update on meetings and activities she has participated in over the past month. She shared that they have officially ratified and approved the classified contract, noting these staff members are such an important part of the district. They used interest-based bargaining and this was her first time formally engaging in the process. They were able to build stronger relationships, develop a deeper understanding of contract language, and collaborate on solutions that serve both the district's health and the employees' needs and wellbeing. She offered sincere appreciation to every member of the bargaining team, noting it was a process built on mutual respect.

This week is teacher appreciation week. While it has been a difficult few weeks, it is more important than ever to recognize licensed staff for the heart and expertise they bring to the classrooms. They are caretakers, mentors, and relationship builders creating sparks of curiosity to guide students on their path to learning. This includes counselors who have been steady anchors providing emotional support to students, staff and families. Superintendent Klinger thanked all licensed staff for their fierce commitment to students.

She shared they officially began the formal budget proposal process with their first Budget Committee meeting last week. The budget development has been an intensive, heavy-hearted process and they are navigating between the technical necessity of a balanced budget, and the people who are the heart of the district. To ensure the district remains a stable place for children to learn in years to come, they must move away from temporary solutions. They are committed to acting within their actualized revenue, maintaining fiscal responsibility for long-term solvency, and protecting the educational ecosystem. Superintendent Klinger acknowledged that there is significant hurt in their community right now, and any reduction is not just a line item it is personal and painful. Decisions were results of hundreds of hours of critical thinking. Every addition means a reduction elsewhere. They will remain advocates at the state level pushing for a funding model that reflects the true cost of education.

For several years they have provided credit recovery and summer programming through grant funds. She shared that last week they learned they didn't receive the summer learning grant which will impact them for the next three years. Without this funding they lose the ability to provide support for the most critical transition points in a student's education including kindergarten transition, 9th grade transition, and summer programming to defend against the summer slide widening the achievement gap. Credit recovery is a key opportunity to earn credits for graduation. Superintendent Klinger added that summer programs are a vital component for youth violence protection. Without them it puts students at risk of making poor choices with their time. This is one of the thousands of decision points facing the district. Each choice has significant implications. None are easy and none are taken lightly. This budget is more

than a financial document, it is a commitment to the long-term stability of schools. She closed by sharing that this moment in time is about partnership as they build a sustainable foundation for the years to come.

## **Board Reports and Requests**

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### **24. Updates from Board Members (8:39 p.m.)**

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

- Attending Donuts with Dads at Highland and having good conversations with parents, guardians and friends.
- Attending the VIP and Me Dance and meeting with parents and hearing what they are saying.
- Sharing that Highland had a music concert at Mountainview Church; noting they are a stakeholder in these conversations (around music) and are also impacted by decisions being made.
- Wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers.
- Volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Hogan Cedars the past few months.
- Participating in mock interviews with students at Sam Barlow High School; enjoying the letters from students.
- Attending the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) meeting and discussing topics like the special education cap with Reps Nick Hudson, Ricki Ruiz, and Sen. Gorsek.
- Looking forward to attending the upcoming graduation events for all the high schools and programs.
- Looking forward to the Around the World Events at Hogan Cedars from 5-7pm on May 14th.
- Participating in the classified bargaining process.
- Having the marketing class visit to see what it is like to run a small business and what is involved in marketing.
- Having younger students visit their store to see how to shop and be respectful; having high school drama students visit to drop off flyers about upcoming events.
- Requesting conversations at upcoming meetings to discuss the legal components of having a local option levy.
- Reminding community members to vote in the upcoming May election.
- Sharing information about the new library opening with events happening May 16-17.
- Thanking teachers for teacher appreciation week, noting the entire system and district doesn't run without teachers. There are amazing teachers in the district and the board knows how much they impact students; reflecting on teachers and thanking them for being the heartbeat of the schools. The leadership of teachers inside and outside the school is shaping kids; they deeply care about each teacher.
- Accepting an invite from the DCD K-8 PTC to come take a tour of the school.
- Expressing appreciation for the public comments they've received regarding the budget; they read them and appreciate the community is using their voice.
- Attending the Business Excellence Awards and seeing a fellow board member get an award.
- Going on field trips with Hollydale to the Bull Run Watershed and Portland Community College.
- Hollydale held a walk and roll this week where there were multiple locations in the neighborhood for teachers to meet students and walk to school together.
- Reminding people that opening night for Sweeney Todd is May 15th; encouraging them to buy tickets.
- Thanking their fellow board members for the sacrifices they are making noting that they have endured dozens of conversations with staff, students, families, and legislators; they are all feeling a deep sadness which is a universal feeling right now.
- Speaking with Rep. Ruiz the other day about the situation they are in, talking about how he is advocating, and asking how they could better advocate.
- Reflecting on how careful they need to be with the words they say and the things they conclude; what they say reinforces what they see as true.

## Presentations

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### **25. Gresham Arthur Academy (GAA) Annual Report (8:57 p.m.)**

Ms. Gay reviewed information included in the agenda packet and introduced Kandice Burton, Stephani Walker, and Jessica Lang to provide the annual report for Gresham Arthur Academy (GAA). Ms. Burton shared that the board received their performance framework in January and this report is on information from last school year. She highlighted the GAA community noting they have 163 students made up of 123 families, 18 of which are from out of district. Staff is made up of nine teachers, two leadership staff, one administrator, one office coordinator, and three part time support staff. Their current demographics reflect diversity, but not to the extent of their neighborhood schools. Last year they were close to mirroring the district demographics as a whole but they backslid a bit this year.

Their student body includes learners from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds, but also a significant number of students in poverty. There are varying demographics and needs, but diversity strengthens their school culture and drives to equitable outcomes for all students. She provided a breakdown of their demographics noting that the 10.4% of students with IEPs includes students with disabilities and those with 504 plans. Attendance is a key factor in student success, and their attendance rate has continued to grow in the last three years. They added fun days to celebrate attendance, but took a break from it because so much illness was going around. They needed to encourage students to stay home when sick. Now they have brought back the fun days. Success for students is from the passion of staff whose salaries are much lower than those offered by the district. She expressed gratitude for the ongoing sponsorship of the charter, but noted they were disappointed they couldn't agree on an audit. She shared that if anyone wants to visit, they are more than welcome, and she invited the board to attend the 5th grade graduation June 12th at 1:00 p.m.

Following the presentation, there was time for questions and discussion from the board. Director Howatt suggested having one of the newer board members accompany her on a visit, noting that it was helpful to see the different learning style compared to other schools. They will work on having Directors Howatt, Coleman-Cox and Sedda schedule a visit to GAA. Board members asked about their retention of students from starting in kindergarten to 5th grade, and how their students are excelling the district in 3rd grade continuing into 5th grade. Ms. Burton attributed this success to direct instruction which is their learning model. Before Covid they didn't have as many students join in 3rd, 4th or 5th. Since then, they have seen more. Often there is a drop in 4th grade, and they typically wouldn't have a new 5th grader.

## Associations Reports

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### **26. Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) (2 minutes) (9:08 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. On behalf of GBEA, he shared concerns about current financial decisions. Their stated mission has been successful as they have heard from many students at the budget committee meeting in response to elementary music and AVID cuts. The core of concern is the broader financial position. Reductions are impacted by state funding, but audits suggest the budget remains stronger, especially the special revenue fund. He asked why the general fund is being reduced to the point of crisis while others grow. He noted that in the 2024-25 year \$1.8 million was transferred to support curriculum and technology despite ending the year at \$24 million. The special revenue fund balance is much higher than the general fund. He surmised that these transfers suggest a pattern of reallocating resources away from the general fund. Mr. Wallace shared that GBEA members are deeply concerned about declaring dire financial circumstances at the same time the district is drawing down general funds associated with student needs. They asked if the money transferred to the special fund can be reallocated back to support student facing services. This could fulfill the goals, and the actions that align would mitigate the need for cuts. He requested that the board re-evaluate current cuts with a focus on student instruction and support.

## 27. Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) (2 minutes) (9:14 p.m.)

Representatives from the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 8 employees were in attendance earlier in the meeting for the approval of their bargaining contract. They did not provide a report at this time.

### Action Items

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## 28. Social Science Curriculum Adoption (9:15 p.m.)

Ms. Lasher reviewed the information included in the board agenda packet noting that the board received a fuller presentation of this information at their April work session. Board members asked about the cost increases after the seven years with a vendor. Ms. Lasher clarified that after the seven-year subscription is completed it wouldn't continue. When they readopt in the future ODE will provide new materials to review, and they would go through another adoption process. Dr. Collins added that standards are adopted every seven years, and this may expand by a couple years based on the new adoption cycle ODE is proposing. The board asked if there are significant material changes to the standards from ODE. Dr. Collins confirmed that social studies has undergone significant changes in the last seven years. They also asked if this is a hybrid digital and paper curriculum and this was confirmed. Ms. Lasher shared that most of the materials for grades 3-5 are books, and most of the digital material is teacher oriented, not necessarily students on Chromebooks. Dr. Collins noted the same is true for middle school, and a portion is workbook consumable materials.

Board members shared that they are normally in favor of curriculum adoptions to have the best for students, but noted the cost and asked how dire it is that they adopt the curriculum now. Ms. Lasher shared that the current social science materials available now are many years old. They are also only adopting for 3rd-5th grade. Dr. Collins added the middle school materials they currently have are not aligned to the updated standards. The board asked if there is an urgency to get it done in May. Dr. Collins noted they would like to have the materials purchased and on hand by the end of June, so there is some urgency to get them sooner than later. Board members asked for clarification on the normal renewal cycle noting they have waited to get this one done. Dr. Collins shared that currently with ODE all content is on a 7-year rotation which is staggered on a specific calendar. ODE is looking at extending the timelines for those and will be proposing a new cycle at the next ODE board meeting.

**MOTION 83:** Move to approve the purchase of Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI), Social Studies Alive! 7-year subscription for the elementary level grades 3-5, at a not to exceed amount of \$346,000. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Erasto Sedda, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

**MOTION 84:** Move to approve the purchase of Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI), History Alive! 7-year subscription for the middle school (grades 6-8) at a not to exceed amount of \$445,332. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Brenna Puderbaugh, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

For the middle school adoption, board members asked if there are any additional fees for the seven years, and if the purchase is up front or spread across the years. Dr. Collins shared they built in a buffer so it is actually less than the listed amount. They purchase up front and pay for the seven years. The board also asked what funds curriculum comes out of. Superintendent Klinger shared that for the last several years they have used SIA funding. It is budgeted for and is part of the set aside that was talked about in GBEA's report earlier in the meeting. It is part of intentional planning.

**MOTION 85:** Move to approve the adoption of MacGraw-Hill, Wonders/Maravillas, the district's current literacy curriculum, as the social science curriculum for grades K-2. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Heather Coleman-Cox, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

The board asked why no money is associated with the literacy curriculum adoption. Ms. Lasher clarified that since they are using their already adopted curriculum, there isn't a cost. They will purchase picture books from various vendors.

**29. Tuition & Fees for 2026-2027 School Year (9:29 p.m.)**

Dr. Deboy reviewed information included in the agenda, and noted this is an annual item they discuss for the upcoming school year. After looking across many districts and doing analysis and comparison, they have decided not to make any changes across grades levels. One reason for this is because fees were new to many families, and they also wanted families to have access to athletics. The tuition amount is set by the state of Oregon and has increased. She is not aware of any students being in the district on tuition, but it is something they need to set every year in case it should happen.

Board members clarified that the tuition fees are for students who do not live in the district and can't transfer in by any other method, so the district has to charge them a tuition amount and the tuition amount is projected by the state school fund. Mr. Koch added when they have approved foreign exchange students they pay this tuition also. Board members noted it might be worthwhile to look at the fees they collect by activity and services they deliver. They would like to see the graduation fee lifted. Board members added that the graduation fees go toward the rental of the Memorial Coliseum space, and they would need to move graduations back to the district to alleviate fees.

**MOTION 86:** Move to approve the 2026-2027 proposed fees and non-resident tuition as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Shawn Farrens, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

**30. Resolution for Ending Fund Balance (9:33 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen shared that this topic was initially brought up at the Budget Committee meeting. Board policy states that their ending fund balance must be at least 8%. It is currently projected below 8% and the proposed budget is below that. When this was discussed in January they thought a resolution would be the best way to handle this rather than adjusting policy. The resolution would show they have a lapse in policy. They are proposing to adopt a temporary reprieve and allow the ending fund balance to be 6.5% which splits the previous level of 5% and the current level of 8%. This gives staff sufficient latitude to work with the budget, and forces the board to revisit it during next budget process for the 2027-28 school year. Chair Petersen reviewed the information included in the resolution.

**MOTION 87:** Move to ratify resolution 2026-10 authorizing the temporary suspension of the 8% ending fund balance requirement as stated in Board Policy DBDB - Fund Balance to remain above 6.5% during the temporary suspension with an annual review of this temporary suspension. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

Following the motion, board members asked what the reduction of 1.5% is in dollars. Mr. Bejarano clarified that because it is a function, it isn't a number that can be set. For the current year it is roughly \$1.3 million. The board asked how this resolution will be reflected in the policy. There was discussion around putting it in a footnote. They will bring it to the policy committee to include as a footnote.

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### Information Items

#### 31. Monthly Financial Report, March 2026 (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Bejarano reviewed the monthly financial report included in the agenda packet. He noted that district finances are relatively stable, with the current ending fund balance at 6.4%. They are waiting on the state school fund reconciliation for May. In a normal year ODE gives four estimates. This year they have provided nine and they keep adjusting. Mr. Bejarano noted that he is expecting a positive adjustment rather than negative.

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### Closing Items

#### 32. Announcements (9:41 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the announcements in the board agenda packet. A Zoom link for virtual meeting attendance will be provided for upcoming meetings.

May 13, 2026: Budget Committee Meeting (2 of 2) - 6 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Public Safety and Schools Building

May 21, 2026: Board Work Session - 6 p.m.  
Council Chambers Conference Room  
Public Safety and Schools Building

June 4, 2026: Budget Hearing - 6:45 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Public Safety and Schools Building

June 4, 2026: Regular Board Business Meeting - 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Public Safety and Schools Building

#### 33. Adjournment (9:42 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 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