

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 in the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Battaglia, called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

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

**PRESENT:** Amy Battaglia, Peter Bellanti, Joshua Feldmann (arrived @ 6:14 pm), 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 legal matters at 6:13 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 7:06 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, a resolution to amend the agenda and waive the first reading of item D was offered:

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:

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, February 13, 2024 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 minutes of the Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, January 16, 2024 are hereby adopted in their entirety.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

|         |   |    |   |        |   |
|---------|---|----|---|--------|---|
| Yes     | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X |    |   |        |   |

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Harris Beach Legal Alert dated January 25, 2024.
2. Call for Nominations Letter from Erie 1 BOCES.
3. Letter from Edward Cavan.
4. NYSSBA Legal Alert.
5. Letter from Renee Wilson.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- A. Eagle Scout Recognition**  
The Board of Education recognized Derek Woodford at the study session on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.
- B. Superintendent update**  
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.
- C. Erie 1 BOCES update**  
Dr. Michael Capuana, Superintendent of Erie 1 BOCES, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.
- D. Superintendent update**  
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

**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 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 2023-2024 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated January 30, 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

**A. Special Education**

**2. Preschool class placements for 2023-2024 – 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 2023-2024 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated January 30, 2024.

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. 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 16, 2024 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 13, 2024 presentation.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>a.</b> | <b>5630 – Facilities, Inspection, Operation &amp; Maintenance</b> |
| <b>b.</b> | <b>5640 – Smoking, Tobacco, and Cannabis (Marijuana) Use</b>      |
| <b>c.</b> | <b>6130 - Evaluation of Personnel</b>                             |
| <b>d.</b> | <b>7150 – Remote Instruction</b>                                  |
| <b>e.</b> | <b>7420 – Sports &amp; the Athletic Program</b>                   |
| <b>f.</b> | <b>7512 – Student Physicals</b>                                   |
| <b>g.</b> | <b>8240 – Instruction in Certain Subjects</b>                     |
| <b>h.</b> | <b>8450 – Home, Hospital, or Institutional Instruction</b>        |

and be it further...

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

**D. 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 February 13, 2024 the Superintendent of Schools recommended the Board of Education waive 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 13, 2024 presentation.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>a.</b> | <b>6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement</b> |
|-----------|--|

and be it further...

**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. Excess Worker’s Comp Insurance**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accept the **Midwest Employers Casualty Company** Excess Worker’s Comp Insurance proposal in the amount of **\$140,818.00**.

and be it further...

**G. 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...

**H. 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:

- German Exchange – Hungen, Germany, July 1 – 15, 2024 (Leader – Dan Murphy)

and be it further...

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

**I. Extracurricular Activity Account – Policy 7410**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following extracurricular activities accounts be opened.

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take the appropriate action regarding the following extracurricular activities accounts.

- ACCOUNT TO BE OPENED: Ghana Club

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

|         |   |    |   |        |   |
|---------|---|----|---|--------|---|
| Yes     | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X |    |   |        |   |

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**H. Tryloff:** Attended the virtual safety committee meeting, discussed the workplace violence policy, district safety plan and code of conduct. Student gov't is planning the Feb 28 MM Leadership day, a pep rally on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, and a spring dance of March 28. Thanks to Mr. Ryan for allowing us some freedom with the Leadership day planning. Attended the HS girls in sports night. Along with Dr. Wilson, Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Baker, the student gov't met virtually with a Leader in Me group from Battery Creek HS. They said the LiM program wasn't accepted at first, but after about 3 months was embraced. Here it would start with freshman as they are already aware of it from past years in elementary and middle school. With the right team pushing it out, think it would be a success here.

**M. Jasen:** Didn't attend, but the MM multicultural night was a big success. Met with Mrs. Barillari, plan on repeating every few months. New state regulations are coming regarding SpEd students ability to remain in school until age 22. The timeout and physical restraint new regulations are impacting GL and MM. Thanks to Dr. Ginestre for assisting getting helmets from partners for the asylum families who had been riding along Maple Rd. without them. MM had a winter skate night, the Girls Hockey team and coach helped out. The new HS Aud was a great location for the NHS Induction ceremony. Attended the MS musical, Little Mermaid.

**K. McDonald:** Attended the budget meeting, the HH PTA meeting. Kids were very excited about the Valentine's dance – over 400 attended. Might need to have it on a Friday going forward as the kids were tired the next day. How do teachers request extra supplies? How does the funding for field trips work?

**T. Wilson:** There is a \$2500 budget per building for field trips – with a desire for each grade to have an experience. PTAs can support costs in excess of that. Principal feedback is that the process is going well.

**D. Feldmann:** School business officials are lobbying re: losing the hold harmless language in budget – where if you lose # students, then you lose \$. Teachers should make supply requests to the building administrator first. Admin then bring the request to District. We just finished building budget meetings regarding next year.

**M. Ginestre:** NYSCOSS is also lobbying since the need for services is increasing and costs to provide those, regardless of enrollment numbers. The basketball game honoring Noah Clifford was special, retired his number, all players wore warmup shirts with his name and number, his mom spoke about a scholarship in his honor and a family donated to the scholarship. They are planning a memorial service to be held in our gym. Thank you to Mr. Woods for the family atmosphere he is creating for the basketball players, a first class job!

**J. Feldmann:** The SHEF meat raffle was a huge success, raised over \$5k.

**B. Laible:** Attended the Audit committee meeting. WR PTO met – looking for new members as many current leadership group will be moving up to the MS. Son is doing a Jr. Panthers basketball clinic and got to play at halftime of a Varsity game. Supportive of social media, but have seen other schools promote social media timeouts, perhaps as a fundraiser. Something to consider. Attended the NHS Induction, congrats to those students. Also attended the athletic council meeting – a very passionate group.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – continued...**

**S. Johnson:** Attended the Audit Committee meeting, a fascinating ECASB presentation on AI. Much budget talk at the NYSSBA Virtual Capital conference. Many districts getting less \$ this year, nothing to cover the cost of SpEd students being able to stay until age 22, nor anything re: zero emission buses.

**P. Bellanti:** Attended the budget study session, Girls in Sports night, athletic council meeting and NHS. Missed the MS musical.

**A. Battaglia:** Attended multiple sporting events. Missed the meat raffle. Attended the Girls in Sports night, the MS musical, and the budget meeting. Noah’s parents really appreciated all the people coming out to honor Noah.

**OPEN SESSION - Policy 1510**

Called

**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. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                   |                |                   |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Patricia Connelly | Kara Serianni  | Maureen Henderson |
| Michelle Murray   | Kathryn Neelon | Mark Basehart     |
| Pamela Daigler    |                |                   |

**2. Appointments**

**b. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                  |              |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| Claire Cavarello | Julia Miller |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|

**e. Mentor**

RESOLVED: That, the *mentor appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Melissa Erikson |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|

**g. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                      |               |                |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sarah English        | Beth Swierski | Michael Prince |
| Kimberly Potkalitsky | Eva Basehart  |                |

**PERSONNEL-continued...**

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointments**

**h. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| Eva Basehart |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|

**i. Salary Adjustments**

See Salary Adjustments- In-service Credits Memo dated February 2, 2024  
See Salary Adjustments- Graduate Credits Memo dated February 2, 2024

**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. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                     |                      |                        |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mark Basehart (chg) | Jane Truesdell (add) | Mark Basehart (remove) |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|

**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. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Kelly Lux | Elyse Greico |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|

**b. Per Diem Substitutes**

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** 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. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL-continued...

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**C. Interscholastic Activities**

**1. Interscholastic Activities, High School, (WINTER) 2023-2024**

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Winter* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                    |               |  |
|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Richard Lowe (chg) | Mark Basehart |  |
|--------------------|---------------|--|

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**a. Retirement**

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Karen Scozzofava |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|

**b. Resignation**

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                  |             |             |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Claire Cavarello | Joshua Laud | Aline Musel |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|

**2. Appointment**

**a. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                   |                |                 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| James Merlino     | Nighat Imran   | Richard Baldwin |
| Katherine Meldrum | Firoza Chamely | Bailey Crouse   |
| Julia McLean      | Jessie Galbo   |                 |

**e. Transfer**

RESOLVED: That, the *transfer* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Rebecca Harmon |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|

**f. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                         |               |              |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Kelly Orlikowski        | Michael Moore | Kelly Lux    |
| Christine Baker-Jeffery | Elyse Grieco  | Mirvat Rizeq |



**PERSONNEL-continued...**

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointment**

**g. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

|                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Dane Truesdell |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|

**B. Substitutes**

**2. Per Diem Substitutes**

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 718 dated February 13, 2024** 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 |    |   |        |   |

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session for legal matters at 7:58 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 9:04 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

|         |   |    |   |        |   |
|---------|---|----|---|--------|---|
| Yes     | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X |    |   |        |   |

**NEW BUSINESS – continued...**

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

**J. Request for Proposal – Legal Services**

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the legal services agreement for the 2023-24 school year to **Lippes Matthias LLC** at the hourly rates outlined in the January 31, 2024 proposal.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

|         |   |    |   |        |   |
|---------|---|----|---|--------|---|
| Yes     | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X |    |   |        |   |

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

|         |   |    |   |        |   |
|---------|---|----|---|--------|---|
| Yes     | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X |    |   |        |   |

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

DRAFT