

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

Thursday, June 4, 2026

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, June 4, 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, Holly Riegelmann, 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

1. Call Regular Business Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (7:33 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 (7:34 p.m.)

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

3. Approve Meeting Agenda (7:35 p.m.)

MOTION 88: Move to amend the meeting agenda to establish a policy that ensures music for elementary students. This motion, made by Heather Coleman Cox and seconded by Erasto Sedda, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

Following the motion there was discussion by the board. Chair Petersen asked for clarification on whether this would be a discussion item or action item she was proposing, and if Director Coleman-Cox had a policy she would move forward. She confirmed it would be an action item and she had a policy. She shared that she is bringing this forward due to the strong conviction of the community, the emails she has received, and so many people coming to her. She supports what the community wants and music is part of a well-rounded education. She shared that special education and DLI are also very important, however the response for music has been overwhelming. She would like for the board to consider a policy that guarantees music either in its current form or cut in half at the elementary level.

Board members noted that they appreciate the sentiment, but as a policy that is a formal document to bring into operations. They wouldn't discuss what the policy looks like at this meeting. They have a policy committee and it could go through the regular process to review all of the components for the policy. Other board members expressed concern about how they would be able to put a policy in place during the current meeting. It is a possibility; however, a prospective policy would force district leadership to revise the budget process. Board members expressed how they wish they could have a requirement that there was music because they think it is very important. They also shared concerns of setting policy at the last minute which has other implications for the budget, and they don't know what those implications are. It limits the ability for the district to be flexible with dollars in the future because it would restrict dollars to music. When counselors speak, they couldn't use money for them because it would be required for music.

There was additional conversation around having the proposed policy go to the policy committee for consideration for the 2026-27 school year. Director Coleman-Cox felt this would be appropriate as long as it is written and implemented that a policy guarantees music K-12 for next year. It would have to go through the committee, then come to the full board for conversation and approval.

Following the approval of the motion, Chair Petersen noted that they would add this as action item 28. The other agenda items were shifted down.

4. Land Acknowledgement (7:47 p.m.)

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

Citizens' Requests of Board

5. Guidelines for Public Comment (7:48 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the process for public comment. There were four public comments received before the start of the meeting. He noted that they had a number of folks signed up that chose to speak at the budget hearing instead. He believes those comments are satisfied but they are welcome to speak again.

Mitzi Eason is an educational assistant at Powell Valley Elementary. She shared concerns around student safety, staff communication, scheduling, equity, and follow-through on support needs at Powell Valley. She noted that several groups have expressed concerns, and students are experiencing harm because staff believe referrals will be tossed. The PBIS and MTSS committees are acting on incorrect data. Student safety and supervision are great concerns. They are spending a lot of time out of class in other spaces when they should be learning. Staff are left without support, clear information, or consistent follow up. She noted that staff need to feel supported and safe when speaking up. There are equity concerns with some students receiving different support than others. She believes the board deserves a fair and honest report of what is happening.

Mark Spolitak is a student at Gresham High School. He shared that what he thinks is one of the biggest problems in schools, similar to what they are seeing in the country, is that many don't know how to speak to someone with opposing views without resorting to hatred or violence. During his time in middle school there were constant fights over issues that could be handled with dialogue. He would like schools to allow for more mock debates in English and Social Studies curriculum. If they want to prepare young people for the future, they should teach them how to debate political issues. Without the ability to solve problems peacefully other topics are useless. They must recognize that discernment requires debating each other. Instead of just teaching information, teach how to love each other in the midst of disagreements.

Haley Grigg began by affirming they are all on the same team, and they all want kids to thrive, however they have different ideas on how to get there. Music is innately beneficial to all children of every age regardless of development. When music is supplied to students in the public sector children of all economic backgrounds can access it. She shared

that music is math, it involves numbers, sequencing, patterns, repetition. Music is language, symbolism and safe communication with peers and adults. Music is emotional regulation and community. It teaches students how to listen to adults, peers, and self. These are all vital components of healthy and successful students and staff. She noted that they have the 2008 recession to learn from. Tenured teachers were hired to replace those with experience. It took 10 years to rebuild previous participation after just a staff change. She expressed that targeting elementary multiplies by each year, and even if it doesn't affect middle and high school right now it will. She asked what their plan is to recover from this. They don't have all the money for what they want or need to do, but music is the most impactful to all students, backgrounds, and races.

Nanette Kill is the great-grandmother of a child at Powell Valley Elementary School. She shared that there was an incident with her granddaughter causing her to be banned from going to anything for the school district. She has been picking up her grandkids from school, and her granddaughter has been following the rules, but now she can't go to her son's 5th grade graduation. Ms. Kill shared that she knows her granddaughter was out of line and overreacted with her words. She shared information regarding the incident that took place. She wrote letters and went in to discuss it with the principal. She requested that the board reconsider and please let her granddaughter attend the 5th grade graduation. She knows she did wrong but asked that they please let her go. Chair Petersen acknowledged that she is navigating such a hard situation, and shared that he will ask the superintendent to follow-up on the matter.

Consent Agenda

6. Minutes from Regular Board Business Meeting - May 7, 2026

7. Minutes from Budget Committee Meeting - May 13, 2026

8. Monthly Financial Report, April 2026

9. Approval of Consent Agenda (8:10 p.m.)

Chair Petersen reviewed the items included in the consent agenda.

MOTION 89: Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

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

Aye: 7, No: 0

Recognitions

10. State Seal of Biliteracy Recognitions (8:10 p.m.)

Araceli Farias and Amy Wolf led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing 56 high school students for earning their State Seal of Biliteracy. Ms. Farias introduced the agenda topic in Spanish, followed by Ms. Wolf providing an introduction in English. They reviewed information included in the board agenda packet and invited the students up to receive their biliteracy medallions.

11. Sam Barlow High School Boys Golf (8:25 p.m.)

Principal Jason Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing Cole Morgan for his accomplishment of being named the Mt. Hood Conference Player of the Year and making 1st Team All-State for Boys Golf. He shot a 67 at the state conference championship.

12. Sam Barlow High School Softball (8:27 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing the Sam Barlow Softball team for becoming the Mt. Hood Conference Champions. He also recognized students who made 1st Team All-Conference, along with Jasper Lauderback for being named Mt. Hood Conference Pitcher of the Year.

13. Sam Barlow High School Baseball (8:28 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing several baseball athletes who made 1st Team All-Conference, Honorable Mention All-State, and 2nd Team All-State. Unfortunately, students were not able to be in attendance at the meeting.

14. Sam Barlow High School Track and Field (8:29 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing Track and Field athletes who made 1st Team All-Conference for pole vault, triple jump, 110 hurdles and javelin. Esme Acevedo was named Mt. Hood Conference Champion in the Women's Javelin for Track and Field.

15. Sam Barlow High School Boys Tennis (8:30 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing the Sam Barlow Boys Tennis Team for being named Mt. Hood Conference Tournament Champions. Noah Dahl earned 1st Team All-conference for Singles, and Patrick Wood was named Mt. Hood Conference Player of the Year for Boys Tennis in Singles.

16. Sam Barlow High School Girls Tennis (8:31 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing the Sam Barlow Girls Tennis Team for being named the Mt. Hood Conference District Tournament Champions. Several students were also named to 1st Team All-Conference, with Haley Wood also being named to 1st Team All-State. Andrew Pate was honored for being named Mt. Hood Conference Coach of the Year.

17. Gresham High School Track and Field (8:42 p.m.)

Principal Aki Mori introduced Coach Nolan Scott who led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing Gresham Track and Field athletes who were named 1st Team All-Conference in shot-put, discus, 800m, high jump, and the 4x400 relay. He noted that this season was one of the most successful of his career. Aliyah Miller was the first person he coached in high jump for all four years. His philosophy as a coach is to help kids believe in themselves and that they can achieve their goals in the future. Aliyah believed she could achieve and won 1st place in 6A school at state for high jump. She cleared 5' 5" and a quarter, and represents Gresham High's first state champion since 2018.

18. Gresham High School Boys Volleyball (8:40 p.m.)

Principal Mori led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing Kavi Falepapalangi for being named 1st Team All-Conference for Boys Volleyball. He shared they love the spirit and contributions Kavi gives to school culture. Kavi and his family gave staff and students one of the best assemblies they have participated in for AAPI recognition month. Kavi was not able to be in attendance at the meeting.

19. Sam Barlow High School DECA (8:32 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing Abby Carlson for placing 2nd overall for the State of Oregon in Principles of Entrepreneurship. This qualified her to compete at the Internationals in Atlanta, Georgia in April. Barlow's DECA chapter was very successful this season with 18 competitors qualifying in the top 10 in the state. DECA serves marketing and business programs at both high schools.

20. Sam Barlow High School Concert Choir (8:34 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing the Sam Barlow Concert Choir for placing 1st in the Mt. Hood Conference Choir Contest, earning them an automatic spot in the OSAA State Choir Contest. This is the second year that they earned an automatic spot in the OSAA state choir competition.

21. Gresham High School Band & Choir (8:46 p.m.)

Principal Mori and Band Director Emily Bundy led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing students for their accomplishments. Mrs. Bundy expressed how excited they were to share the success of some of their band students. Many students participated at the OMEA District 2 Solo and Ensemble Competition, which allowed several of them to qualify for State. The Percussion Ensemble had the honor of being selected to perform at State. At the OSAA State Solo Competition for choir, Elliot Maxwell took 3rd Place for Baritone with Gray Smrkovsky taking 3rd Place for Tenor.

22. Sam Barlow High School Band & Choir (8:35 p.m.)

Principal Bhear led the board, administration and all those in attendance in recognizing band and choir students for their accomplishments. Several students were selected as the OMEA All-State Honor Ensembles out of over one thousand auditions submitted from across the state. Students also competed and placed 1st in the Mt. Hood Conference / District 2 Solo and Ensemble Contest, which qualified them to participate in the OSAA State Solo Contest at the beginning of May. Several of the ensembles and students that competed earned trophies by placing top 5 in their categories. This represents the highest individual honor for a high school musician.

Superintendent and District Leadership Report

23. Update from the Superintendent and District Leadership (8:50 p.m.)

Superintendent Klinger provided an update on meetings and activities she has participated in over the past month. She began by taking a look back on the school year. The year has had ups and downs, and together they have navigated difficult situations and leaned on each other to move forward. She knows that next year will bring a new set of obstacles. With the ongoing obstacles they face, she believes it is important to pause and recognize what they've accomplished. Last month they celebrated their classified contract ratification and honored educators during teacher appreciation week. This month, the focus will change to students, as kindergartners are ready to move to 1st grade, rising middle schoolers move into a new chapter of independence, and incoming freshman take on the exciting world of high school. While these grade level transitions are important, they must also pause to celebrate their graduating seniors and this milestone. Behind the diplomas are life-changing scholarships, job opportunities, internships, and bright futures. The achievements celebrated belong to the students, but were made possible by staff's passion, patience, and persistence. She thanked the staff and asked them to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy a rejuvenating summer.

Superintendent Klinger concluded her report by recognizing the end of an era for the district. She asked them to imagine where they were and what they were doing in 1992, a time before the district existed as it does today. Imagine a young John Koch walking into Gresham High School as a brand new teacher. She guessed he already had swagger in his step. After teaching for a few years, he moved to assistant principal then principal at West Orient. Next, he moved to principal at Clear Creek, where some interesting stories were made, and ultimately, he returned to Gresham High as their fearless leader. After his time there he made the leap to district leadership wearing nearly every hat imaginable. He has led their Student Support Services department, overseen safety and operations, supervised principals, and stepped up with grace during times of transition, including as the interim superintendent last year. He has never shied away from a challenge. She shared that he is always the first to crack a joke or barge in to interrupt a meeting, but is also the first to ask how can I help, what do you need, are you doing okay, and will always tell you to drive home safely. He does this from a genuine place of deep concern. She addressed Mr. Koch noting that he has given so much of his heart and soul to the students, staff, and generations of families in the community. On behalf of the entire district, she publicly congratulated him on his amazing career and wished him all the best in his retirement. He will be deeply missed.

Following Superintendent Klinger's report, Mr. Koch gave some remarks. He shared that he came to Gresham by happenstance. He was interviewing and cold calling for jobs because he was coming to the west coast. He interviewed in Beaverton, but they didn't have a position available until the end of July. He called his friend who had just taken a

position at Gresham High School. He knew from the second he interviewed that this was where he wanted to work. He had found his place. He shared that he never regretted that decision and has been embraced by the community. It has been a hard job, but he has loved every year of it. He thanked the community for all the support, and particularly thanks his colleagues and Superintendent Klinger for their comradery and support.

Board Reports and Requests

24. Updates from Board Members (8:58 p.m.)

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

- Attending Sam Barlow's Evening of Excellence
- Attending Sam Barlow's Senior All-Night Party and looking forward to graduations and school celebrations.
- Attending the first round of baseball and softball playoffs at Barlow and watching both teams play Roseburg; one came out in victory and the other in defeat.
- Sharing appreciation for the student recognitions noting that the State Seal of Biliteracy is phenomenal.
- Thanking the community for all the feedback the board has received; they have read every email, petition, and listened and taken in all that has been said.
- Thanking teachers and education staff for influencing their son and helping him get to 8th Grade Graduation.
- Attending the Clear Creek Middle School Choir Concert and enjoying grooving to the songs.
- Seeing the production of Sweeney Todd twice; students did a phenomenal job making them want to go again.
- Attending the Adult Living Program (ALP) Graduation where their biggest class of 14 students graduated.
- Attending the REY Graduation and how special it is due to what kids struggle with today; it is great to see those students on this path overcoming obstacle after obstacle, all because of educators that love and invest in them.
- Expressing excitement for the upcoming MEWA, Springwater Trail, Gresham, and Barlow Graduations.
- Recognizing June as Pride Month and sharing a quote from Barack Obama that every single American deserves to be treated equally in the eyes of the law and society.
- Recognizing the upcoming holiday of Juneteenth later in the month.
- Attending the CALebration event and commending students and staff for making such an inspiring celebration; witnessing pride, joy, and enthusiasm by everyone in attendance.
- Thanking students, educators, parents, and staff for a great school year.
- Participating in several volunteer activities at Highland including the following: helping setup and take photos where students invited family members to enjoy refreshment and fellowship, helping with the 5th Grade Picnic and getting asked to sign yearbooks and t-shirts, and chaperoning students on a walking field trip through downtown Gresham. They spoke Councilor Jerry Hinton, visited the Gresham Historical Society, planted trees at Main City Park, and toured the new library.

During their comments, board members shared thoughts around John Koch's retirement. They noted that it takes a certain quality of leader to put ego aside and they haven't seen many that can do it the way he does. He jumped into the interim superintendent role during a time when they had big issues to deal with. Mr. Koch was always asking what he can do and what information he could bring to the board. He steadied the ship and they have seen how deeply his enormous character qualities have served families. He is always ready with a smile or a joke and they appreciate the leadership he has demonstrated. Board members consider him a good friend they can rely on and a good servant to the community. He has exemplified excellence, caring, and real leadership. They thanked him for his service, wished him well in retirement, and shared they will miss him.

Recess/Reconvene

25. Board Recess (9:12 p.m.)

The meeting was recessed at 9:12 p.m. and reconvened at 9:22 p.m.

Associations Reports

26. Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) (2 minutes) (9:22 p.m.)

Tracey Jackson, a teacher at Hall Elementary School, was in attendance to report on behalf of the Gresham-Barlow Education Association (GBEA) employees. She is the GBEA Vice-President of Elementary and GBEA President elect. She is excited to take over for the next biennium. Next year will be difficult and they will continue to advocate for students, teachers, and families. Teachers will have to deal with budget constraints, less support, and cuts in staffing and desperately needed services. They hope that the district will be diligent and similarly tighten any superfluous costs to bring back anyone that is student-facing. Not recognizing the equity gap would be detrimental and she hopes they can collaborate and work together to strive for equitable decisions for their families.

27. Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) (2 minutes) (9:25 p.m.)

Jessica Houck, a custodian at the Center for Advanced Learning (CAL), was in attendance to report on behalf of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 8 employees. She noted that Mr. Koch will miss her reminding him how old he is. She acknowledged the work, challenges, and decisions that have gone into the 2025-26 school year. They navigated the success of a ratified contract and the difficulty of leading staff through layoffs. She is hopeful they can transition effectively into the next school year.

Action Items

28. Policy for Music Education Proposal

This item was added to the agenda at the start of the meeting (see Motion 88 above). Chair Petersen turned time over to Director Coleman-Cox for explanation, followed by clarifying questions. Director Coleman-Cox shared that the community has overwhelmingly reached out in every medium possible. Her request is based on her representation and commitment to serve as a director of this district. She is interested in establishing a policy effective for the 2026-27 school year ensuring music K-12 for students. The policy can mimic what is currently offered, or a 50% or part time offer. She noted that she is not going to talk about funding because it has been demonstrated in several ways they can do this. Gresham-Barlow won't be measured by the size of its reserve but the opportunity it provides for students.

Chair Petersen noted that this is something they can refer to the policy committee to work on. He asked if Director Coleman-Cox has seen policies from other districts using a similar approach. She shared that the only thing she has seen is that they are the only ones cancelling music. Music is part of a well-rounded education and she would like them to seriously consider a policy establishing and protecting music for K-12. There was discussion around taking it to the policy committee, and the tricky timeline to have it ready for the 2026-27 school year since they don't have a policy to consider. They could also bring it to a work session to have more thorough conversation. Chair Petersen noted that he doesn't see the board going to an action at this meeting because they need a full board conversation prior to that.

Board members asked roughly how long it takes to implement a policy from scratch. Others answered that they don't know because they don't have an impetus for it. Usually, a proposed policy goes to the committee, is vetted through OSBA, then comes to a work session. If there are no issues, it moves to the business meeting for approval. This would be new. They get policy templates from OSBA that are reflected in state law. It would take time to research and craft a policy. There was conversation around the implications of putting something in that is a program compared to what policy usually is in terms of how to operate. The committee could research what other districts are doing, make it functional, and look at any legal requirements.

Director Coleman-Cox addressed that there is a lack of a sense of urgency, noting she believes 2026-27 is doable. The response that this isn't something they've done before is not acceptable. They need to take informed risk, and listen to their community, not put things on a back burner or come up with legal mumbo-jumbo. They are empowered and entitled to set policy in the district. She added that no one is talking about closing schools and perhaps that should be a conversation. Board members expressed concern about moving this direction with policy because it saddles them with limited resources. They noted that there is a disagreement in analysis when referring to it being demonstrated it can be done. The shape of the line is more important than the ending fund balance, and they are more concerned that the line is driving them downhill. Some felt it isn't a cut and dry conversation while others felt it was. Director Coleman-Cox asked that they do what they were elected to do, and that they listen to the community. If they develop and implement a policy that protects music it is another avenue to ensure they as leaders are listening to the community.

Board members noted that putting in a policy like this is essentially an unfunded mandate, and they can't repeatedly say the state is mandating them to do things without funds and then do the same thing for the district. There aren't funds that go along with this, and even if they disagree on the funds, this is one-time money which puts them in the same situation again next year. The pressures that are choking their budget – declining enrollment, PERS, Special Education cap – are not going away next year or the year after. Directors noted that unless there is radical reform with the state budget, they aren't getting out of this. They believe in what the district is doing to right size the budget so they aren't doing a Reduction in Force (RIF) process every year. Directors noted that they don't think setting a policy is the only way to say they hear the community, and while they understand music has had overwhelming support, they can't say they are listening to the community if they are only listening to the loud voices.

Other board members mentioned they think it is being assumed that none of them support music if they don't support this policy. They are trying to support all of the students and staff. Since they have been on this board they have heard about class sizes, special education, and counseling every single month. They would love for every kid to have music all the time. This is not an easy decision. They decide the budget item and to hamstring the district with a policy that they can't continue after one year would set them up for failure. There would be deeper cuts in special education, counseling, and in the classroom.

Chair Petersen clarified that for their way forward, he would like the policy committee to look at policies that could be used as a framework for program specific items. He would like to have some templates of districts in their area they can look at, which would be appropriate in their strategic planning meeting. That does not satisfy the 2026-27 timeline, and does not address that urgency, but he is trying to find a practical way forward. Because they don't have a policy to look at, he will refer this request to the policy committee to find policy templates or examples.

29. Budget Adoption, Making Appropriations, and Imposing Taxes (9:56 p.m.)

Chair Petersen introduced the topic noting that the deadline to adopt the budget is July 1. Without a budget the district cannot pay employees. The budget committee approved the budget as it was presented. The district has more information about a possible amendment to the budget.

Mr. Bejarano shared that the governing body can adopt the budget after it has been completed and the committee has approved. He reviewed information in the agenda packet. If any district in the state has one audit change, it requires the entire state to reshuffle and rebalance. This is commonly referred to as the May surprise. ODE shows that Gresham-Barlow will receive an additional \$1.3 million. These are one time only funds. He recommends amending the budget to include \$1.3 million extra in instruction. There are two motions available to the board. One is to approve the original approved budget, and the other includes the amendment to the budget. Board members asked what function counseling falls under. Mr. Bejarano shared it is 2000 for Support Services. They could change it, or because they have a history of using all of their contingency funds they can do an appropriations transfer at the end of the year.

The board asked for Mr. Bejarano's recommendation if they wanted to use a portion. He noted that the core nature of the board's relationship to the superintendent is governance. They can go with the original, amended, or a third option. Any of the first two options give latitude for the district to use contingency funds. They can hold the superintendent accountable as the monthly reports come in. Board members expressed concern about directing specific money.

Board members acknowledged Mr. Bejarano's expertise, but noted that others also have experience in these matters and asked if he reviewed any of the information from Budget Committee member Nick McWilliams who identified other ways the budget can be spent. Mr. Bejarano feels that Mr. McWilliams is very gifted at a lot of different aspects of accounting. There are some differences in how the for-profit and non-profit organizations work for full approval versus modified approval. Mr. Bejarano wanted to highlight that what is being presented in some of those blog posts is coming from a place of advocacy and is a philosophical difference from the goal the board has charged him with of having an 8% Ending Fund Balance which the board just adjusted to 6.5%. It is still the district's understanding that the board wants to be at 6.5%. Mr. McWilliams is doing a great job of showing that it doesn't have to be that way, but those options come with tangible risks. Some risks include the ability to make payroll in July. Because of the way the State School Fund is staggered, three different payrolls have to be made between July and September. Those are risks they've seen happen just last year. His job as the advisor to the board is to make them aware. Mr. Bejarano shared that there is a characterization that contingency funds would not be used, however the \$2.5 million contingency is planned to be used. The budgeted expense versus audited expense was \$277 over. He noted that he would love to be wrong about contingency and have to come back and say their projections are changing, but what he is seeing from the last four years does not show that projection. One of the future action items on the agenda is to use all contingency and then some for operations. He thinks Mr. McWilliams' overall points about risk tolerance and what is possible in the next two to three years are valid if the board wants to take on significantly more risk.

Board members asked the superintendent to give a brief outline for the amount being transferred to instruction if they go with the amended budget. Superintendent Klinger explained that if there were additional funds in instruction or any other accounts, they would go back to their prioritization list of questions and look at where there are needs. Because it is one time funding, she sees it as a great way to utilize temporary positions for high class sizes or another need that wasn't anticipated. It would give them more resources to address those challenges in a temporary way.

The board had extensive conversation around the two recommended motions available to them. With the first motion they would be accepting the budget exactly as the budget committee saw it. The second motion is giving an appropriation for the \$1.3 million that came about from the state reconciliation. Board members noted that while it provides temporary positions, it also gives a better onramp for conversations about a levy. One time money is never a good thing to bank on, but if it gives them the opportunity for that conversation with the community they are more in favor of that approach. Board members asked for clarity that these two options provide the most flexibility with contingency. Mr. Bejarano confirmed that they allow for other things to happen through 2026-27. Contingency funds can be used and the board can vote to use an appropriations transfer. They wouldn't need to worry if it has to be all instruction or support services. For the dollar amounts those are not a concern and it gives total flexibility. He can provide those updates to the board every month so they are kept abreast on how things are progressing.

Board members asked if contingency can be used anywhere in the general fund. Mr. Bejarano confirmed it can, or contingency can be used for any other fund. The board noted that using temporary money is always risky, and they appreciate that the district is looking at temporary hires as a go between. Directors encouraged those in attendance to spend time at the capital during the legislative session to advocate. Legislators care about hearing from the teachers, parents, and students. They expressed hope that through advocacy they might be in a different position next year.

There was additional conversation about how contingency is spent. Board members asked if based on their history Mr. Bejarano would assume they will spend the contingency in instruction if they approve the \$1.3 million they are displacing. He clarified that it is not displacement. It continues to have the money in contingency that can be used any way the board decides, with an appropriations transfer. They are not supplanting. To go with option one means that contingency can still be used. Going with option two includes the \$1.3 million. Superintendent Klinger noted that if they were using this year as an example, it is accurate that there is contingency used for instruction and support services.

The board asked where the \$1.3 million goes if they adopt the original budget. Mr. Bejarano noted that adopting the original budget shows an increase in the ending fund balance. Other board members noted that some of that analysis from the budget committee work had a disagreement about the ending fund balance using a budgetary beginning fund balance where potential ending fund balance this year might be higher. Mr. Bejarano noted that basically what is being pointed out is not erroneous. The current monthly projections are that the ending fund balance keeps changing, and part of his brief summary each month is that it increased or decreased. Currently, the assumption of the ending fund balance for next year is not a perfect match for next year. It is a large assumption because they still have year-end close procedures, a quarter of payroll, and mandated journal entries. All of those are unknown. To say the current projection in April is a static number that can be banked on he wouldn't agree with. It is true in a vacuum and would be an extra \$1.5 million, but that amount is not sustained.

Board members were curious about the risk of adding more to contingency, noting if they were to add to contingency it would allow the district to monitor the economic situation they are in. It would be an abundance of faith to put in the leadership, but they are also trying to honor the perspectives of the budget committee. Mr. Bejarano clarified that there is no extra contingency in either version. The only thing changing is an additional \$1.3 million of appropriated expenditures. The ability of the district to pivot in real time, based on the past, that flexibility is there. The board discussed a possible third option of keeping the \$1.3 million in instruction, but adding an amount of additional appropriation from contingency. This would come from a position of immense trust as they are looking for flexibility options. Superintendent Klinger asked in terms of this third option if there is anything that prevents them from doing something like that later if that need arises. Mr. Bejarano confirmed there are multiple options that have been used for that flexibility. He believes the board has flexibility to monitor how the contingency is planned to be use with the two options. Board members noted that the shape of the line is not changing, and the way to change it is by going through this painful process and changing the expense pattern. One time money doesn't change the line.

MOTION 90: Move to ratify Resolution 2027-01b to adopt the amended budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year in the total amount of \$285,464,164 now on file at the district's administrative business office. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens and seconded by Kris Howatt, Carried.

Aye: Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda, Holly Riegelmann

No: Heather Coleman-Cox

Aye: 6, No: 1

MOTION 91: Move to ratify Resolution 2027-02 to appropriate funds in the amount and purposes as outlined in the resolution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. This motion, made by Kris Howatt and seconded by Holly Riegelmann, Carried.

Aye: Shawn Farrens, Kris Howatt, Blake Petersen, Brenna Puderbaugh, Erasto Sedda, Holly Riegelmann

No: Heather Coleman-Cox

Aye: 6, No: 1

MOTION 92: Move to ratify Resolution 2027-03 to impose the taxes provided for the adopted budget at the Permanent Rate of \$4.5268 per \$1,000 of assessed value for General Fund operations; and, to impose taxes in

the amount of \$24,297,818 for bonded debt; making these taxes hereby imposed and categorized for the tax year 2026-27 upon the assessed value of all taxable property within the district. 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

After the motions were complete, Chair Petersen noted that the board will want more follow up. The administration has had conversations about adjusting the monthly financial report for more clarity.

30. Alternative Education Programs (10:31 p.m.)

Ms. Gay reviewed information included in the board agenda packet. She noted that this does not mean for the contracts that they pay them more than what is said. It allows the district to contract with them should they have students that require their services. These are programs that are available if student needs require them, they are not available by parent request.

MOTION 93: Move to approve the recommended alternative education programs for 2026-27 as presented. 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

31. Resolution to Transfer Budget Appropriations (10:33 p.m.)

Mr. Bejarano reviewed information included in the board agenda packet. There is a need for appropriation transfers because some transactions were categorized in an appropriation fund different from the adopted budget. An appropriation transfer from special revenue funds will offset the general fun appropriations. The net spending effect across all funds is zero dollars.

MOTION 94: Move to approve resolution number 2026-11 to transfer budget appropriations as presented in the resolution. This motion, made by Shawn Farrens 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

32. Intent to Award Contract - Athletic Training (10:34 p.m.)

Dr. Deboy reviewed information included in the board agenda packet. This provides one trainer for each high school. Both vendors submitted excellent proposals. The organization they are recommending has been working with Barlow for years. Board members suggested adding the vendor's name to the motion. They asked what dollar figure the proposals came in at. Dr. Deboy clarified that it is a contract for each school for \$95,000. It is for an 11-month employee that attends all athletic events, trainings and summer camps. The district has had two different organizations providing athletic trainers for the last several years. They have always maintained an athletic trainer for each school in accordance with the law.

MOTION 95: Move to award the contract for 2 GBSD Licensed Athletic Trainers (1 each at GHS & SBHS) in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 per year awarded to Mt. Hood Chiropractic Clinic. 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

Following the motion there were additional questions from the board. They asked if it is expected that they use this amount every year. Dr. Deboy confirmed the contract covers them for the year. Board members asked if this also helps protect them by having someone assigned to this task, from an insurance standpoint, making sure their students are safe in athletics. Dr. Deboy confirmed that was correct. They have had trainers respond to emergencies and saving students in critical ways. Board members added that Mt. Hood Chiropractic does a lot of preventative care, and injuries that would come up due to repetition weren't coming up due to preventative care. They are helpful in emergencies.

33. School Year Calendars 2026-2029 (10:41 p.m.)

Mr. Koch reviewed the information included in the board agenda packet. He shared that they have already had many calls this spring from community members about the future school breaks. Usually they get this information to the board in April.

MOTION 96: Move to approve the 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-2029 school year calendars as presented. 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, there was additional conversation by the board. They noted that these calendars are difficult to find on the website, and asked if there is a place to go to see these calendars every year. Ms. Vadnais shared that they can make sure to not only post next school years calendar, but the other two as well so parents have them available. They can also send a ParentSquare announcement to remind parents of where they are. The board noted that next year has school ending on a Monday after having a Friday off. They wonder if there is an option to remedy that, adding that they fear attendance will be very low. Mr. Koch shared that they are working with the GBEA since it is a non-student day, and they have crafted an MOU. Teachers will be working four 10's the week before.

Information Items

34. Monthly Financial Update, April 2026 (10:44 p.m.)

The board did not discuss this agenda item during the meeting.

35. Out of State Travel Summary (10:44 p.m.)

Dr. Deboy shared that the out of state travel summary was included in the board agenda. Board members did not discuss the agenda item. They reminded the administration that they would like to review the policy and costs per tier.

Closing Items

36. Announcements (10:45 p.m.)

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

June 18, 2026: Board Work Session - 6 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
Public Safety and Schools Building

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

37. Adjournment (10:45 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 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

