

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 in the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Battaglia, called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

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

**PRESENT:** Amy Battaglia, Peter Bellanti, Joshua Feldmann, 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 matters related to student discipline at 6:18 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 7:38 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, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the Board of Education voting meeting held Tuesday, November 21, 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 Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, October 17, 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. Harris Beach Legal Alert

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Student Recognition**  
Students from the ACT Leadership group were recognized by the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.
- B. Student Recognition**  
Students inducted into the National Technical Honor Society were recognized by the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.
- C. Superintendent Update**  
Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.
- D. Superintendent Update**  
Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

**OPEN SESSION**

Ms. Shakisha Eckelberger – mother of Seth Eckelberger: Here to speak about transportation and safety. On October 2, my son's bus driver drove past him in the morning, and on 3 other occasions did not show up at all. Each time, Seth was outside waiting. I spoke with Mr. Kennedy, who confirmed that the driver did go past. After speaking with Mr. Feldmann, the driver was removed from the route. The District did not provide communication and was in violation of the Parent's Bill of Rights. This was violent conduct. My son ran after the bus, we were with him and reminded him not to as this is dangerous. His IEP has him getting picked up in front of our home for just this reason. I want to know what will be enacted to prevent this from happening again, and if others have filed similar complaints. My son is entitled to a free and appropriate education. I am requesting the policy concerning this, a formal communication to parents, and accountability for the harm caused.

**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, I, J and K.

**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 Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated November 7, 2023.

**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 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 2023-2024 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated November 7, 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. 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...

**D. Board of Education Goals**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education approve the goals set forth for the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

and be it further...

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

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

and be it further...

**F. Transportation Bid**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, enter into a transportation contract with **Buffalo Transportation Inc.** for the 2023-24 school year for a total cost of **\$396.00 per day.**

and be it further...

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

**G. Acceptance of Donations**

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the following donations:

- From King Arthur Flour – baking supplies for Middle School students to participate in the “Bake for Good” program.
- From Crosby’s Convenience Store at Maple & Sweet Home Rds. – 20 large sheet pizzas.

and be it further...

**H. DeLage Landen Public Finance Lease #500-50548314**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the lease agreement as presented with **DeLage Landen Public Finance LLC**. for a Hyundai HL940A Wheel Loader. The 60-month lease cost is **\$223,266.60** (\$3,721.11 per month).

and be it further...

**I. Modified Cheerleading**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Sweet Home School District upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools hereby agrees to add Modified Cheerleading as an indexed coaching position.

and be it further...

**J. Medical Examinations**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Sweet Home School District upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the evaluation services of Evelyn Coggins, MD. as presented.

and be it further...

**K. 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: HS Boys Swim

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**H. Tryloff:** During the Staff Development day, both our VP and I participated in the mental health services overview session. Student Government Committees shared out what they’ve been working on at our meeting last week. We named our final committee chair, Alicia Reid for DEI. The Student Safety Committee has been renamed the Student Wellness Committee to reflect what they focus on.

**M. Jasen:** Attended the NYSSBA Convention. Stopped by the PTA booth where they were giving out their annual pin, passed those on to the MM PTA. Thank you to our veterans, including Josh! MM had their turkey trot. Mr. Ryan reported impressive gains on state testing. Thanks to Kailey for gathering the items for our Thanksgiving donation to SH families.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued...**

**K. McDonald:** The HH PTA is meeting tonight, but I will get in touch with them and Mr. Perry. Attended the DEI Teaching & Learning subcommittee meeting, they are looking at the Strategic Plan. Is there a video of the DEI presentation at the NYSSBA convention? Want to reiterate that we are volunteers and while we should be held accountable, we are doing our best and we strive to conduct ourselves with dignity toward our community. We would ask that the community offers this in return. It is disheartening to be demeaned as we do our jobs. We do really care about this district and if someone doesn't agree they can run for a school board seat.

**C. Slagle:** The video is posted on our YouTube channel.

**J. Feldmann:** Attended concerts and the MS PTSA meeting.

**B. Laible:** Attended the WR PTO meeting. The Fun Run raised \$12k, structured as one big fundraiser so the rest of the year they can focus on events. Changed the structure of the student government to more of a leadership committee. Each student has to submit a project that can benefit the school. Also attended the NYSSBA Convention. Willow Ridge is starting its Warm Hands Initiative – it was kicked off by my daughter with the slogan “It’s getting cold outside, but our hearts are warm”.

**S. Johnson:** Attended a Harris Beach workshop, the NYSSBA Convention – the seal of civic readiness was a good presentation. Attended the Dave Little presentation, he spoke about the state budget – education is one of only a few budget lines that have grown. Attended a safety seminar – the secret service provided speakers, very informative. Attended the ECASB Legislative dinner and both our assemblymembers were in attendance. It was well attended and we brought our concerns forward. It is better to have conversations with them in the fall before budget season begins.

**P. Bellanti:** Attended the NYSSBA Convention. Lots of tables/vendors at this year’s DFS Craft Fair. Fall sports have wound down. Good luck to our Winter athletes. Wishing a peaceful and restful break to our students, families, faculty and staff.

**A. Battaglia:** Attended the MS & HS PTSA meetings. MS discussed activity nights and strategies to increase participation using student voice. HS discussed the success of the Craft Fair and they are wrapping up the wreath sale. Their brick sale is next. Also attended the Craft Fair.

**OPEN SESSION**

Paul Szymendera – HS Faculty: Mr. Laible brought up some good points about activities for kids. I’ve been on the VEA committee for years. This year there are 113 applications from advisors to run clubs for kids before or after school. One in four teachers is doing something. The process starts in June for teachers to pre-register to run a club so we can have them up and running in fall. This year’s clubs are well balanced between the 6 schools. When a club works one year, it is pre-approved for the following year. The committee makes sure anything new fits what it says it wants to do. Last year and this year we have 40% of the clubs are new ones. There’s archery, dance, coding, clay, very wide ranging array of offerings. It’s exciting to have a mechanism for kids to participate. We’d be happy to do a presentation to the Board.

**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. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Scott Murray		
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PERSONNEL-continued...

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointments**

**e. Continuing Activities**

**PLC, Middle School, 2023-2024**

RESOLVED: That, *PLC, Middle School*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Nikki Martello	Marc Freda	
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**PLC, Heritage Heights, 2023-2024**

RESOLVED: That, *PLC, Heritage Heights*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Beth Swierski (remove)		
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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. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Madeline Cappuccilli	Gina Nuchereno	Richard Lowe
Shari Seefeldt	Jon Campolo	

**h. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Mark Basehart	Madeline Cappuccilli	Brittany Weber
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**j. Co-Curricular Activities**

**j. Co-Curricular Activities, Middle School, 2023-2024 school year**

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, middle school*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 703 dated November 15, 2022** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Tom Smith (chg.)	Gavin Petrie (chg.)	Jane Truesdell (remove)
Mark Basehart (chg.)	Jane Truesdell (remove)	Mark Basehart (chg.)

**PERSONNEL-continued...**

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**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. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Victoria Wilkinson	Kara Meredith	Erin Reukauf
Amy Lipowski		

**b. Per Diem Substitutes**

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**c. Student Teachers for Fall 2023**

RESOLVED: That, the *Student Teachers* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**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. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lauren Lewis	Alexis Ciehowski	Brandon Woods
Michael Licata	Jerell Thompson	Andrew Murak
Neal McLoughlin	Christopher Monaco	Thomas Smith
James Russo	Kristy Neeson	Lisa Floreano
Joshua Montalbo	Timothy Cardinal	Patrick McNelis
Morris Fried	Andrea Wodarczak	Christina Mack
Izeal Bullock	Tomaris Bell	David Radlich
Donald Lilly	Bailey Crouse	Fredrick Eckles

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**a. Retirement**

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Robin Dziura	Joel Gebhardt	
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**PERSONNEL-continued...**

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**b. Resignation**

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Wendy Durkin	Peter Gullo	Daniel Mazzola
Chiquita Parks	Justin Wisnouskas	

**c. Termination**

RESOLVED: That, the *termination* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Michael Hetzel	Dawn Jones	Nicole Swenson
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**2. Appointments**

**a. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Amanda Cooper	Gail Graesser	Melissa Hale-Watson
Daniel Mazzola	Susan Moorhouse	Lauren Morreale
Angelle Yula	Angelle Yula	Jon Michalski
Emerald Green (chg.)	Morgan LePage	Winter Bourdier
Debra Carlini	Eric Keim	Amanda Vitale
Karen Donofrio	James McGee	

**f. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

Ali Aljebori	Mark Elsie	Marjorie Kuss
Robert Peters	Cassandra Solis	Dane Truesdell
Stephanie Drabinski	Nilda Parucki	Lee Sanchez

**g. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

Cassandra Solis	Ali Aljebori	
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**B. Substitutes**

**2. Per Diem Substitutes**

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 715 dated November 21, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.



**PERSONNEL-continued...**

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 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