

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

**APPROVED
by the
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 20, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Monday, September 21, 2020 in the High School Auditorium. President of the Board, Mr. Johnson, called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Amy Battaglia (arrived at 6:23 pm), Joshua Feldmann, Marianne Jasen, Scott M. Johnson, Brian Laible, Kailey McDonald, Nadine Ocasio

ABSENT:

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Ocasio, the Board of Education accepted the roll as called.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

Also present: Anthony J. Day, JoAnn, Balazs, Donald G. Feldmann

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Ocasio, the meeting was adjourned to executive session for matters related to the employment history of particular individuals at 6:18 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Battaglia, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 6:33 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 Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Battaglia, to modify the agenda to include Personnel items C1, C2 and C3.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	5	No	1	Abstain	1
Carried	X	(Ocasio)		(McDonald)	

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Mr. McNelis.
2. Members of the Board received many emails regarding Athletics.

OPEN SESSION – AGENDA TOPICS

Jeremy Zimmer – 3673 Kelsey Lane: 23 years as teacher and coach, head football coach. Famous quote - Life is not about sports, but sports are all about life. Kids learn outside the classroom, and Sweet Home has always been committed to the whole child. Many students best moments in HS are in Athletics. Last year's banquet was special. Tough on the kids to see football being played in other neighboring states.

Jon Campolo – 1 Holly Lane: Parent of HS student, coach baseball and football, 17 years of teaching. Thanks for your diligence toward the reopening plan. Feel we can find a way to safely include sports. Closing school had such a negative impact on kids. We will do everything possible to keep them safe. Kids are out in parks playing. Many stories of disappointment amongst kids. Parents can decide if they feel comfortable letting their child participate.

Christopher McGowan – 78 Glendale Dr: Parent of HS soccer player. Hope that kids can start playing tomorrow. Get the kids conditioned. Will be 10 days before they meet up with students from other schools. Disagree with some statements – for some this is the only opportunity to get playing time and try to get scholarships. Son played travel and rec league this summer with no Covid issues.

Prisco Houndanon – 192 Crestwood Ave: Coach JV soccer. Have coached in WNY for 14 years. Teams played all summer and there were no issues with soccer. Socially distanced for practices, kept kids safe. Will make them learn responsibility for themselves and their teammates.

Tom Gerber – 130 E. Maplemere: 3 SH students, 2 have graduated and want their sister to have same experience others had. Many rules put forth by local, state and federal governments which SH has followed. Hard for students to grasp that SH wouldn't follow guidelines set forth for Athletics. Give them a bit of normal back, and hope this will end. Outside programs have been successful at keeping kids safe.

Sarah Watson – 54 Lemontree Ct: Have kids that play soccer. They are going thru hard times, soccer brings them joy. Kids get depressed with nothing to look forward to. Will get less healthy, lying around. Covid hurts kids with pre-existing conditions worse. Let them play sports so they can workout and stay healthy. Sports helps kids brains work better. Work at a hospital and have done everything to keep my kids safe.

Marcus Watson – 24 Lemontree Ct: Thank you for this opportunity. Am struck by the false divide between academics and sports. Have a PhD. but wouldn't if it weren't for sports. Kids develop at different times, sports kept me tethered to academics, which I didn't get interested in until college. Sports kept me energized and active. Not an either or. We are responsible, concerned parents, wanting to keep kids safe.

Helisa Akambasi-Watson – 24 Lemontree Ct: Am a senior and have been playing soccer for 8 years. Looking forward to this year, chance at a scholarship. Don't see many of our friends in the hybrid model, sports would be a chance to see other friends. Almost as important as education.

Jacob Wilson – 62 Barberry Lane: Soccer is more to us than a sport. Soccer is a close contact sport but each player is close to another for only a couple seconds. Everyone is moving around, there is limited risk. We will do anything to play, follow all the section VI guidelines for all games & practices. Players have been playing over the summer, and have been able to do so safely. Will make sure all the temperatures are taken. Thank you for this time.

Maya Flash – 11 Waterway Lane: Have been swimming since 7th grade. Sports teach many things. There are NYS guidelines that we have the ability to meet. Can do virtual meets and not have to intermingle with other schools. Many of my fellow athletes don't have the opportunity to continue to train. We must prepare to return to a normal life.

Scott Vadnais – 16 Azure Pine Ct: Have a daughter who plays varsity field hockey. She wears her jersey proudly. She played club 3 nights a week with 60-70 girls all summer, there were no cases. She is a junior. Can't imagine not having a senior night, can't imagine a family not being recognized for the sacrifices they made, and athletes not being recognized for their efforts while other districts do this. I think you should trust the students. You said last week that the kids are cooperating, we are not letting them try. If a parent or athlete doesn't feel it's safe, it is their choice. Moderate risk athletes are being penalized. Not postponed, just canceled. The state has given us guidance and I urge the board to use the guidelines and let kids play.

Grace Zilsberger – 58 Windsor Ave: Thank you for all you have done to protect faculty and students. Daughter is a field hockey player, and last year she was extremely disappointed when the lacrosse season was cancelled. She and her friends practiced safely over the summer and stayed conditioned. I know what the risks are and am willing to sign a waiver.

OPEN SESSION – AGENDA TOPICS-continued...

Mr. Johnson noted that per policy the 30 minute open session timeline had been reached. Upon motion by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Ocasio, a motion to extend the open session timeline was made.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Christine Hayter – 11 Huntleigh Circle: Have sons at Maplemere, the Middle and High Schools, and 2 who have graduated who were ranked 1st and 4th in their classes and were 2 sport athletes. Sports taught them discipline, and it helps with mental health. My kids did better in season than out of season.

Scott Gauld – 59 Dolphann: Have a daughter in 10th grade and a son who graduated in 2019. Both are athletes and very involved. I applaud the tireless efforts to reopen school. Think we have done a great job compared to neighboring schools. I do believe we might miss an opportunity for kids to reconnect. I teach psych in a neighboring district – my students report depression. They wonder when it will be normal, when they will see their friends. They feel isolated. Kids rely on structure, sports challenge them and help them obtain goals. My greatest concern is kids will lose the drive to compete and will fall into bad habits. They are at risk of developing an unhealthy lifestyle. Sports would be one normal thing in a vastly unnormal world.

Sophia Vadnais – 16 Azure Pine Ct. – I'm a field hockey player. Most of my friends are seniors on the team and will be leaving and I won't get to be around them. Sports is a positive outlet for kids. Have been practicing and are completely safe. If we keep postponing kids will be more out of shape and there will be more injuries.

Patrick McNelis – 48 Caspian Ct. – This is the first domino, if you say no to sports it will be harder to say yes. Trust the professionals and students to do this safely. Something to be said for saying yes, there is a safe way to do this. There is value in pursuing what we can do.

Seth Andrews – 36 West Home Rd. – I'm an alumni and I coach soccer here. We take pride in being role models, teaching the kids that they will face adversity on and off the field. You have an opportunity to use this as a teaching moment. Make the hard decision, do what is right.

Jasim Qasim – 174 Glenhaven Dr. – Am a captain on the soccer team. The coaches try to keep us safe. Many are seniors, planning on going to college, maybe playing in college. Not playing this season affects us a lot. Trying to do everything we can to have colleges look at us. There's always a solution.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**A. Athletics Reopening Discussion**

Anthony Day, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Monday, September 21, 2020.

PERSONNEL

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mr. Laible, the following resolution was offered:

I. Teaching and Administrative**C. Interscholastic Activities****1. Interscholastic Activities, High School, (FALL) 2020-2021**

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Fall* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 664 dated September 21, 2020** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Eva Basehart	Christine Kasper	Mike Tojek
TBD		

PERSONNEL-continued...

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	1	Absent	0
Carried	X	(Ocasio)			

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mr. Laible, the following resolution was offered:

I. Teaching and Administrative**C. Interscholastic Activities****2. Interscholastic Activities, High School, (FALL) 2020-2021**

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Fall* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 664 dated September 21, 2020** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Dawn Kauderer-Kromer	Kelly Hoak	Ryan McCaffery
Prisco Houndanon	David Tredo	Seth Andrews

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	3	Absent	0
Carried	X	(Ocasio/Jasen/McDonald)			

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Ocasio, the following resolution was offered:

I. Teaching and Administrative**C. Interscholastic Activities****3. Interscholastic Activities, High School, (FALL) 2020-2021**

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Fall* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 664 dated September 21, 2020** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Dan McCarthy	Vince McCarthy	
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The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

OPEN SESSION

Tom Gerber – 130 E. Maplemere: Appreciate what everyone is doing here. Assumptions are being made – student athletes will be in a controlled environment. They could be more at risk if they are somewhere else. Assumptions are based in emotion. Have done a lot of reading, kids are more at risk elsewhere.

Prisco Houndanon – 192 Crestwood Ave: Thank you for listening to us, appreciate the time and chance.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Mrs. Jasen, seconded by Mrs. Ocasio, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				



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