

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING and
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 in the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Jasen, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

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

PRESENT: Amy Battaglia, Peter Bellanti, Joshua Feldmann Marianne Jasen, Scott M. Johnson, Brian Laible (arrived at 6:43 pm), Kailey McDonald, Musab Abrar (student ex-officio)

ABSENT:

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

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Jasen stated: "The Board is in receipt of a statement of charges against a tenured employee." Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session to consider charges pursuant to Section 3020-a of the Education Law at 6:12 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, a request was made to the Superintendent to produce the personnel record of the employee named in the charges.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 7:11 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, pursuant to Education Law 1711, the individual named in the charges just considered by the Board in executive session be placed on suspension (from administrative leave), pending the outcome of an Education Law 3020-a tenured teacher disciplinary proceeding.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, May 9, 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 Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes the Regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, April 18, 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. Board members received invitations to Glendale.
2. Board members received invitations to the ECASB Annual Dinner.
3. Board members received an email from John Buttino.
4. Board members received an invitation to the HS STARS breakfast.

OPEN SESSION – AGENDA TOPICS – Policy 1512

Called

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Calendar Presentation

JoAnn Balazs, Assistant Superintendent for Talent & Equity, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

B. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

C. Art Show Student Recognition

The Board of Education will recognize students at the voting meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

D. Science & Math Curriculum Update

Toya Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

E. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING – DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN/CODE OF CONDUCT

JoAnn Balazs, Assistant Superintendent for Talent & Equity presented the 23/24 District Safety Plan and Code of Conduct.

NEW BUSINESS

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

A. Special Education**1. Class placements for 2022-2023 – Policy 7613**

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disabilities 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 2022-2023 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated April 24, 2023.

2. Preschool class placements for 2022-2023 – Policy 7614

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disabilities 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 student with disabilities, and

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

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

RESOLVED: That, the 2022-2023 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated April 24, 2023.

and be it further...

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. Bids – Policy - 5410**1. Health Medical Supplies Bid**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the Health Medical Supplies bid 2023-24-17 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **\$16,018.70**.

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

C. Bids – Policy - 5410

1. Health Medical Supplies Bid

Collins Sports Medicine	\$6,508.96
Medco	\$6,241.24
Pyramid	\$427.03
School Health Corp.	#2,841.47
Total	\$16,018.70

2. Emergency Transportation Bid – WNY Maritime Academy

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the Transportation bid #2022-23-26 (WNY Maritime Academy) to **WNY Bus Company** at the contract rate of **\$129.00** per day.

3. Athletic and Physical Education Supplies Bid

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the Athletics and Physical Education Supplies bid #2023-24-8 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **\$73,789.14**.

ADA Sports	\$420.00
BSN Sports	\$29,030.97
Colorado Timing Systems	\$105.00
Gopher	\$7,051.44
Laux	\$19,061.00
Longstreth Sporting Goods LLC	\$1,072.10
MFAC	\$1,517.00
Pyramid School Products	\$1,852.71
Riddell	\$4,994.95
S&S Worldwide	\$136.73
School Health Corp	\$2,937.92
Sportsman's	\$5,609.32
Total	\$73,789.14

and be it further...

D. Request for Proposal – Printer Management/Remote Print Access

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Printer Management/Remote Print Access agreement for the 2023-2024 school year to **Toshiba Business Solutions** in the amount of **\$30,510.00**.

and be it further...

E. School District Calendars, 2023-2024 – Policy 8410

1. District Attendance Calendar

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2023-2024 district attendance calendar as presented.

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

E. School District Calendars, 2023-2024 – Policy 8410

2. District Payroll Calendar

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2023-2024 district payroll calendar as presented.

3. District Holiday Calendar

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2023-2024 district holiday calendars as presented.

and be it further...

F. Corrective Action Plan in Response to State Comptroller’s Report

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan in response to the State Comptroller’s Report as recommended by the District Audit Committee.

and be it further...

G. Corrective Action Plan in Response to Internal Audit

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan in response to the Internal Audit Report as recommended by the District Audit Committee.

and be it further...

H. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – Second 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 April 18, 2023 the Superintendent of Schools recommends 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 May 10, 2022 presentation.

a.	6570 – Determination of Employment Status: Employee or Independent Contractor
b.	7270 – Rights of Non-Custodial Parents
c.	7350 – Corporal Punishment/Emergency Interventions
d.	7522 – Concussion Management
e.	7530 – Child Abuse and Maltreatment
f.	7545 – Student Gender Identity
g.	7618 – Use of Time Out Rooms

and be it further...

NEW BUSINESS-continued...**I. Annual District Vote – Policy 1611****1. Chief Election Inspector**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education approve the revised appointment of Karen Galli, qualified voter in the district, to act as **Chief Election Inspector** at said school district's Annual Vote to be held at Sweet Home High School, Norman Vergils Community Center, 1901 Sweet Home Road, in the Town of Amherst, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 7 am to 9 pm and to perform such duties and to take such action as prescribed by law.

and be it further...

K. Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education approve the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' exemption provided by §466-a of the New York Real Property Tax Law for the Sweet Home Central School District. If adopted, the Exemption would be effective as of May. 9, 2023 and initially reflected on the District's 2023-2024 tax bills.

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District, hereby authorizes the District to adopt the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax Exemption based on the District's Administrative recommendation of the following exemption levels: (1) 10% of the Assessed value, as determined by the Town Assessor, of the primary residence of a qualifying applicant, and (2) applicant eligibility will be determined by the Town Assessor based on a minimum of two (2) years of applicable service and other statutory requirements.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School, hereby authorizes the District to adopt the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax Exemption based on the District's administrative recommendation of any qualifying applicant, as determined by the Town Assessor, who accrues more that twenty (20) years of active service, shall be granted the 10% exemption of the assessed value of his or her primary residence for the remainder of his or her life, subject to applicable statutory requirements.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School, hereby authorizes the District to adopt the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax Exemption based on the District's administrative recommendation to allow any qualifying un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty, as determined by the Town Assessor, to continue to receive the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax exemption or reinstate a pre-existing exemption claimed by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated volunteer ambulance service, subject to applicable statutory requirements.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School, hereby authorizes the District to adopt the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax Exemption based on the District's administrative recommendation to allow any qualifying un-remarried spouse of a Deceased volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker, as determined by the Town Assessor, to continue to receive the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax exemption or reinstate a pre-existing exemption claimed

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

K. Partial Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers

by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated volunteer ambulance service, subject to applicable statutory requirements.

and be it further...

L. 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.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered.

J. BOCES/Dexter/Sweet Home Contract

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the lease with Erie 1 BOCES for the rental of space in the Dexter Terrace School Building for a term of three years, beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2026 per the terms outlined in the attached lease agreement.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District hereby authorizes the Board President to execute on behalf of the district.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X	Abstain	1 (Bellanti)		

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

M. Abrar: Thank you for bearing with my absences. Our vacant Senate seat is being filled by Lily Fisher. Design is continuing on the Panther Pit, Hunter Tryloff won the contest to design the banner. Hoping to bring back the prize wheel and pop up contests to boost school morale. Celebrated Earth day. Met with Mrs. Sajdak re: what changes can be made. Variety has increased in school lunches with some very good new options. She appreciated our feedback. Would like to meet with her annually going forward. GL and MM invited us to their Leadership days. Want to have one more spirit week and an end of the year event. Pi day celebration was fun. Bald for Bucks was great – shout out to Mrs. Mansell for organizing. Hope to see everyone at the Concert Chorale show on May 25!

P. Bellanti: Attended many sporting events. GL has mother’s day flower sale going on, and a fun run and Leadership assembly upcoming.

S. Johnson: Attended the ECASB Twist on Tech program at KenTon BOCES. They have 600 students and 3 new programs which are outstanding. Attended the Unified basketball game, drill team did a performance at halftime and one of our therapy dogs was in attendance as well. Was out at Niagara Wheatfield on behalf of NYSSBA handing out an award to the Hockey team and coach for volunteer work they did for veterans. Along with Don and Mike, met with Sen. Gallivan about possible funding for CVA cases. Attended a Harris Beach training session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued...

K. McDonald: Attended the Health & Wellness committee meeting.

J. Feldmann: Appreciative of everyone’s patience during my time away. SHEF met, they are seeking 2 new Board members. Their programs are running well.

B. Laible: WR had a science night – the highlight was the hourlong bubble demonstration. Spring music festival will be at the MS. Teaching & Learning committee meeting on May 10.

A. Battaglia: Also attended multiple sporting events. Building use committee met, and will meet again next week. Also next week is the annual SARD dinner.

M. Jasen: Mr. Feldmann sent over the names of 3 candidates for the BOE scholarship. Recipient needs to be chosen by June 1. Congratulations to Dr. Wilson from the Board, we are so proud of you and Dr. Ginestre, and glad you are here at Sweet Home. It is nurse’s week – we owe them our thanks, especially for helping get us through the pandemic. Kristina Pinkowski forwarded a parent message thanking her for having the therapy dogs here – it has made a huge difference for her child. HH PTA met – meat raffle was a success, have new members and looking for more.

OPEN SESSION – Policy 1512

Roberta Mullins – 205 N. French: Have a student each at WR and MS. Want to express a big concern about kids eating in classrooms. From cold lunches to using aides as lunch monitors to socialization issues. Have talked to teachers and parents. Would really like to see it changed for next year. Parents are a bit concerned about class sizes going up to make it work, teachers don’t have that concern. Class sizes are relatively small now and it might be worth a bit of an increase to have the socialization of the cafeteria back.

Brandon Beckinghausen – BOE candidate: How would someone go about getting an item on the agenda? Parents wanted to speak this evening but had to get home due to the late hour, it seems unfair for those who wanted to speak. It would help with transparency if they could speak. Could there be a parent committee that could recommend an agenda item? It would be appreciated if it were easier for them to participate.

PERSONNEL

Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, 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

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Megan Breier	Jessica Gechoff	
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2. Appointments

b. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Melissa Minorczyk	Elizabeth Kosakowski	Eireann Good
Lauren Lewis		

PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

c. Encumbered

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Carly Hardick		
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e. Continuing Activities

Building Improvement Team, Willow Ridge, 2022-2023

RESOLVED: That, *Building Improvement Team, Willow Ridge*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sarah Giese (change)	Wendy Januchowski	
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g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ashlee Lipka	Jeffrey Brown	
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h. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jeffrey Brown		
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B. Substitutes

2. Appointment

a. Long Term Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *long term substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Arika Notaro	Kara Meredith	Hannah Sullivan
Olivia Harvey	Tracey Marchant	

b. Substitute teachers for 2022-2023 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

C. Interscholastic Activities

1. Interscholastic Activities, Spring, 2022-23

RESOLVED: That, the *Interscholastic Activities appointments, Spring* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Andrew Gasper	Kylie Prizel	
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II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Barbara Maddigan	David Skalski	Nancy Bovey
Kathleen Marko	Jenny Price	Michael Schmitt
Richard Rice	George Lindner	

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Robert Lempenau		
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c. Termination

RESOLVED: That, the *termination* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jennifer Bishop	Timothy Polyachyk	
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2. Appointments

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

James Murray	Louise Liyanage	Stephen Pizzuto
Justin Gaskill	Lori Varney	Emerald Green
Kandesha Kemp		

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Arika Notaro	Michael Laible	Olivia Harvey
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PERSONNEL-continued...

II. Service
A. Regular

2. Appointments
g. Reinstatement from leave

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Amenda Harris	Elaina Davis-Givens	Kathryn Martinez
Paul Marko	Jeffrey Hughes	

B. Substitutes
2. Appointment
b. Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 709 dated May 9, 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 Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 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