



GARFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT #302

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Garfield School Library

7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97512513417>

Welcome to the Garfield-Palouse Cooperative School Board meeting, and thank you for being here. We encourage public participation, with comments taken prior to the meeting for items not on the agenda and before the board votes on action items.

To ensure a respectful and productive meeting, please listen quietly, avoid interruptions, and share comments only during the designated public comment times. Disruptive behavior including shouting, excessive applause, or personal remarks and attacks, will not be allowed and may result in removal.

I. Opening of Meeting

- A. Introductions
- B. Request(s) to Address the Board

II. Old Business

- A. **Mission:** Preserve the Cooperative for the purpose of enhancing and facilitating the educational objectives of the Garfield and Palouse School Districts, advocating for public education and allowing all stakeholders (board members, staff, parents, students and community members) to have a voice. In this way, we will ensure that we put the interests of children first.
- B. **Superintendent Recommendations:** To strengthen instructional quality, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability, the following recommendations are presented for Board consideration.
 - 1. **Transition from ESD-contracted fiscal services to an in-house business operations model** to improve continuity, accountability, and cost efficiency.
 - 2. **Increase investment in MTSS professional development** to improve student behavior supports, strengthen school climate, and ensure consistent classroom practices.
 - 3. **Expand preschool from four half-day sessions to a four-day full-day model** to strengthen early learning, better support families, and stabilize enrollment.
 - 4. **Increase certificated staffing by 1.00 FTE** to support remote learning options, expanded electives, and after-school programming.
 - 5. **Increase Music/Band staffing from 0.80 to 1.00 FTE** to expand fourth-grade access and strengthen band programming.
 - 6. **Share a Maintenance Director position with Palouse at approximately 0.20 FTE** to strengthen preventive maintenance, facilities oversight, and regulatory compliance.
 - 7. **Increase Food Service Assistant staffing from 0.30 FTE to approximately 0.50–0.75 FTE** to sustain a scratch-based meal program and maintain nutrition and safety compliance.
 - 8. **Right-size the School Social Worker position from 1.00 FTE to 0.50 FTE**, to be more aligned to state averages (1:360), national recommendations (1:250), and school level apportionment (.43 FTE), to serve as the central coordinator of student mental health services, and continue contracting with Palouse River Counseling for supplemental supports as needed. This action will require non-renewing the school social worker's current 1.00 FTE contract, and offering a new 0.5 FTE contract to the school social worker.