



James Hiu, Superintendent

Gresham-Barlow School District No. 10Jt

1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR 97030-3825
www.gresham.k12.or.us

Phone: (503) 261-4550
Fax: (503) 261-4554

May 5, 2023

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. My name is James Hiu and I am the proud superintendent of schools for the Gresham-Barlow School District. I am requesting \$1.5 million to allow the Gresham-Barlow School District to complete the construction of a school-based health center.

Gresham-Barlow School District is the 10th largest school district in the state and the only large district in Multnomah County without a school-based health center, which is very much needed.

A school-based health center for the Gresham-Barlow School District became one step closer to being a reality when, in 2021, Lawmakers Representative Ruiz and Senator Gorsek secured \$1.5 million in ARPA funds to construct the center. Those ARPA funds must be spent by June 2024, giving us a little over 12 months to complete the project with these funds.

We secured a planning grant from the Oregon Health Authority and have done extensive community engagement with students, staff and community partners who are excited about the development of this health center. We have also worked tirelessly with the architectural firm, BLRB, to design a new School-Based Health Center that meets both city of Gresham code requirements and the needs of students- all within a \$1.5 million budget. Throughout the process we have been on track for construction to be completed in June of 2024.

Unfortunately, just as we were getting ready to bid the project, the cost estimates are now coming in much higher than estimates from just 6 months ago. Due to rising construction costs from inflation and workforce availability, we have learned that it will cost approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million to build the center.

We are asking for \$1.5 million dollars to ensure we complete the project in a timely manner so that we can best leverage the ARPA dollars and open a center to students in the summer of 2024.

Thank you for your time.