



SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Report

OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT,
ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.



2023 - 2024

#WEARESWEETHOME



**SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT,
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Public Safety Hearing: District-Wide School Safety Plan & Code of Conduct May 14, 2024

2023-2024
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SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY,
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District Safety Committee 23-24

- *JoAnn Balazs, Assistant Superintendent*
- *Stephen Rozler, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds*
- *Michael Ginestre, Superintendent*
- *Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent*
- *Toyia Wilson, Asst. Supt. Director & Curriculum*
- *Grazyna Arnold, SRO / Amherst Police*
- *Kathryn Barillari, Director Special Education*
- *Ray Bailey, High School Assistant Principal*
- *Sheila Connors, Social Studies/Advisor*
- *Marissa Dauria, Middle School Principal*
- *Karen DeLaPlante, Glendale Principal*
- *Bob Ehlenfield, Systems Engineer*
- *Amanda Glenn, Kindergarten Teacher*
- *Rebecca Harmon, High School Senior Clerk*
- *Wendy Januchowski, Willow Ridge Counselor*
- *Marianne Jasen, Board of Education*

- *Scott Johnson, Board of Education*
- *David Kasprovicz, Erie 1 BOCES*
- *Lynn Kawa, Glendale Counselor*
- *Scott Kennedy, Supervisor of Transportation*
- *Matt LaRoach, High School Teacher*
- *Ben Morton, High School Assistant Principal*
- *Sherry McNamara, Admin. Asst. Supt/BOE*
- *Antonio Perry, Heritage Heights Principal*
- *Mallory Piwtorak, Program Aide, Parent*
- *Jason Phillips, Middle School Custodian*
- *John Radens, Community Member*
- *Christopher Schiumo, Athletic Director*
- *Gregory Smorol, Principal*
- *Jeremy Traverse, Science Teacher*
- *Brittany Winiarski, Admin. Asst. Talent & Equity*
- *Rob Woodford, Parent/ Community Member*

Student Voice:

- **Katherine Elmedawar, Chair of HS Student Wellness Committee**
- **Hunter Tryloff, President, HS Student Govt**
- **Erica Chan, Member HS Student Govt**



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Highlights of District Safety 2023-24

- **Parent Safety Forum**
- **Mass Notification System**
- **Signage: SHELL**
- **“Own the Door” Campaign**
- **Workplace Violence Prevention Plan**
- **Annual Review of Code of Conduct, District Safety Plan**
- **(*MORE DETAILED PRESENTATION ON HIGHLIGHTS AT A JUNE MEETING)**



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Code of Conduct Public Hearing

Per NYS Education Law 2801, all school districts must adopt a Code of Conduct for the maintenance of order on school property:

- ❖ District Safety Committee reviews and updates the Code of Conduct annually and makes recommendations to the BOE for adoption
- ❖ The District holds at least one public hearing annually on the proposed Code of Conduct.
- ❖ The BOE adopts the Code of Conduct.
- ❖ A plain language version of the Code of Conduct is disseminated to all students and families.
- ❖ The full version is posted on the District's website & copied to NYSED

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Code of Conduct

- I. Introduction
- II. Definitions
- III. Student Rights and Responsibilities
- IV. Essential Partners
- v. Student Civility & Dress Code
- vi. Prohibited Student Conduct**
- VII. Reporting Violations

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Code of Conduct

- VIII. Disciplinary Consequences, Procedures, and Referrals
- IX. Alternative Instruction
- X. Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- XI. Corporal Punishment
- XII. Student Searches and Interrogations
- XIII. Visitors to Schools
- XIV. Public Conduct on School Property
- XV. Dissemination of Code of Conduct

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Committee Recommendations

SECTION VI. PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

4. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others.

Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

- c. Discrimination, based on a person's actual or perceived race, age, sexual orientation, ~~use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog~~, color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, marital or veteran status, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner on school property or at a school function.

7. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- f. Using online platforms (e.g. ChatGPT), and/or artificial intelligence (AI) to produce work that is not the student's original work.



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Committee Recommendations

SECTION XIII. VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

Since schools are a place of work and learning, certain limits must be set for visits and visitors. The building principal or his/her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

- 3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, may ~~not~~ be required to register.

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Committee Recommendations

SECTION XIV. PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

B. Penalties

Persons who violate this Code of Conduct shall be subject to the following penalties:

- 1. Visitors/Spectators: Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at school functions may be withdrawn/suspended and they may be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection by designated security or law enforcement officials. ~~The length of said suspension shall be determined by the severity of the violation,~~ Depending on the circumstances, they could be issued a ~~suspension letter or a~~ no trespassing letter by the District, barring attendance on school property or at school functions. Violators will receive written notice of the District's determination.



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District-Wide School Safety Plans

Per NYS Education Law §2801-a and NYS Commissioner's Regulations §155.17, public school districts must adopt a District-Wide School Safety Plan and building-level Emergency Response Plans for each school building

- ❖ District-Wide Safety Plan:
 - annual public comment for a 30-day period
 - includes an annual public hearing
 - approved by the Board of Education by September 1

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Building-Level Emergency Response Plans

- Building-Level Emergency Response Plans:
 - Confidential, detailed information on how school personnel and students should respond to different types of emergencies
 - shared with law enforcement agencies and emergency responders
 - submitted to NYSED by the October 1 annually

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District-Wide School Safety Plans

SECTION 1000: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

SECTION 2000: GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

SECTION 3000: RESPONDING TO THREATS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE

SECTION 4000: COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

SECTION 5000: PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

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District-Wide School Safety Plans

APPENDICES:

- Appendix I: Buildings covered by the District Plan
- Appendix II: Outside Resources
- Appendix III: Law Enforcement & Security Professional Services Contracts/MOUs
- Appendix IV: Public Employer Health Emergency Plan
- Appendix V: Cybersecurity Plan
- **Appendix VI: NEW: Emergency Remote Learning Plan**

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Emergency Remote Learning Plan:

- Internet and digital device access (1:1 ipads; hotspots as needed)
- Daily schedule for students (synchronous and asynchronous instruction)
- Instructional platforms (Google Meet, Google Classroom, Schoology etc.)
- Expectations related to appropriate digital etiquette and responsible behavior during remote instruction
- Communication protocols for students and parents (email, phone calls)
- Plan for special services related IEP and 504 accommodations
- Non instructional services (Transportation, Food Services, Custodial)
- Instructional hours the school district intends to claim for State aid purposes for each day spent in remote instruction due to emergency conditions



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District-Wide School Safety Plans

SECTION 5000: PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Updates included:

- A. Prevention and Intervention Strategies
- B. Improving Communication with Students
- C. Reporting Threats or Acts of Violence
- D. Training, Drills and Exercises
- E. Staff Development Training
- F. Proactive Building Security Measures
- G. Vital Educational Information
- H. Early Detection of Potentially Dangerous Behavior

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30-Day Public Comment Period

- District-Wide Safety Plan & Code of Conduct are posted on Website for Public Review
- Comment Period runs **May 14 to June 14**
- Submit Comments to JoAnn Balazs or Steve Rozler

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Questions?



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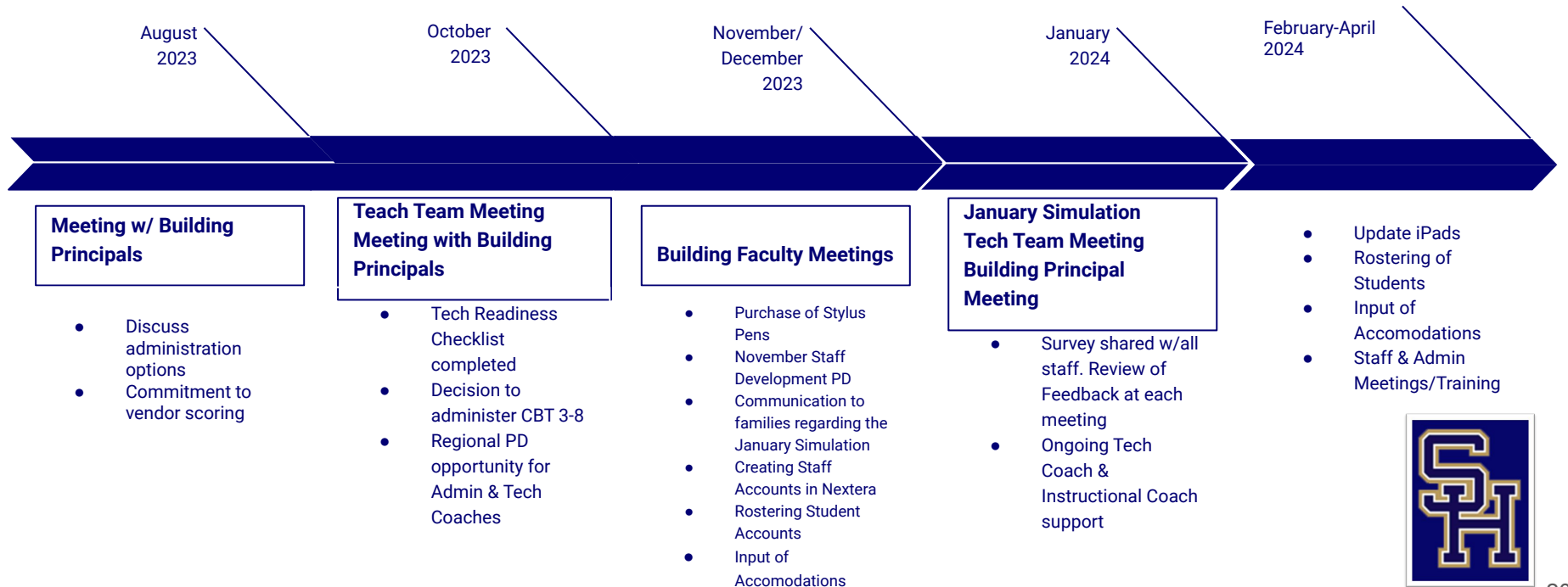


**SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Computer Based Testing 3-8

May 14, 2024

Implementation Timeline



Support Structure

District Level

Tech Team: Bob Ehlenfield, Ali Aljebori, Rob Imbs, Scott Szabo

Data Team: Tom Roberts, Falon Capenhurst

Tech Coaches: Paul Szymendera, Brent Peterson

District Office: Toyia Wilson, Don Feldmann, Beth Kosakowski

Building Level

Elementary: Antonio Perry, Bob Polino, Jim Ryan, Karen DeLaPlante

Middle School: Marissa Dauria, Natasa Popovic

Elementary Literacy Coaches:
Leigh-Ann Hildreth, Morgan Chase,
Marisa Adams, Julie Roberto

Elementary Math Coaches: Molly DiPirro, Kim Gugino, Jamie Riddoch, Bonnie Lorentz

504/IEP/ELL Accommodations

Katie Barillari
Lindsay Marcinelli

Glendale: Lauren Hearn

Maplemere: Sam Kio

Heritage Heights/ Willow

Ridge: Deanna Michalski

Middle School: Lacie Cristofanelli & Allie Tomkins

ENL Team: Chelsea Buttino,
Ashleigh Emery, Jessica Sears,
Rachel Campbell, Thalia Shatah,
Melissa Erikson, Emily Mielcarek,
Lindsay Crimmins, Beth Vari



Elementary Participation

Elementary ELA Refusals 22/23			
Grade	Refusals	Total Students	Percent Refusing Assessment
3	12	257	4.67%
4	28	266	10.53%
5	40	276	14.49%
Total	80	799	10.01%

Elementary ELA Refusals 23/24			
Grade	Refusals	Total Students	Percent Refusing Assessment
3	13	284	4.58%
4	17	261	6.51%
5	25	277	9.03%
Total	55	822	6.69%



Middle School Participation

Middle School ELA Refusals 22/23

Grade	Refusals	Total Students	Percent Refusing Assessment
6	45	252	17.86%
7	64	245	26.12%
8	94	258	36.43%
Total	203	755	26.89%

Middle School ELA Refusals 23/24

Grade	Refusals	Total Students	Percent Refusing Assessment
6	37	295	12.54%
7	65	267	24.34%
8	73	247	29.55%
Total	175	809	21.63%



Overall Comparison

3-8 ELA Refusals 22/23			
Grade	Refusals	Total Students	Percent Refusing Assessment
3-8	283	1554	18.21%

3-8 ELA Refusals 23/24			
Grade	Refusals	Total Students	Percent Refusing Assessment
3-8	230	1631	14.10%



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Questions?



**SWEET HOME CENTRAL
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2024-25 Budget Vote

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024
7 a.m to 9 p.m.
Vergils Community Center**

2023-2024

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2024-25 Budget Summary

2024-25 Proposed Budget: \$100,410,422

- ⇒ Maintains programming at all current levels and school configurations
- ⇒ Under the State imposed Property Tax Cap of 3.90% / 24-25 proposed levy increase: 1.8%
- ⇒ Maintains annual bus purchases (6 new buses for 24-25; including 3 electric)
- ⇒ Seeking authorization to spend \$52,920 spread over next to budgetary years to maintain Maplemere temporary classroom lease for 24-25 and 25-26 school years

2024-25 Proposed Budget: \$100,410,422

2023-24 Budget: \$96,886,588

Budget to Budget Increase: \$3,523,833

Percentage Increase: 3.64%

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2024-25 Proposed Tax Levy

Proposed Tax Levy	\$54,268,072
Tax Levy Increase	\$946,484
Tax Levy Percentage Increase	1.8%

2024-25 proposed tax levy falls within the NYS Tax Cap limit. Proposed budget only needs a simple majority to pass on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

- **2024-25 Tax Cap limit for Sweet Home CSD: 3.90%**

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2024-25 Budget Snapshot / Tax Rates

Assumptions:

- **Assessed Values remain at 2023 levels for Tonawanda**
- Amherst Equalization Rate **increased** from 62% to 100%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate reduced from 29% to 24%
- Rates based on going to a balanced budget tax cap of \$54,268,072

Town of Amherst Taxable Assessment Values

- **Homestead: \$1,166,200,477 / 2023-24**
- **Homestead: \$2,050,183,407 / 2024-25**
- **Non-Homestead: \$1,158,217,124 / 2023-24**
- **Non-Homestead: \$1,980,827,570 / 2024-25**

**Information provided by Town Assessor Office*

School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home				
	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Equalization Rate	62.0%	100.0%	24.0%	24.0%
Assessed Value	\$93,000	\$150,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
Tax Rate	\$15.47	\$9.16	\$40.11	\$39.20
Calculated Tax Bill	\$1,439	\$1,374	\$1,444	\$1,411
Estimated Increase (Decrease)		-\$65		-\$33



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2024-25 Budget Voter Propositions

Proposition #1: Approval of \$100,410,422 / 2024-25 Budget

- Budget increase of 3.6% // Tax levy increase of 1.8% over current year

Proposition #2: Use of General Funds to Extend Maplemere Temporary Classroom Lease through October 31, 2026

- Allowance to spend total of \$52,920 over the next two budget years to maintain the temporary classrooms on Maplemere campus

Proposition #3: Election of two (2) Board of Education Members

- Term of Joshua Feldmann expires on June 30, 2024 / Remainder of term of seat vacated by Kailey McDonald resignation
 - Top vote-getter receives a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2029
 - Second place finisher receives remainder of Ms. McDonald's term / One (1) year - term expires June 30, 2025
 - Candidates for two Board positions are: Danyelle Anthon, Bill Kenney, Jonathan Makeley, Alan Plath and Dirk Rabenold





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Electric Bus Update

1. NYSERDA School Bus Incentive Program.
2. NYSED Project Number.
3. Charging Stations.



2023-2024

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Heritage Heights Teachers Trip to Ghana This Summer



HH4GlobalEdu

GHANA GROOVES & YOGA MOVES

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR

Heritage Heights Elementary School

2545 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, NY 14228 (side door entrance)

with Jill Grugnale

April 24, 2024

Event Check In: 5:30-6:00 PM

Yoga Class: 6:00-7:00 PM

Minimum Donation: \$5 per person

1. Registration



please bring a program & your money to the comments

2. Payment



please bring a program & your money to the comments



WHAT TO BRING

TOWEL

WATER BOTTLE

BRING A MAT BUT NOT REQUIRED

GHANA EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



UNITING KIDS & TEACHERS FOR LEARNING!

ABOUT US

Teachers at Heritage Heights Elementary School have teamed up to educate in Ghana, with the support of a family devoted to enrich our school and the Ghanaian community. Our goal is to nurture lasting global connections between students.

REMINDER
GHANA
DONATION
DRIVE

PAPER SUPPLIES

PAPER
 NOTEBOOKS
 POST ITS
 AND MORE

Spreading Kindness one Note at a Time!

DONATE



**GHANA
EDUCATIONAL
OUTREACH**

GHANA EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



**GHANA
EDUCATIONAL
OUTREACH**

**UNITING KIDS &
TEACHERS FOR
LEARNING!**

ABOUT US

Teachers at *teachingtoday* believe that every child has the potential to succeed with educators in Ghana, Africa with the support of a family device used in each our classrooms. We are committed to providing quality learning opportunities for all children in Ghana.

Our Mission: To provide quality learning opportunities for all children in Ghana.

**EVERY STUDENT,
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READY FOR THE FUTURE**

Join our community of educators and students. We are committed to providing quality learning opportunities for all children in Ghana.

**Teaching Today's
Students will
be the future of
Ghana.**

OUR PLAN

Join *Teaching Today's Students* with Ghanaian teachers who share cultural experiences to cultivate an appreciation for diversity.

Teach students and teachers at the *Western International School* and a local government school in Accra, Ghana.

Extend support for developing essential skills and abilities.



Donating Essential Items until April 30, 2024

Help us provide essential items for our students.

Teachers

Teachers at *teachingtoday* believe that every child has the potential to succeed with educators in Ghana, Africa with the support of a family device used in each our classrooms. We are committed to providing quality learning opportunities for all children in Ghana.

Essential Items

Help us provide essential items for our students.

Students

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2024 Challenge 2 Change Event

Creating a Sense of Belonging

May 22, 2024

Banchetti By Rizzo



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PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 21

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Right Here in
the Vergils Community
Center

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Questions from the Board?

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