

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

Thursday, March 5, 2026

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, March 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
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
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 (7:02 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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.)

All board members were in attendance at the meeting. Position 7 of the board was vacant at the start of the meeting. During the meeting, Erasto Sedda was appointed to the vacant board seat.

3. Approve Meeting Agenda (7:03 p.m.)

MOTION 67: Move to approve the meeting agenda as presented. This motion, made by Holly Riegelmann and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

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

Aye: 6, No: 0

4. Land Acknowledgement (7:03 p.m.)

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

Citizens' Requests of Board

5. Guidelines for Public Comment (7:04 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the process for public comment. There was one public comment received before the start of the meeting.

Kathryn Unger, a 4th grade teacher at Hall Elementary and the safety and discipline chair of GBEA, provided comments around special education. She expressed concerns over the weak financial outlook and budget cuts for the district, and how they would affect educators, especially special education teachers who already face physical injury, emotional strain, and mental exhaustion. She noted that advocacy is often misinterpreted as disrespect or insubordination when they are trying to secure a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for their students. She asked for any budget cuts to be transparent, and for them to reject any budget proposal that makes cuts to special education staffing.

Consent Agenda

- 6. Minutes from Special Work Session - February 5, 2026**
- 7. Minutes from Regular Board Business Meeting - February 5, 2026**
- 8. Minutes from Special Work Session - February 12, 2026**
- 9. Minutes from Board Strategic Planning Retreat - February 20, 2026**
- 10. Financial Report**
- 11. Personnel Report: Employee Contracts**
- 12. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation (added 3/5/26)**
- 13. Approval of Consent Agenda (7:09 p.m.)**

Chair Petersen reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

MOTION 68: Move to approve the consent agenda 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, Holly Riegelmann

Aye: 6, No: 0

Recognitions

14. 2026 Article of the Year Award (7:10 p.m.)

Ms. Gay led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Karen Harshfield for receiving the 2026 Article of the Year Award from the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*. Ms. Harshfield's team efforts set a standard of excellence by deepening knowledge in the field and enhancing understanding of Qualitative Research within Online Psychoeducational, Counseling, and Therapy Groups.

15. OMEA Composition Competition 2026 (7:14 p.m.)

Ginny Yavorskyi led the board, administration, and all those in attendance in recognizing Julian Berry, a fourth grader at Deep Creek Damascus K-8, for his achievement being named 1st Place Champion of the Oregon Music Education Association Composition Competition for 2026. This award highlights his creativity, dedication, and the effort he puts into his craft. Ms. Yavorskyi added that this success reflects his natural ability along with hours of hard work he puts into refining his music. He wants to compose music for films one day. Chair Petersen noted that the music piece Julian composed is on the OMEA website to listen to, and thanked the family for attending noting that it brings absolute joy when they get to see kids in the community be successful.

Gresham-Barlow Education Foundation Report

16. Update from the Foundation (7:20 p.m.)

Justin Fox provided an update from the Foundation, and shared that in February they approved a grant by Elizabeth Rossmiller for \$186 for two Holocaust Art Programs. This past week they partnered with Tokola Properties to approve a grant submitted by Heidi Lasher for \$42,152. Tokola provided \$22,275 and the Foundation gave another \$20,000. The foundation is supporting a clothing co-op sponsor this year. It is open one night a month, and the last month it served

645 families and 306 people. Tomorrow the STEM Expo will be at Gresham High School from 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. The Foundation was a title sponsor for this event and donated \$10,000 for the expo. The Annual Golf Tournament will be at Persimmon Country Club August 17, 2026. The Foundation will also have a fireworks stand this year by White's Meat Market, which will be open the week before the 4th of July.

Superintendent and District Leadership Report

17. Update from the Superintendent and District Leadership (7:28 p.m.)

Superintendent Klinger provided an update on meetings and activities she has participated in over the past month. She began by sharing a bright spot with attendance. While this winter has been particularly difficult with illness, overall attendance continues to improve from last year. This comes from the many efforts from families and staff to make being here a priority. Consistent attendance is a predictor of student success.

Superintendent Klinger noted that community engagement remains a top priority as they navigate the second half of the year. She has recently spoken with local leaders of the Lions Club and Rotary about the work of the district. Last month the district hosted two webinars. The first was focused on the budget process and gathering community priorities. The second was a K-12 instructionally focused session to equip families with tools on literacy and reading to use at home. They are working to compile the feedback from the community survey. With over 900 responses to the survey, it is clear the community is deeply invested in the future of schools. They are analyzing the feedback along the broader aspect of the county and state. She noted that when a state system underfunds education, it is the students, families, and staff that pay the price. Advocacy work around funding needs will continue.

Superintendent Klinger shared that they are also wrapping up Classified Employee Appreciation Week. The district doesn't function without classified staff. When they talk about opening schools every morning it is a massive, synchronized effort from dedicated professionals. Secretaries are the first point of contact for families; educational assistants provide critical supervision and instructional support; custodians and maintenance crews ensure environments are safe, clean and ready for learning; and staff from across the district do behind the scenes work that is critical to open the schools every day. Classified staff are the sometimes invisible gears that make the visible actions possible. In honor of classified appreciation week, Superintendent Klinger presented OSEA Rep. Tia Ross with flowers.

Board Reports and Requests

Updates from Board Members (7:31 p.m.)

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

- Receiving a community grant from OnPoint Community Credit Union for \$1,500 for Hogan Cedars to use for their "Around the World Gala;" They have done this gala the past two years and it allows students to showcase something special about their race whether food, dance, or drink.
- Participating in interest-based bargaining and reconnecting with folks and meeting new people.
- Noting how much classified employees support kids, and wishing them a happy appreciation week; noting how the schools and district wouldn't be the same without them.
- Enjoying the board retreat and the wonderful school tours they had of Gresham High School, Hall Elementary, and West Orient Middle School; seeing the LE1 and LE2 classrooms at Hall and how staff and students work together doing a great job with those programs.
- Looking forward to the opportunity to present to Sam Barlow and Gresham High School students as part of their marketing class; having continued interaction with students and staff.

- Thanking the Gresham-Barlow Education Foundation for all the things they do to make sure students have amazing education opportunities.
- Sharing how the Gresham High School basketball team made it to the playoffs, and defeated West Salem on Tuesday; they play Tualatin High School at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow.
- Thanking the 900 people that responded to the budget survey and their willingness to be involved.
- Attending the band festival hosted by Gresham High School last night for Gresham-Barlow middle school bands; it was a very talented group of middle schoolers.
- Expressing gratitude for getting to participate in the Superintendent Evaluation committee; the Board unanimously stands behind the leadership of Dr. Klinger and what she is bringing to the district.
- Recommending the East Side Theater Company's current production of The Wizard of Oz with lots of local students participating.

Presentations

18. Metro East Web Academy (MEWA) Annual Report (7:43 p.m.)

Ms. Gay reviewed information included in the board agenda packet and introduced the group providing the report. MEWA representatives included Hillary Radford, Carley Strid, Dr. Christina Struyk-Bonn, Marissa Queen, and Rokaya Wehbey. They shared a brief history of their school noting that this is their 17th year in operation and their goal is to individualize education for students. Their current enrollment is 1,058 students and they provide a variety of options including online, GED, CAPP, and early college.

Their mobility rate was 52% last year, which is a huge turnover with lots of new kids all the time. Students come the them behind in credits, and from 9th grade to 12th it gets progressively more behind. There is lots of catching up they are trying to do. They focus on how they impact students in a positive way. MEWA shared a graph showing the previous credits students bring to MEWA, and then credits earned at the school. Students typically earn more credits with MEWA, except when they come in the 2nd semester for 10th and 11th grade. Leadership is meeting to try and determine why this is happening for those specific time periods and grade levels. The group reviewed their enrollment and demographic data. Their current enrollment of 1,058 students is up from 980 last year. They have been incrementally growing every year. The Gresham-Barlow numbers are 494 total with 140 in SPED, 92 in ELL, and 98 with 504 plans.

They are focusing on making sure their freshmen are on track. Last year 67% were on track compared to 62% the year before. For graduation rates, they had 38 early graduates last year and 32 GED completers. They did see a decline in their 4-year graduation rate cohort which went from 57% in 2023-24 to 48% last year. MEWA also saw a decrease in enrollment for early college. The total number of graduates was 228, with 55% coming from Gresham-Barlow. They also had 20 graduates who graduated with their Associate's Degree.

MEWA's School Improvement Plan (SIP) has four main areas of focus including equity, 9th grade on-track, graduation, and AI. As part of the Equity focus, they have a curriculum committee evaluating for inclusion and accessibility. They also have an advisory stakeholder group and SEL (social-emotional learning) for both staff and students. They want to make sure staff feels welcome, and they have events organized for staff as well as students. They met their 9th grade on track goal. Graduation rates saw a drop last year. Their early college program is where their core graduates come from and the decline in that program is where they believe the graduation drop comes from. They are developing guidance and policy for inclusion of AI use and tools for staff.

They reviewed their academic achievement data noting they use the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment and Star 360 Formative Assessment to track student progress. They are still looking at building up the participation number, however they did have a 10% increase last year, and less opt outs compared to the year before. They are really trying to

support those students with anxiety, pushing different options for different times of day they can come in, and offering fun incentives for testing. Star 360 is given 3 times per year to measure growth.

MEWA shared they are in a good financial position, and they like to budget conservatively. They have been able to add to their fund balance all but one year. Their cash on hand is \$6.8 million, which equals 306 days of operation. The amount required to comply with their loan agreement is \$1.3 million or 60 days. The debt service ratio is equal to 3.65, which means they have a positive cash flow. They were able to add \$1.162 million to the ending fund balance.

MEWA's Elementary Program has 120 students from kindergarten to 5th grade. Students have core teachers as their mentors and are also required to have a learning coach which is a parent or guardian to help them login to live lessons and keep them on track with their learning. Art and technology were added this year. Supplementary curriculum is included through iReady, Khan Academy, Epic! Reading, and TypeTastic. They also have clubs and events including craft days once a month, chess club, fun Fridays, and summer camp at the end of the year to build community and socialize. They offer a \$200 stipend to allow enrichment activities students can participate in. To promote equity they have a diversity corner in MEWA Post which is a newsletter that goes out each week. Students can highlight their culture and traditions. They also opened a library recently with a virtual one that is updated each month to focus on the monthly culture focus. In 2024 they conducted an equity audit to highlight areas they are doing really well and gaps they have.

MEWA closed their presentation noting they are proud of who they serve and that they are grateful to be partnering with Gresham-Barlow to serve the students. Following the report, there was time for additional questions. Board members asked how many students are online versus in the building, and what percentage of students come from different areas in terms of how funding is achieved. MEWA clarified that they are fully online with extra options for students to come into the building if they want to. Funding follows the student, so if they come from another district, they receive a portion of that funding for that student. They get 80% for grades K-8 and 95% for grades 9-12. The board noticed elementary had a significant increase in participation for the summative assessment and asked what led to that. The board also asked about the high mobility rate and if MEWA has a re-engagement coordinator to get students re-engaged somewhere. MEWA shared they have a list of their students and they reach out to try and re-engage them in their program or get them engaged somewhere else. In elementary they have a referral program where those enrolled for at least 3 weeks get an incentive. They are trying to make it more appealing and little-kid friendly. For the assessment it is hard to get them to come to school. They encourage those with high test anxiety to talk to their counselor to prep before the test and give them test taking options. They give different time sessions in the morning and evening, and they can arrange with their friends to come at the same time.

Board members reminded others of the MEWA graduation noting they are very high energy and the board should attend. MEWA shared that to allow for more attendance at their graduation, they have move venues and will hold the ceremony at Mt. Hood Community College this year. Talent show is tomorrow.

Recess/Reconvene

19. Board Recess (8:11 p.m.)

The meeting was recessed at 8:11 p.m. and reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

Associations Reports

20. Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) (2 minutes) (7:23 p.m.)

This item was moved up on the agenda and took place after the Gresham-Barlow Education Foundation Report. 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 reiterated the points made by Kathryn Unger in her public comment noting

that the work of SPED educators is important in meeting legal and moral obligations. As the board and district leaders consider difficult financial decisions, he asked that they please review any proposal reducing SPED support. He recognized the CEA (Centennial Education Association) who bargained a successful contract including overage pay when limits are reached. Mr. Wallace added that they want to celebrate the accomplishments and advocacy that made it possible as they prepare for the next round of bargaining and hope they prioritize the same. He closed by inviting the board and community members to East Gresham Elementary on Saturday as they are hosting the regional Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB). Last year they had 21 schools from their region, and this year it had grown to 31. The battles start at 9:00 a.m. and go until 2:00 p.m.

21. Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) (2 minutes) (7:27 p.m.)

This item was moved up on the agenda. Tia Ross, an elementary secretary at East Orient Elementary School, was in attendance to report on behalf of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 8 employees. She acknowledged all classified staff and the contributions they make to the district in honor of Classified School Employees Week. Ms. Ross also shared that they have completed their first week of interest-based bargaining, and they are looking forward to the second week with hopes bargaining will be finished after that week.

Action Items

22. Appointment to Fill Board Vacancy (8:22 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed information included in the board agenda packet noting that the board received 12 applications from highly qualified candidates. They board went through a screening process to narrow it to four finalists. Those finalists were interviewed by the board, each board member ranked the candidates, and then the candidates were discussed during the board's Strategic Planning Retreat of February 20th. All 12 candidates were exceptional, and the final four that were interviewed came with eyes wide open to the challenges ahead. Chair Petersen thanked everyone that applied.

MOTION 69: Move to appoint Erasto Sedda to board Position 7, At-Large, until June 30, 2027 pending their acceptance of the board appointment. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Heather Coleman-Cox, Carried.

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

Aye: 6, No: 0

23. Oath of Office (8:28 p.m.)

Following the board appointment, Chair Petersen facilitated giving the Oath of Office to new board member Erasto Sedda. After the Oath, Director Sedda was seated with the board.

24. Elementary Science Adoption (8:32 p.m.)

Mrs. Lasher reviewed the information included in the board agenda packet noting that they reviewed science curriculum from the approved list and are recommending the Amplify Science curriculum. She added that they submitted a grant request to the Gresham-Barlow Education Foundation (GBEF). Tokola Properties had a donation amount that GBEF was interested in matching, and they really wanted to put it towards science and STEM. The district is putting that money towards science kits in this adoption so they don't have to share kits. Chair Petersen asked if there was value in approving the adoption tonight instead of waiting until the next meeting. Mrs. Lasher shared approval tonight would be helpful and would give them time to prepare for the purchase and get the materials this spring. They could get it started sooner.

MOTION 70: Move to approve the adoption of the Amplify Science Curriculum in a not-to-exceed amount of \$467,000. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Heather Coleman-Cox, Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Holly Riegelmann, Erasto Sedda
Aye: 7, No: 0

Following the motion, board members noted that they are interested to see how this will work with a new publisher that isn't McGraw Hill, and asked if it will integrate with the high school well. Mrs. Lasher noted that it is a different publisher, but it fits with the Next Generation Science Standards.

Information Items

25. Student Transportation Services Update (8:42 p.m.)

Jennifer Roche, Location Manager at Gresham First Student, and Thomas Cardelli, Assistant Manager, provided their annual update presentation to the board. First Student's mission is to provide unmatched care and the safest ride to school. They do this through their values including a focus on safety, caring for students, surpassing customer expectations and fostering teamwork. February is "Love the Bus" month, so they took the opportunity to interview their drivers and ask questions about why they love being bus drivers. Ms. Roche shared a video message from their team.

Mr. Cardelli reviewed their ridership and operational metrics noting that 8,105 students are safely transported each day with a 98.6% on-time performance. They are compliant on all preventive maintenance and inspections which allows them to pick up students and take them home whenever they need to. They have maintained a 115% staffing level the entire year to ensure coverage and reliability. Through established child-check protocols, they have identified 7 sleeping students who were safely reunified with family.

Ms. Roche shared that First Student is partnering with Samsara this year, which is a safety company for smarter, safer, connected transportation. It is integrating safety technology such as AI cameras for real-time in-cab alerts to prevent incidents. It also offers smart navigation for turn-by-turn routing through tablets, proactive vehicle health monitoring, and driver coaching. She shared a video with more information about how their partnership with Samsara works. Gresham is one of the locations getting Samsara first. There is no cost to the district, and it is installed in the evening so there are no disruptions during the day. It allows them to get videos to principals immediately, where before it would take two days. This technology is currently installed on about half the fleet of buses.

Mr. Cardelli shared information about First View which is a GPS-based vehicle tracking app. This allows parents to plan their day regardless of the type of vehicle their student travels in. It has reduced the amount of school phone calls from parents asking about where their bus is. It is very beneficial to parents. They also have three brand new electric buses they rolled out on Monday. This is a major step toward smarter operations and lower emissions. The buses are very quiet, and First Student would love to have board members take a ride on an electric bus to see the difference. They closed their presentation by sharing how they are focusing on community engagement this year. They are supporting families through Snowcap doing food and clothing drives. They also adopted two police officers this year for the Adopt-a-Cop program. They are always looking for ways to connect and support their community.

Board members expressed how much they enjoy using First View, including the alerts it provides. They appreciate how serious bus drivers take safety, and were surprised that many drivers are retired professionals wanting to give back to the community. They would like to schedule a time for a ride on an electric bus. The board wondered if kindergarten nights might be a good time to connect with parents who would benefit from using the First View app. Mr. Koch shared information about the behind the scenes work it takes to run school transportation, noting that their bus system is bigger than a lot of cities. Their cooperation is fantastic and how they deal with student behavior is innovative.

The board asked if First Student has experienced difficulty with any community partners, specifically with construction by Barlow. Ms. Roche shared that there have been some bumps this year and unexpected closures of roads. They have worked with the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) on specific routes for road shutdowns and PWB footed the costs for those. They used type 10 mini vans to get into a driveway and turn around where they couldn't with buses. That was in October and they worked with the district and families to let them know it would be an extended period of time. They have continuous monthly meetings with PWB, and the unexpected closures was something they were told wasn't going to happen. They give as much advanced notice as they can, and they have been amenable to the associated costs.

26. Winter Academic Data (9:09 p.m.)

Heidi Lasher and Dr. Tim Collins provided an overview of winter academic data. Ms. Lasher reminded the group that all K-8 students are assessed with iReady and STAR. She began by reviewing iReady literacy data comparing fall to winter. For K-2 they are seeing students improving, and more are measuring at or above grade level with less measuring below grade level at this time. Fall to winter for grades 3-5 is similar. The 2-year comparison at the winter benchmark shows kindergarten growth over the 2-year trend. 1st grade has a decrease in students measuring at or above grade level, and also a decrease in those measuring below grade level. 3rd grade is showing growth at or above grade level and decrease in those measuring well-below. Board members clarified that these are not the same groups of students. Ms. Lasher reviewed a graph showing grade levels over time. Students are showing growth in their classrooms, but this growth is less pronounced when tracked across grade levels. All grade levels demonstrated growth from fall to winter, current 3rd grade students are outperforming previous cohorts, and current 1st graders saw a slight decline in students measuring at or above grade level, along with a small decrease in those measuring well below grade level.

Dr. Collins reviewed STAR reading data for middle school. STAR measures by predicting how many students will pass at or above grade level. It shows predictive growth or proficiency. He noted that in the graphs they want to see the reds and yellows (below or well below grade level) get smaller and the greens (at or above grade level) grow. For 7th and 8th grade there is less red from fall to winter, for 6th grade they are seeing a slight decrease in the green bar. When comparing grades from last year to this year, students in grades 6 & 8 showed greater predicted proficiency than last year's students at the same time point. They have only used STAR for a year and a half so there is less comparison data. 6th grade started in a negative trajectory last year. They have been working on how to show ways the STAR data works for predicting proficiency. To summarize for middle school reading, predicted proficiency saw minor changes, current 6th and 8th graders are performing better than last year's cohort, and 6th graders showed a downward trend last year and this year. Overall, predicted proficiency is similar across all grade levels.

Next, Ms. Lasher reviewed iReady data for math from fall to winter. There was an increase in students measuring at or above grade level and a decrease in those measuring well below grade level. The same is true for 3rd-5th grade. Comparing Winter 2025 to Winter 2026, there was an increase in kindergarten and 2nd graders measuring at or above grade level, and a decrease in 1st graders measuring at or above grade level. For 3-5th, data is flat over a 2-year trend with a slight increase in 3rd grade and a dip in 4th grade students at grade level. If looking from fall to spring across different grade levels, the amount of growth seen is consistent from year to year. All students are showing more growth in literacy than math, and the students measuring at or above grade level remains relatively flat over time.

Dr. Collins reviewed the STAR math data for middle school. Grades 7 and 8 are seeing a decrease in the red bar, which means fewer students are well below grade level, but they are not seeing an increase for the green bar. There is not a lot of movement. Comparing year over year the data is somewhat similar to reading. Students in grades 6 & 7 are slightly ahead compared to last year, and showed greater predicted math proficiency than last year's same grades. This is not necessarily the trend for grade 8, and they are seeing a bit more struggle for 8th graders this year. In trends over time, 7th grade showed the greatest growth over time. Dr. Collins noted that they are curious what is it about that 7th grade group, and whether they are finding it more engaging or taking it more seriously. They are seeing positive movement for

7th and 8th graders well below grade level, current 6th graders show higher predicted proficiency than last year's 6th graders, and predicted math proficiency is lower than predicted reading proficiency.

Dr. Collins provided an overview of graduation data released at the end of January. The Gresham-Barlow combined graduation rate for the four high schools lags behind the state average by 8%, despite a positive trend since 2017-18. Broken into each school, Metro East Web Academy (MEWA) is significantly behind the brick-and-mortar schools. Springwater Trail High School is consistently the top in graduation rates, with Sam Barlow High School not far behind and Gresham High School catching up. If MEWA is taken out of the picture, the high schools have mostly tracked with the state line. Dr. Collins reviewed the graduation rates by Race/Ethnicity noting they are seeing positive growth but the graduation gap has been consistent. The same is true for EML and SPED programs, they track together. Board members asked if a student qualifies for SPED and is also an EML student if they are counted in both. Dr. Collins confirmed it would be both because it is looking at rates of those students by program so a student could count double.

Dr. Collins noted that students who are engaged in CTE courses have consistently higher graduation rates than their peers both in Gresham-Barlow and across the state. This is a correlation not causation, but students engaged in CTE, whether it is one course or an entire program of study, graduate at higher rates. CTE programs see continued positive progress because they are doing something that is serving students well. The number of students in the graduation cohort has increased for the past couple years, even though enrollment has decreased. Most of this growth has taken place at Gresham High School and MEWA. Graduation rates for their physical schools mirror the state, 12th grade cohorts have shown a slow increase in size the past few years, a persistent graduation rate gap remains for EML and SPED, and CTE program participation correlates with higher graduation rates.

The board asked about the new accountability law and if it is creating new reports. Dr. Collins noted this is a practice they are already doing. Board members also asked if there is a way to see STAR scores in Parent View. Dr. Collins shared they are working on a way to view that. The board asked if the drops they are seeing from spring to fall is learning loss over the summer or grade level changed. Ms. Lasher confirmed that comes from the change in grade level standards moving from one grade to the next. The board noted that this data is deep and they would like to see additional follow up at a future work session.

Closing Items

27. Announcements (9:37 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the announcements included in the board agenda packet and noted that they may need to add a special work session March 19th at 5:30 p.m. A Zoom link for virtual meeting attendance will be provided for upcoming meetings.

March 9, 2026: School SIP Overview with Board - 4 p.m.
Library
Gordon Russell Middle School

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

March 19, 2026: Budget 101 - 7 p.m.
Partnership Room
Center for Advanced Learning

March 23-27, 2026: Spring Break
No Board Meetings

April 2, 2026: Regular Board Business Meeting - 7 p.m.
Council Chambers
Public Safety and Schools Building

28. Adjournment (9:38 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

