SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

MINUTES

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at Glendale Elementary. President of the Board, Mrs. Jasen, called the meeting to order at 6:40 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, Kailey McDonald

ABSENT: Roman Haen (student ex-officio)

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	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

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

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, February 15, 2022 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 minutes of the Board of Education Meetings held Tuesday, January 11, 2022 and Tuesday January 18, 2022 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. Letter from Amherst IDA.
2. Phillips Lytle Legal Alert.
3. Harris Beach Legal Alerts.
4. Erie 1 BOCES Call for Nominations.
5. Letter from Mary Busse.
6. Mel-Ott inquired through Mr. Bellanti about the status of turf-field rental going forward to make sure the league was welcome and mentioned that opportunites for volunteer or service hours will be available.
7. Letter from Andrew Loeb.
8. Harris Beach Legal Alerts.

DRAFT

OPEN SESSION – Agenda Topics - Policy 1510

James (no last name or address given): Parent of student, expressed his anger and frustration about kids still wearing masks. Stressed that masks are dirty, they don't help, and that kids need to breathe fresh air. Masking should be optional.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Superintendent update
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

B. Glendale Elementary Presentation
The Glendale Elementary team presented to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

C. Superintendent update
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

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, and J.

A. Special Education

1. Class placements for 2021-2022 – 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 2021-2022 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Mr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated February 1, 2022.

2. Preschool class placements for 2021-2022 – 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 students 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 2021-2022 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Mr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated February 1, 2022.

and be it further…

DRAFT

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. 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 January 18, 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 February 15, 2022 presentation.

a.	**3230 – Public Complaints**
b.	**3310 – Public Access to Records**
c.	**3420 – Non-Discrimination & Anti-Harassment in the School District**
d.	**3520 – Extraordinary Circumstances**
e.	**5640 - Smoking/Tobacco Use**

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 February 15, 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 February 15, 2022 presentation.

a.	**6120 – Equal Employment Opportunity**
b.	**6121 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**
c.	**6150 – Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs & Other Substances (Staff)**
d.	**6160 – Professional Growth/Staff Development**
e.	**6219 – Registration and Professional Development**
f.	**6571 – Professional Services Providers (recommend to delete)**
g.	**5681 – School Safety Plans**
h.	**5230 – Acceptance of Gifts**

and be it further…

DRAFT

NEW BUSINESS-continued…

E. Corrective Action Plan in Response to Internal Auditor's Report

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

and be it further…

F. 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…

G. District Substitute Rates, 2021-2022 – Policy 6220

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education establishes the rates of compensation for substitutes effective February 7, 2022 as follows:

Teaching

- Per Diem Substitutes:
  - Certified $130.00 per day
  - Non-Certified : $120.00 per day
- Building Based Substitutes:
  - Certified: $140.00 per day (No benefits)
  - Not certified $130.00 per day (No benefits)
- Long Term Substitutes: $160.00 per day (No benefits)
- Retired SHEA Substitutes: $135.00 per day (No benefits)
- Retired SHEA Long Term Substitutes. $175.00 per day (No benefits)

Service

Position	Entry Sub Rate
Bus Monitors	$13.37/hr.
Cleaners	$13.37/hr.
Food Service Helpers	$13.37/hr.
Lunch/Hall Monitors	$13.37/hr.
Teacher Aides	$13.37/hr.

and be it further…

H. Appointments

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the amended appointments of the following individuals for the 2021-22 school year as presented in the attached memo.

- Nicole Kuss, District Treasurer
- Lisa Cebulski, Deputy District Clerk
- Falon Capenhurst, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

and be it further…

DRAFT

NEW BUSINESS-continued…

I. Acceptance of Donation

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the donation of $1,100.00 in memory of former Heritage Heights Librarian, Karen Holmes, for the purchase of books for the Heritage Heights Library.

and be it further…

J. SEQRA – Capital Outlay Project

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District"), after consultation by District officials with the District's retained architectural firm of Young + Wright Architectural ("YWA"), has resolved that the District should undertake a capital outlay project involving modest upgrades and improvements to the District's High School building, such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily to be limited to, the removal and disposal of existing deteriorating interior and exterior doors and the installation of new, code-compliant doors with new access hardware (thereby improving accessibility and safety), as well as all associated work (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to rescind its previous resolution adopted and dated May 11, 2021 relating to the Project and replace it with this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the estimated maximum cost of the Project (inclusive of all preliminary and incidental costs) has been determined by YWA to be $100,000; and

WHEREAS, the Project is to be financed by the application of $100,000 of funds earmarked for such purpose as a "Transfer to Capital Fund" in the District's approved budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, with the work on the Project being expected to be completed (due to bidding and contractor delays) during the 2022-2023 fiscal year of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to reserve the right to expand, contract or modify the scope of the Project in light of the level of future construction bids received, with the understanding that the estimated maximum cost of the Project will not exceed $100,000; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State Education Department guidance and policy, the District/Board of Education is the appropriate agency to be the lead agency to undertake Project review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, Section 617.5 of the SEQRA regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617) provides that certain activities are Type II actions which are not subject to review under SEQRA and that such activities include "maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility" and "replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site…;" and

WHEREAS, the Project constitutes such maintenance, repair, or in-kind, same-site replacement, rehabilitation, or reconstruction activities; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (a/k/a the "Letter of Resolution" or the "MOU") between the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("OPRHP") (a/k/a State Historic Preservation Office or "SHPO") and SED, and the terms of the MOU's exemption form, a project is exempt from SHPO review if, among other possible reasons, a building is 50 years old or older but has previously been evaluated by SHPO and found not to meet the criteria for inclusion in the State and National Register ("Registers"); and

DRAFT

NEW BUSINESS-continued…

J. SEQRA – Capital Outlay Project

WHEREAS, SHPO has determined that the High School building is "not eligible" for listing on the Registers because it does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Registers; and

WHEREAS, because the High School building is "not eligible" for listing on the Registers, YWA has determined that the proposed work is exempt from review by SHPO (given that it has no anticipated impacts on historic and archeological resources under the terms of the MOU), although YWA may nonetheless submit information on the proposed work to SHPO for confirmation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the final determination of the District's Board of Education that the Project is a Type II action, which is not subject to review under SEQRA, and that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for the Project has been included as a "Transfer to Capital Fund" line item (not exceeding $100,000 in amount) in the District's approved budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (with appropriate additional notification to District voters regarding the anticipated details of the work having been given in connection with the District's regular budget approval process), so that the Project may be initiated and eventually completed (due to bidding and contractor delays) during the 2022-2023 fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect immediately.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

R. Haen: The Winter Dance festival is still being planned, it will be less formal and it's being planned for before break. The plans for the new garden area missed a filing deadline for a grant. The Student Government and Willow Ridge are working together to help move this forward. The members will want to address the Board soon about it. He has been asked about the Senior lounge area and the plans for it once the construction starts this summer. Don Feldmann gave a quick summary of the plans.

P. Bellanti: Congratulated the students at GL for a successful Can drive of over 2600 cans for SHEF in January. The PTA surprised the students with Pizza snacks 2/7 as a thank you. Glendale is also working on the Spring Chocolate and Flowers fundraisers. There is an ECASB delegate meeting coming up 2/26

S. Johnson: On February 2, he attended a virtual conference and gave updates from the Commissioners which stressed the importance of the DEI committee, broadband maintenance, foundation formula, zero emission bus fleets etc. Attended the Rick Tim's meeting 2/3 about budget and tax cap rates. Attended a NYSSMA meeting 2/7 with the Governor's office about masking, Vaccinations and timelines.Focus on schools being open Full time and that the decisions should be made by health officials not educators. There is a Legislative meeting 2/9 addressing this as well. Attended the HS PTSA meeting which was virtual, planning 3 $1200 scholarships. Fundraising hasn't been great – overlapped with NHS fundraising. Requesting baskets for the spring craft show raffles. Brick walkway fundraiser is underway. Attended zoom calls with legislators on Feb 9 regarding Foundation Aid and updating the census data used (from 22 years ago). There is an assembly bill (9138) being introduced to help schools offset CVA case costs. Spoke to several state assemblymen, legislators, aids and senators about budget related topics.

DRAFT

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued…

K. McDonald: Also attending the Legislative Committee meeting 2/9, and attended the DEI meeting which was enlightening and beneficial. Spoke briefly about alerts you can receive that track bills being introduced that effect education.

J. Feldmann: Attended MM PTA meeting. Starting to see COVID fatigue in the buildings and fundraisers are low and underwhelming. The Maplemere Experience turnout was low and the Multi-Cultural Night has been postponed. Along with Mrs. Jasen requested the State Audit findings to be forwarded to the BOE after receipt.

B. Laible: Attended the new Service Center soft-opening 1/28 and noted that it was just beautiful and spoke to several workers that were very appreciative. Also attended the Audit Committee and Policy Committee meetings. Thanked Don Feldmann for his work on both the service center project and the Audits. National Honor Society ceremony was also 2/2. Willow Ridge PTO met 2/3 and also noted COVID fatigue with Principal Bob Polino. Distancing is more difficult than masks in some situations. They are doing a 100-Day in-School event and an event for Valentine's Day. Noted the Girls' Basketball article in the paper and congratulated the team on their performances. WR held their virtual dance party.

A. Battaglia: Also commented on the Girls Basketball games, very exciting and congratulated the ladies. Middle School PTSA met 2/7 and they will have some Board positions open next year. The Middle School is looking to add to the student experience with enhancements and activity night outside. Noted the students need something to look forward to and they were also experiencing COVID fatigue.

M. Jasen: Attended the Service Center opening and noted the drivers were happy not having stairs each morning. The National Honor Society ceremony was excellent too. The Sweet Home website does not show easily what musical we are performing, please work to correct this. Along with Mrs. Battaglia, thanked Mr. Johnson for all the time he spends communicating with legislators. HH had their Fun Run, virtual dance. Mrs. Jasen inquired if we are still providing meals to all students.

D. Feldmann: We are continuing to provide meals for all our students.

OPEN SESSION - Policy 1510

James - (no last name or address given - parent of Student): Masks are terrible, so are the mandates. If the school has the power to lift them, they should. Test to stay sounds terrible, viruses come and go and won't linger on to kill our species. Our kids are depressed and need to see smiles, smiles are important. Don't push vaccines that don't work.

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

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Edward Hayes		

2. Appointments

c. Encumbered

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered appointment* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Yohan Andraud		

DRAFT

PERSONNEL (continued)...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Katelyn DiRosa	Kristen Noltee	Erin Hawkes
Vanessa O'Neil-White	Michael Prince	Allison Cady

h. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Elizabeth Sigurdson		

i. Salary Adjustments

See Salary Adjustments- In-service Credits Memo dated February 15, 2022
See Salary Adjustments- Graduate Credits Memo dated February 15, 2022

j. Co-Curricular Activities

j. Co-Curricular Activities, Middle School, 2021-2022 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, middle school,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Matthew Refermat		

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. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Cheyon Cross	Susan Cohen	Yanna Shimanskaya
Mara Carrol	Lauren Wills	

b. Substitute teachers for 2021-2022 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

DRAFT

PERSONNEL (continued)...

I. Teaching and Administrative

B. Substitutes

2. Appointment

c. Student Teachers for Spring 2022 - revised

RESOLVED: That, the *revised student teachers* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Matthew Urban	Erin McHugh	Syed Rahman
Lisa Cebulski		

2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Peter Todaro	Xavier Balsano	Orion Lapsley-Bonghi
Diana Hyland	Syeda Khan	Rahayu Abdull Razak
Heather Martinez	Tyler Sajdak	

e. Transfer

RESOLVED: That, the *transfer* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Tina Reich	Dan Fularz	

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Karen Barrett	Katie Lasher	Mike Nichols
Paul Marko	Nanette Previte	Amenda Harris
Amenda Harris		

2. Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 688 dated February 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

DRAFT

PERSONNEL (continued)…

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Mrs. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session for legal matters related to the employment history of a particular individual at 7:27 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, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 7:46pm.

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 7:47 pm

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Lisa Cebulski
Deputy District Clerk
Sweet Home Central School District

DRAFT