SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

MINUTES

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 in the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Battaglia, called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Mrs. Battaglia led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Amy Battaglia, Peter Bellanti, Joshua Feldmann, Marianne Jasen, Scott M. Johnson, Brian Laible, Kailey McDonald, Hunter Tryloff (student ex officio)

ABSENT:

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Board of Education accepted the roll as called.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Also present: Michael V. Ginestre, Donald G. Feldmann, JoAnn Balazs, Toyia Wilson

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session for matters related to the employment history of a particular individual and contract negotiations at 6:38 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 7:25 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

> RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, December 19, 2023 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

> RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the meetings held Wednesday, November 8, 2023 and Tuesday, November 21, 2023 be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Harris Beach Legal Alert

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. BOE Recognition
The Board recognized Kristin Kosha at the study session on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

B. Superintendent Update
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

C. 22/23 Assessment Data Grades 3-8
Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

D. Superintendent Update
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

OPEN SESSION: Agenda Topics – Policy 1510

Called

NEW BUSINESS
Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered for consent agenda on items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I.

A. Special Education

1. Class placements for 2023-2024 – Policy 7613

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disability Act, and Chapter 853, Laws of 1976 (New York State Education Act), requires Board of Education approval for all placements of students with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the District Committee on Special Education has reviewed all placements, and

WHEREAS, all parents have approved said special education class placements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That, the 2023-2024 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated December 5, 2023.

2. Preschool class placements for 2023-2024 – Policy 7614

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disability Act, as amended by P.L. 99-457, New York State Compliance, Chapter 243 of the Laws of 1989, requires Board of Education approval for all placements of preschool students with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the District Committee on Preschool Special Education has reviewed all placements, and

WHEREAS, all parents have approved said special education placements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That, the 2023-2024 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated December 5, 2023.

and be it further…

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NEW BUSINESS-continued…

B. Monthly Financial Reports – Policy 2140

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the Investment Schedule, the Treasurer's Report, the Budget Appropriation Status Report, the Revenue Budget Status report, the Budget Transfer Report and the Extra-Curricular Account Report as provided.

and be it further…

C. Transportation Bid

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, enter into a transportation contract with **WNY Bus Company** for the 2023-24 school year for a total cost of **$388.00 per day.**

and be it further…

D. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – First Reading

Board of Education By-Law #1410 states that "Board of Education policy and rules and by-laws shall be adopted, amended and/or suspended…only when the addition, amendments or suspension is first introduced in writing and is subsequently moved and seconded at a public meeting at least 27 calendar days prior to the time when such adoption, amendment and/or suspension may be voted upon."

At the regular Board of Education meeting held on December 20, 2022 the Superintendent of Schools recommended the Board of Education accept the first reading of the following revised policies.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following revised policies as provided in the December 20, 2022 presentation.

a.	**3420 – Non-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment in the District**
b.	**5140 – Administration of the Budget**
c.	**6121 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**
d.	**6550 – Leaves of Absence**

and be it further…

E. Dispose of Obsolete Property – Policy 5250

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize the district to participate in competitive bidding procedures for the disposal of obsolete property.

and be it further…

F. Acceptance of Donation – Policy 5230

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the donation of $500 to support Glendale families in need.

and be it further…

G. Overnight Field Trip Request – Policy 8460

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following Overnight Field Trip Requests:

- Watkins Glen HS Swim Tournament, Watkins Glen, NY, Jan. 2024 (Leaders – Morris Fried/Patrick McNelis)

and be it further…

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NEW BUSINESS-continued…

H. Charter Agreements

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Annual Unit Charter Agreements with the following organizations:

- Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Cub Scout Pack No. 444
- Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scout Troup No. 444

and be it further…

I. High School Course Planning Guide – Policy 8110 (Revision)

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves revisions to the Sweet Home High School Student Curriculum Handbook 2023-2024 as provided.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

H. Tryloff: Student gov't meeting this week to discuss spirit week, and reviewing responses to a survey about having a talent show. Tech sub committee is meeting with District Tech Dept. to focus on gmail, app download support and teacher support. Athletes have been showcasing their activities at the elementaries. Planning for the talent show in March or April – will celebrate the uniqueness & diversity of our student body. Mr. Ryan asked student gov't to assist for the third year with their Leadership celebration. Food & Nutrition and Environmental subcommittees will be meeting with Mrs. Sajdak in January.

M. Jasen: Attended several concerts.

K. McDonald: Attended the HH PTA meeting, they are having their Merry Moose gift shop. Also held a Rainbow Rink event. Kudos to Student Gov't for their work.

J. Feldmann: In light of the Town of Amherst tax increase, would like to highlight our tax neutral budget this year. Attended a few awesome concerts.

B. Laible: Attended the Policy Committee meeting – most updates were required by law. WR/GL concert last week at new HS Aud. Tonight is a WR/HH band concert at MS. Good variety of songs for multiple generations. Attended the WR PTO meeting. As a parent of 4 kids, truly appreciate our teachers. Kids come home each day and talk about what they did in class more than anything else. Wish you all a great holiday.

S. Johnson: Attended the ECASB Speedboarding event – session put on by family court, student discipline and home instruction session by Harris Beach, and BPO members came in and talked about their music for youth series. Spent time with Ms. DeLaPlante, the Buffalo Bandits came in along with the Girls Lax team. GL would like to have their ELL kids move to their home school. Also attended the Alumni Committee and Policy Committee meetings. Met with Sen. Ryan, discussed the idea of a tax cap exemption for CVA cases, also a bill to ban IDAs from giving away school district tax monies. Appreciated our time with Young & Wright. Bit of a shock to learn State Ed will require us to use Dexter to obtain state aid. Met with a few members of Sen. Tim Kennedy's staff and talked about foundation aid and zero emission buses. He may be our next congressman to replace Brian Higgins.

P. Bellanti: Attended the 7th grade band & chorus concert. With a few other families, we volunteered at the Teacher's Desk, helped teachers shop for supplies.

A. Battaglia: Attended a few sporting events. Speaking for the Board, we appreciate our teachers and know how hard you work. Being a teacher is not easy these days. Hope your break is restful.

OPEN SESSION: Policy 1510

Karen Meltser (MM teacher) – As a member of the Buffalo Jewish Community, I am disappointed in the District's response to the Israeli flag being torn down, first in the HS, then at the MS. With a 337% rise in acts of antisemitism since October 7, I did not expect to read about acts at Sweet Home in the Buffalo News. I did expect the District to say antisemitism will not be tolerated. SH boasts about diversity, but the lack of response says otherwise. An opportunity to educate was missed.

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OPEN SESSION: Policy 1510-continued…
Paul Szymendera (SHEA President) – Speaking on behalf of SHEA – do the right thing, take a stand. Communicate to our community that hate will not be tolerated.

PERSONNEL
Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered for consent agenda on personnel items I and II.

I. Teaching and Administrative
A. Regular
1. Discontinuance
a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Brian Kisker		

2. Appointment
g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Melinda DeBernardo	Charles Dunlap	Michelle Iwankow
Michelle Iwankow	Mariya Barnum	

j. Co-Curricular Activities

j. Co-Curricular Activities, High School, 2023-2024 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, high school,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated November 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lori DePoint (chg.)	Cory Morrow (chg.)	Lona LaChiusa (chg.)

B. Substitutes
2. Appointments
a. Long Term Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *long term substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Alex Gauld		

b. Per Diem Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

c. Student Teachers for Spring 2024

RESOLVED: That, the *Student Teachers* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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PERSONNEL-continued…

I. Teaching and Administrative

C. Interscholastic Activities

1. Interscholastic Activities, High School, Winter, 2023-24

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Winter* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Renaldo Rodgriguez	Morris Fried (chg.)	

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

David Zelakiewicz		

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Tyler Sajdak	Lori Pusateri	Emerald Green

2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sharon Tuzzolino	Jessica Clayson-Galvin	Frederick Eckles
Kimberly Mohan	Gregory Robbins	April Webster
Donna Dayfert		

e. Transfer

RESOLVED: That, the *transer* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Anjum Quadri		

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Michael Laible		

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PERSONNEL-continued…

II. Service
B. Substitutes
2. Per Diem Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 716 dated December 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

ADJOURNMENT
Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Sherry A. McNamara
Secretary, Board of Education
District Clerk
Sweet Home Central School District

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