

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 in the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Battaglia, called the meeting to order at 6:39 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

**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

**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 regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, September 19, 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 voting meeting held Tuesday, August 22, 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 Alerts

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Superintendent Update**

Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****B. Assessment Data & PLP Update**

Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

**C. Superintendent Update**

Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

**OPEN SESSION: Agenda Topics – Policy 1512**

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, and E.

**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 September 5, 2023.

**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 Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated September 5, 2023.

and be it further...

**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. 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. 2023 Athletic Storage Barn Construction Bid (bid opening 9/14/23)**

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and Young & Wright Architectural, the Board of Education award the Athletic Storage Barn Construction Bid to **Parco Building Systems** for a total bid of **\$41,858.00**.

and be it further...

**E. Professional Learning Plan**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the Professional Learning Plan as written.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**M. Jasen:** Met with Mr. Ryan regarding his expectations for the year. Mr. Ryan held town halls for each grade. Kids are alternating time in the cafeteria. Harvest Fest is coming. Attended the NWACC opening.

**S. Johnson:** Attended the ECASB Back to School dinner, the Unconscious Bias Training for Admin Team, Opening Day on the Turf, the NWACC opening and Community Day. Attended the GL PTA meeting, having a chicken dinner on 9/21, looking to expand their Facebook presence. Spent some time in the building, interesting to see the changes – new spaces. Talked with Ms. DeLaPlante, kids are rotating grades in 2 week intervals in the cafeteria. Also attended the DEI Committee meeting.

**K. McDonald:** Attended the HS Auditorium Grand Opening, the NWACC opening, and the HH PTA meeting. The HH PTA are planning an ice cream social for open house night on 9/15. Many more things are being planned, including a fun run on 9/29, hospitality days throughout the year, a roller skating party, and they are looking for sponsors for the Trunk or Treat day. Attended the Family Support Center anniversary celebration, learned a lot about its history. Also at the DEI Committee meeting.

**J. Feldmann:** Missed the weekend festivities. Did attend SHEF meetings, programs are continuing and expanding. Attended the HS Open House – not crazy about the outdoor format. Not much information on the syllabi. Also attended the WR Open House – a 3 hour event!

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued...**

**B. Laible:** Attended the Unconscious Bias training, good opportunity to connect with the leadership team. WR had their PTO meeting, some new faces. In speaking with them, emphasized that decisions are compromises with many competing needs. Attended Community Day, younger kids enjoy seeing the older kids and the football players seemed to enjoy being looked up to by the younger kids. Also at the WR Open House & Welcome Back Picnic, visited classrooms. There was a book fair in the gym, a bounce house and a fire hose for the kids.

**P. Bellanti:** The Baseball program is having a meat raffle on October 7. The HS PTSA met, approved their bylaws. They will be doing a wreath & poinsettia sale again. Third year attending the HS Open House in its current format – don't get a sense of the curriculum. Attended an ECASB meeting. The Girls Volleyball team lost in the finals of a tournament to frontier. Homecoming is this weekend.

**A. Battaglia:** Attended the HS PTSA meeting, they are looking for additional support for scholarships. October 21 will be the Craft Show. The HS Open House is more social, my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as well.

**OPEN SESSION – Policy 1512**

Nadine Ocasio – 128 Dexter Terrace: Parent of 2 SH alum & former BOE member. I was accused of being a teacher lover and talking too much, which is exactly why I am here tonight. A few years ago we applauded these teachers during the pandemic. They kept kids engaged, and we were one of very few districts that were able to bring back elementary students 5 days a week in person. How is not fairly paying teachers in the best interest of kids? Teachers were asked to take care of kids after COVID and they found a way. Our teachers had conversations around DEI. With senseless killings in schools, teachers provide comfort. They are educating our leaders of tomorrow. There has been a 40% increase in administrative and clerical staff. The Superintendent's salary is up 11% in 2 years. You say you want to come to an agreement, but your actions say otherwise. You walked away from the table one month before the end of school. Working with a mediator is not working on it, it is giving up. The former Superintendent wouldn't have let this happen. How did our hero teachers become villains? The teachers know what is going on in students' lives, they connect.

**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 ongoing collective bargaining at 7:30 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X			Abstain	3
				(Bellanti/Feldmann/McDonald)	

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 8:18 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**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. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Karin Pierce		
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PERSONNEL-continued...

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointments**

**a. Tenure**

RESOLVED: That, the *tenure appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jackie Wzientek		
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**b. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Danielle Hughes	Carolyn Freeman	
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**c. Encumbered**

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Carly Hardick		
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**d. Mentoring  
**(1). Administrative****

RESOLVED: That, the *appointment (mentoring/administrative)*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Katie Barillari	Nicole Kuss	
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**(2). Teaching**

RESOLVED: That, the *appointment (mentoring/teaching)*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jessica Andriatch	Mallory Pisarek	Sal Glorioso
Katelyn DiRosa	Lacie Cristofanelli	Eva Basehart
Sarah English	Brianna VanHarrison	Meghan McGowan
Lindsay Crimmins	Keri Davis	Kerry Steinagle
Jennifer Heidinger	Kelly Corcoran	Karen Bassano
Maureen Kieffer	Lori Roth	Cindy Hiwiller
Jessica Sears	Kim Major	Keri Davis

**XII. 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. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Mark Basehart	Sarah Gefell	
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**h. Reinstatement from leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Christina Mack		
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**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. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Patrick Johnson	Kara Meredith	
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**b. Per Diem Substitutes**

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 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. 713 dated September 19, 2023** 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. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Taylor DiNieri	Roxanne Genau	Francesca Johnson
Sharon Lutz	Tiara Morris	Yvonne Oliver
Mallory Piwtorak	Nicholas Ralph	Brian White
Ashley McCabe	Cara Hacker	Monica Williams

**XII. PERSONNEL-continued...**

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**c. Termination**

RESOLVED: That, the *termination* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ana Letitia Almeida De Jesus	Kim Harrington	Amanda Robenolt
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**2. Appointment**

**a. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Courtney Alt	Catherine Cannamela	Christina Carlini
Louise Cook	Aki Davis	Jennier Gradzewicz
Roxanne Genau	Cara Hacker	Kim Harrington
Jessica Huxley	Beomsu Kim	Michelle Lang
Sharon Lutz	Hannah Musaid	Aline Musel
Renee Pacana	Susan Perras	Anjum Qadri
Alexis Radel	Nicholas Ralph	Fatema Virpurwala
Lavenia Wilson	Jessica Clayson-Galvin	Chiquita Parks
Matthew Cannamela	Matthew D'Apollo	Mariana Garci-Partearroyo
Nicholas Golibersuch	Vanessa Leon	Daniel Mazzolo
Anthony Williams	Amber Wofford	

**f. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Carly Hardick	Kristin Puff	Lori Pusateri
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**g. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 713 dated September 19, 2023** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Martha McGee		
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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. 713 dated September 19, 2023** 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				

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 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

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