



Superintendent Report

Sweet Home Central School District

Michael V. Ginestre
June 21, 2022



We Are Sweet Home

Tonight's Presentations

- DEI Presentation
- Superintendent Report



Sweet Home Central School District

"EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE."



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Building Usage/Issues Facing

- At the elementary level, lunch time was originally moved to classrooms during the 20-21 school year for social distancing purposes. With any change, an analysis takes place to determine the impact the change has had on student outcomes and experiences.
- If all things were equal since 2019, a move back to the cafeteria would be simple. However, the district has added elementary sections, enrollment has increased, cafeterias are being used as instructional spaces, the number of staff has increased, and special education needs have increased.



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Anecdotal Reasoning

Reopen Cafeteria Space	Use Classroom Space
Teachers have professional space without students for 30 minutes each day.	Creates more instructional area(s) for building configuration.
Students eating in pre-pandemic conditions (March 2020).	Allows students flexibility for how they spend their lunch.
Meals/Food not being consumed in classroom.	Meals delivered directly to students. Maximizes time for consumption.
Less of a cleaning concern in elementary classrooms.	Noise/volume-Increasing number of students who have sensory needs.
Potential to interact with more students if rules are loosened. Cafeterias are regulated.	Limits transition time-increases instructional time.
Possibility of more menu items.	More students eating school meals.
	Students with food allergies eat at their own desks eliminating exposure to nuts etc. And allowing for socialization with other students. No more segregated "Allergy" tables.
	Rules in cafeteria limit movement and attempt to limit loud noises.

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Changes at Elementary Level Since 2019

16 More Elementary Classes since 2019.

69 More Elementary Students Enrolled at SH.

More Lunches Served than Ever. Nearly 100K more lunches served this year than last year.

UPK to Enter Elementary Buildings.

More staff in Special Education and Social Services that Need Space.

Reduced Class Sizes at Each Grade Level.

Increase number of students with disabilities needing additional services.

100 percent student occupancy rate at three of our four buildings.

Maplemere Temporary Classroom Installed.



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Elementary Building Usage

Changes to our Elementary Buildings since 2019, Pre-Pandemic

Additional Hiring: Elementary Teachers
Special Education Teachers
ENL Teachers
Psychologists
Social Workers
Therapists (Speech/OT)

Increased need in providing social/emotional/mental health needs to our students. All of these activities require space to best serve our students.

All of these additions are critically important as we even the playing field for all students and come out of the pandemic.



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Elementary Building Usage

Full-Day Universal UPK

Additional four spaces being considered in elementary buildings except at Maplemere.

Research shows the benefits include kindergarten preparedness, higher achievement levels, higher literacy rates, higher graduation rates, less discipline issues, more prepared for college and career, etc.



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Potential Impact of Loss of Cafeteria as Instructional Space Something Must Give

Things we Could do Today to Open Cafeteria for Lunches

- Increase class sizes for ENL, SPED, and Students in Need of Services. Remove them from cafeteria and place them in classrooms, increasing those class sizes.
- Make music instruction mobile (cart). Remove music instruction from the cafeteria.
- Consolidate grade levels/sections in order to find classrooms for music and SPED services.

Longer Term Implications

- UPK will need space in the next 1-3 years.
- Mobile classroom at Maplemere will likely be gone to start the 2023-24 school year due to state regulations.
- Increases in enrollment (69 more students since 2019 and slowly rising)
- If we consolidate elementary sections, will we be overstaffed?
- How many are too many in a classroom for effective instruction for all?



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A Two-Prong Compromise for Moving Forward

1. Ask each elementary building to form a collaborative committee this summer to immediately address:
 - a. What is an ideal lunch experience for all of our students?
 - b. Are there alternate/rotating spots lunches can take place in small group settings in addition to the classroom so students are not eating in the room 5 days per week.
 - c. Address other teacher concerns about having lunches in classrooms.
2. Form a Building Use Committee made up of Admin, Teachers, Parents, Support Staff that will:
 - a. Review data to uncover enrollment trends in the District
 - i. Census
 - ii. Live Birth
 - iii. Historical Enrollment Trends and Predict Future
 - b. Task committee to develop a building usage report.
 - c. In report, ask committee to make suggestions to the Board regarding the most practical, efficient ways to use our buildings while enhancing the student experience.
 - d. Report to the Board in January/February regarding the data and ideas for building utilization. Solicit feedback from our community.



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UPK Update

- 171 packets distributed to families this week.
- Registrations are currently taking place.
- First registration deadline is June 24.
- Letters and calls going home to families to ensure they meet registration deadlines.



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Therapy Dog/Service Animal Policy Update

- Looking to update policy on service animals to include the implementation of a Therapy Dog Program in the District.
- Vetted by policy committee on June 8.
- Therapy dogs are highly trained and are designed to help ease anxiety and increase focus in the classroom.
- Kristina Pinkowski will be at July meeting to discuss the program moving forward at Sweet Home.



The Sweet Home Way

Northwest Amherst Community Center

- Community Advisory Board Committee Meeting
 - June 27, 6:30 p.m. at NWACC



TOWN OF AMHERST

5583 Main Street | Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 631-7000



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High School Graduation

- Scheduled for June 23 at UB Performing Arts Center.
- 6 p.m. Start



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Questions from the Board?

STRENGTH OF MIND AND BODY

Discipline yourself to be at your best to conquer adversity and challenge.

Preparation * Perseverance * Resilience * Focus * Energy

QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS

Build a support network of people that inspire you and challenge you to thrive.

Honesty * Empathy * Thoughtfulness * Respect * Trust

ACCOUNTABILITY

Take ownership of your life direction and master the sea.

Discipline * Responsibility * Reliability * Independence * Problem Solving

COURAGE TO LEAD

Believe in something that can improve the human condition, and show others the way.

Character * Humility * Communication * Service * Inspiration

