

School Board Meetings

Goldendale School District No. 404, 604 E. Brooks Street, Goldendale WA 98620

Welcome to a meeting of Goldendale School District Board of Directors!

Your views and interest in education are important to us and to your schools. Whether your visit is for the purpose of bringing information to the board's attention, solving a problem, or simply to see what's going on, we hope you'll feel welcome and comfortable at this meeting. We also hope that you will leave with a better understanding of your school district and its board of directors.

How the Board Operates

As the board meeting progresses, you may notice that there is quick action on some items. This is because the board generally considers an issue for several meetings before taking action, and also because background materials on the various items are sent to members for their careful study prior to the meeting. Sometimes the board will approve a motion that encompasses many items. You'll be able to follow the action more carefully if you pick up a copy of the agenda that is available.

The Board of Directors are:

Deborah Heart, Chair/Legislative Rep.
(dheart@gsd404.org)

Betty Richards, Vice Chair
(betty.richards@gsd404.org)

Chris Siebert, Board Director
(christopher.siebert@gsd404.org)

Chris Twohy, WIAA Rep.
(chris.twohy@gsd404.org)

John Hoctor, Board Director

About Board Meetings

The Regular Business Meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Goldendale High School located at 525 Simcoe Drive, Goldendale, WA. There are exceptions for months when a holiday occurs on a Monday (i.e. December & January holidays). The board encourages input on agenda topics under discussion at the business meetings.

About Executive Sessions

The board may occasionally go into executive session, thus excluding the public and the news media from witnessing the discussion. You should

know though, that the board will only discuss issues in executive session. It must, by law, take all actions in an open meeting. The law also limits what the board can legally discuss in executive session. These closed discussions may only concern litigation, personnel selection or evaluation, negotiations, complaints against an officer or staff member or real estate transactions where public disclosure would be damaging to individuals or the general welfare of the district. Before going into executive session, the board president must estimate the time the board will return to open session.

Study Sessions

Board Study Sessions are held by the board to address specific issues and to give the board an opportunity to have staff make presentations regarding specific areas of instruction or operation. Study sessions are open meetings and offer the community an opportunity to hear the issues being discussed. The Study Sessions are typically held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Primary School located at 820 S. Schuster, Goldendale, WA.

Addressing the Board

You may comment about an agenda topic during the time reserved for hearing public comment. If this is the case, we ask that you:

- Prior to the start of the meeting, sign in, noting the agenda topic you intend to address to the board.
- Stand and state your name when called upon.
- Due to legal repercussions, persons sharing negative views may not name individual students, district employees or volunteers
- Do keep your comments concise and brief; the Board allows for two minutes per guest to speak.

The Board is interested in hearing your concerns and your compliments outside of the monthly board meeting too. Please feel free to email or write to the board members if you have questions or

concerns to share. Call the District Office at 773-5177 for Board member addresses or phone numbers.

Board Hearings

The school board can be compared to a "court of last resort." If a concern cannot be solved by first talking with the teacher, principal, or appropriate district personnel, it may be forwarded to the board for hearing. Sometimes this hearing may be conducted in "executive session," meaning the public and the media are not in attendance.

About Your Board

Public schools are especially close to the communities they serve because they are governed by men and women selected from the community. These men and women - your school board; are volunteers who spend a great deal of time on the many details involved in providing quality education.

Board members serve four-year terms. They are required to file financial disclosure statements with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission and must be registered voters of the school district

School board members attend meetings, keep communications open with other members of the community and represent the needs of the district before local, state and national representatives. They make critical decisions that have a direct impact on what children learn and how they learn it. However, a school board is a legal body and can only make decisions as a body.

You may notice that many of the decisions the board must make are not directly related to instruction. School board members are also responsible for keeping the buildings and grounds in good shape, balancing the budget, protecting the district's legal interests, and providing for long-range planning.