



Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda

Office of the Superintendent
1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, New York 14228
(716) 250-1402

*Michael V. Ginestre
Superintendent of Schools*

Sweet Home Central School District Board of Education Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year

At its annual retreat on October 15, 2021, the Sweet Home Board of Education engaged in discussion regarding its goals for the 2021-2022 school year. As we continue to educate during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board is focused on providing the full Sweet Home experience for the students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members of the district.

Goal #1

The Board of Education is committed to providing in-person instruction to every student in grades K-12 at Sweet Home Central School District for each day of the entire 2021-2022 school year. This commitment to full, in-person instruction for all students will align with health and safety guidelines adopted by the New York State Health Department, local health departments, and the New York State Department of Education.

Rationale

As identified by the Board of Education, Community Tasks Forces, Sweet Home Administration, and the faculty and staff, it is critical to provide in-person instruction to the entire student body at Sweet Home each day for the entire school year. This will ensure that the district is addressing the education, social, and emotional needs of our students, faculty, staff, parents, and community in the best manner possible.

Goal #2

As part of a reacclimation to in-person instruction for all students at Sweet Home, it is critical that each student has a full school experience. The Board of Education's goal is to offer each and every course the district has to offer, as well as a full slate of extracurricular activities, including athletics, music, theatre, school events, and clubs. These activities will be conducted safely using protocols adopted by the New York State Department of Health, local health agencies, and the New York State Department of Education.

Rationale

As all students come back to school for in-person instruction, the district realized the burden and trauma some students experienced while away from campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year. In order to ease this burden and trauma, the Board believes it is critical for students to have a full school experience during the 2021-22 school year. This will help all stakeholders move past the isolation of the pandemic and restore all of the programs Sweet Home has to offer.

Goal #3

The Board of Education will support a continual improvement model in terms of academic success for all students in the Sweet Home Central School District. The Board is committed to closing learning gaps created as a result of the pandemic, and implementing intervention plans to ensure all students are on appropriate academic levels at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Rationale

The Board of Education recognizes the impact the pandemic has played on the academic progress of all students in the Sweet Home Central School District. The Board is committed to ensuring that all students are closing academic gaps, while making sure achievement levels are on the rise, all students are on an appropriate academic level, and students are on schedule to graduate.

Goal #4

The Board of Education will create a budgetary plan that promotes academic, social, and emotional growth of all students in the district, and enhances program priorities, while at the same time remains fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the district. The Board will develop budgetary priorities that incorporate new federal stimulus money as well our full allocation of New York State Foundation Aid.

Rationale

The Board recognizes that this is a unique time in terms of school finance. While there are new federal revenue sources and the promise by New York State to fully fund Foundation Aid, the Board recognizes the need for budgetary restraint as these new revenue sources are not permanent. Plans to use the additional revenue must only be for how long the revenue remains in place. A focus of any budget is to enhance the student experience for all at Sweet Home.

Goal #5

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive educational and work environment where all stakeholders have the opportunity to succeed and achieve. As one component of this goal, the District will establish a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee dedicated to developing a framework for evaluating and implementing the essential elements of a successful DEI plan (including: governance; teaching and learning; family and community engagement; workforce diversity; diverse schools and learning opportunities; and student supports, discipline, and wellness). Through this committee, the Board and the District will strive to eliminate barriers to success and build a system where everyone has a place and sense of belonging. Every student, one community...ready for the future."

Rationale

The Board of Education realizes that in order for the district to fulfill its mission and achieve its vision, all stakeholders must have an equal chance to succeed and achieve. The district is committed to analyzing all practices and creating a structured approach that identifies inequities in the system, and implements strategies to address inequities and ensure each stakeholder belongs and contributes to making our school community a place for all.