

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 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: Danyelle Anthon, Amy Battaglia, Peter Bellanti, Marianne Jasen, Scott M. Johnson, Brian Laible, Dirk Rabenold

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, 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, August 20, 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 reading of the minutes of the reorganization meeting and the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held July 2, 2024 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. Amherst IDA Resolution.
2. Harris Beach Legal Alerts.
3. Mr. Rabenold spoke with a parent who asked about students carrying backpacks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Ghana Trip
Teachers from Heritage Heights will give a presentation to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024.
- B. Tax Rates and Reserve Fund Allocation
Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Plant Services, will give a presentation to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024.
- C. Superintendent's Report
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

OPEN SESSION - AGENDA TOPICS - Policy 1512

Peter Hojczyk - Tonawanda resident: Were the minutes from May approved? No changes that I requested were made to the draft minutes. By failing to answer my emails, the Superintendent shows a lack of transparency and responsiveness to the community. At the last BOE election, I asked all five candidates if they knew what woke meant. Are you woke? - no one is raising their hand.

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, and J.

- A. Special Education
1. Class placements for 2024-2025 - 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 2024-2025 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated August 5, 2024.
2. Preschool class placements for 2024-2025 - 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

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

A. Special Education

2. Preschool class placements for 2024-2025 – Policy 7614

RESOLVED: That, the 2024-2025 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated August 5, 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 Schedules, the Treasurer’s Reports, the Budget Appropriation Status Reports, the Budget Transfer Reports, the Revenue Budget Status Reports, and the Extra-Curricular Accounts Reports as provided.

and be it further...

C. Unassigned Fund Balance

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the allocation of surplus funds from the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in the amount of \$2,962,107 to the Unassigned Fund Balance for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

and be it further...

D. Tax Rates

ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION OF SCHOOL BUDGET, HOMESTEAD AND NON-HOMESTEAD PROPORTIONS, AGGREGATE HOMESTEAD AND NON-HOMESTEAD TAX SHARES AND TAX RATE

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Paragraph 4(b) of the §1903-a of the Real Property Tax Law, the homestead and non-homestead proportions for the fiscal year 2024-2025 are as follows:

Homestead Proportion	.5675
Non-Homestead Proportion	<u>.4325</u>
TOTAL	1.0000

and be it further

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Paragraph 4(c) of §1903-a of the Real Property Tax Law, the aggregate homestead and non-homestead tax shares for the fiscal year 2024-2025 are hereby fixed and certified to be as follows:

Aggregate Homestead Tax Share	.4594
Aggregate Non-Homestead Tax Share	<u>.5406</u>
TOTAL	1.0000

Total Budget	\$100,410,422
To be raised by tax	\$ 54,268,072

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

D. Tax Rates

Total homestead share	\$ 24,929,039
Amherst homestead share	\$ 19,645,969
Tonawanda homestead share	\$ 5,283,070
 Total non-homestead share	 \$ 29,339,032
Amherst non-homestead share	\$ 27,410,209
Tonawanda non-homestead share	\$ 1,928,923
 Tax rate to raise such amount (rounded to the nearest cent)	
Amherst - homestead	\$ 9.665164
Amherst - non-homestead	\$ 14.950703
Tonawanda - homestead	\$ 42.218243
Tonawanda - non-homestead	\$ 64.294253

and be it further

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education approve the “Certification of Aggregate Homestead and Non-Homestead Tax Shares” and “Certification of Tax Budget and Rate” for the 2024-2025 school year

and be it further

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education authorize the President of the Board to sign the documents entitled “Certification of Adoption of School Budget” and “Certification of Tax Budget and Rate” dated August 20, 2024.

and be it further...

E. NYSBIP Grant

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize the district to expend the \$165,000 awarded to the district through the New York State School Bus Incentive Program (NYSBIP) Charging Application to offset costs associated with SED Project Control #14020706-4001-009 to install three new electric charging stations at our Service Center.

and be it further...

F. 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...

G. 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:

- Watkins Glen HS Swim Tournament, Watkins Glen, NY, Sept. 2024 (Leaders – Patrick McNelis/Andrea Wodarczak)

and be it further...

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

H. Committee appointments

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the appointment of the following individuals for the school year 2024-2025.

1. Safety Committee

RESOLVED: That, the following individuals be and are hereby appointed to serve on the district's Safety Committee for the 2024-2025 school year:

Grazyna Arnold	Ray Bailey	Kathryn Barillari	Sheila Connors
Marissa Dauria	Karen DeLaPlante	Bob Ehlenfield	Donald Feldmann
Michael Ginestre	Amanda Glenn	Rebecca Harmon	Wendy Januchowski
Marianne Jasen	Scott Johnson	David Kasprowicz	Lynn Kawa
Scott Kennedy	Matt LaRoach	Sherry McNamara	Ben Morton
Antonio Perry	Kristen Piurek	Jason Phillips	Mallory Piwtorak
John Radens	Stephen Rozler	Christine Slagle	Toya Wilson
Brittany Winiarski	Rob Woodford		

2. Wellness Committee

RESOLVED: That, the following individuals be and are hereby appointed to serve on the district's Wellness Committee for the 2024-2025 school year:

Karen Barrett	Peter Bellanti	Marissa Dauria	Karen DeLaPlante
Erica Duerr	Donald Feldmann	Marcy Gerlach	Shannon Hutchinson
Sara Juico	Christine Kasper	Keli-Koran Luchey	Anne Nowak
Kristin Puff	Mary Rao	Deepa Saini	Kristi Sajdak
Jessica Stephens	Yelena Suffoletto	Brandon Woods	

and be it further...

I. School Breakfast/Lunch Prices - 2024/2025

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorize the following breakfast and school lunch prices for adults for the 2024-2025 school year.

Breakfast

Adult breakfast \$2.95

Lunch:

Adult lunches \$5.05

and be it further...

J. Purchasing Cooperative

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home Central School District (School District) pursuant to the authority granted in General Municipal Law, Article 5A (Public Contracts), Section 103 desires to participate in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, Sourcewell, National IPA, National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA), OMNIA Partners, PEPPM Cooperative Purchasing, the National Association of State Procurement

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

J. Purchasing Cooperative

Officials (NASPO) ValuePoint Cooperative Purchasing Organization and TIPS-USA Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Section 103 of the General Municipal Law permits the School District to make purchases of apparatus, materials, equipment or supplies, or to contract for services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, may make such purchases, or may contract for such services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, as may be required by the School District therein through the use of a contract let by the United States of America or any agency thereof, any state or any other county or political subdivision or district therein if such contract was let to the lowest responsible bidder or on the basis of best value in a manner consistent with this section and made available for use by other governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to participate for the purpose of fulfilling and executing its public governmental purposes, goals, objectives, programs and functions; and

WHEREAS, the School District has reviewed the benefits of participating in these programs and based on this review has concluded these programs will provide the best value to taxpayers of this School District through the anticipated savings to be realized.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District authorizes the School District's participation in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, Sourcewell, National IPA, National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA), OMNIA Partners, PEPPM Cooperative Purchasing, the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) ValuePoint Cooperative Purchasing Organization and TIPS-USA Cooperative and authorizes the Purchasing Agent to register for participation in such purchasing cooperative programs on behalf of the School District.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

M. Jasen: Excited about this year's music festival.

S. Johnson: Attended a NYSSBA Foundation Aid seminar. Attended the WNY Law Conference. Participated in 2 days of Leader in Me training here in District Office with Gary McGuey. Gave a tour of the High School to the class of 2014.

B. Laible: My kids participated in a lacrosse clinic on the football field where the HS athletes helped the coaches.

D. Rabenold: Attended a Leadership conference in Albany. There was a presentation on AI. Shared the name of a book on the subject which supports AI as potentially beneficial for education. Regents diploma changes were also discussed. Also attended Leader in Me – always something valuable.

D. Anthon: Spent the summer trying to learn as much as possible, reading, asking questions of other BOE members. Hope to catch the Leader in Me training in the future.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued...

P. Bellanti: Stopped by the job fair. There was a Futures Baseball game for 7th * 8th graders over the weekend. Varsity boys coached. Congrats to Sweet Home’s Grace Lysek, who say the National Anthem in Williamsport this evening at the Little League World Series.

A. Battaglia: Traveled with my kids this summer.

OPEN SESSION

Peter Hojczyk – Tonawanda resident: You say you are trying to attract more residents to your meetings, don’t have 3 hour meetings, and if you do, warn folks to eat dinner first. In my emails with the Superintendent, I discussed illegal immigrants. My mom who lives in Cheektowaga, who never had a rat problem does now. They will never assimilate – it’s a public health problem, leaving garbage out. The point is – there is a lot of woke on this board though no one will admit it. You are messing with the minds of district kids in a bad way. This Seal of Civic Readiness sounds like it is training protesters who hate America.

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
 - b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

Lauren Roetzer		
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- 2. Appointments
 - b. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *teaching appointment*, in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Maria Berrios (chg)	Terjuana Teruel	Luna Yager
Brad Horrigan	Daniel Murphy	Tavis Baish

- c. Encumbered

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered appointment*, in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Kylie Prizel	Aurora Dong	
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PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

f. Transfer

RESOLVED: That, the *transfer* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728** dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Claire Cavarello	Morgan Chase	Kelly Ann O'Brien
Alex Walker	Stephen Shepherd	Amanda Hoffman
Molly DiPirro	Leigh Ann Hildreth	Cheryl Aldrich
Kim Gugino	Heather Reichmuth	Beth Swierski
Bonnie Lorentz	Julie Roberto	Jamie Riddoch
Marisa Adams	Brent Peterson	Paul Szymendera

g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728** dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jessica Sears	Emily Lukasik	Hailey Hoffman
Madeline Cappuccilli	Alyssa Braun	

h. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728** dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Chelsea Buttino	Morgan Chase	Amanda Glenn
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i. Salary Adjustments

See Salary Adjustments- In-service Credits Memo dated August 20, 2024

k. Building Chairperson, SST

RESOLVED: That, the *Building Chairperson, SST*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728** dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Katelyn DiRosa	Mariya Barnum	
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B. Substitutes

1. Long Term Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *long term substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728** dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Andrea Jarvis	Taylor Spina	
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PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

B. Substitutes

2. Substitute teachers for 2024-2025 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

3. Student teachers for 2024-2025 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *student teachers* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

C. Interscholastic Activities

1. Interscholastic Activities, High School, (FALL) 2024-2025

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Fall* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Alexis Ciehomski	Kristen Noltee	Derek Dunstan
Christine Kasper	Patricia Miranda	Dawn Kauderer
Heidi Jones	Jeremy Zimmer	Jon Campolo
Xavier Balsano	Michael Faulks	Ajani Wall
Marc Freda	Brian Koziol	Leonard Kayembe
Prisco Houndanon	Zachary Garland	Mark Ricupito
Jane Woloss	Kamryn Barr	Patrick McNelis
Morris Fried	Lisa Feyes	Carly Shifflet
Robert Maxwell	Richard Cicero	Victoria Rigler
Almaris Miranda Rivera	Jocelyn Canaday	Eva Basehart
Lisa Floreano	Kristy Neeson	

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Linda Murray	Fnu Sivadas Kunnathpura Raghavan	Frederick Chan
Justine Smith	Lee Sanchez	Marissa Santos
Sudha Sivadas	Jillian Serrano	Amanda Vitale
Joseph Emmerling	Erin Biondi	Peter Korte

PERSONNEL-continued...

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

c. Termination

RESOLVED: That, the *termination* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Josue Ocasio Matos		
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2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Charles Lyons	Amanda Reed	Tawnji Gribble (chg.)
James Caezza	Victoria Wilkinson	Natalie McDonald
Erin Wendling	Grace DeRoo	Amanda Lombard
Sarah Jackson	Joseph Emmerling	Lekpea Benson
Sabita Gyawali Archarya	Erin Biondi	Taylor Spina
Cameron Kowal	Peter Korte	Kathleen Forcucci
Rebecka Faltisco		

b. Temporary

RESOLVED: That, the *temporary appointment* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lavenia Wilson		
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c. Permanent Civil Service

RESOLVED: That, the *permanent civil service appointment* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jessie Galbo		
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f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ashley Neuman	Robert Peters	Sheryl Burke
Erin Wendling	Paul Marko	Ali Aljebori
Krista Zimmerman	Taylor Spina	

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. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sheryl Burke	Charles Grant	
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h. Salary Adjustment/Confidential Employee Agreements

RESOLVED: That, the *salary adjustment & confidential employee agreement* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 728 dated August 20, 2024 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Heather Kramer	Lisa Cebulski	
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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. 728 dated August 20, 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				

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 9:23 pm to consider appeals by the parents of two students pursuant to Board Policy 7313 appealing the disciplinary penalty rendered by the Superintendent of Schools on June 24, 2024, and to discuss legal matters and the employment history of a particular individual.

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 10:12 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Motion/C.H.

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

Whereas, pursuant to Board Policy 7313, the Parents of C.H. submitted a timely appeal to the Board of Education requesting that the Board consider rescinding or modifying the length of suspension issued by the Superintendent of Schools in his determination dated June 24, 2024;
Having fully considered the hearing record, the facts and evidence involved in C.H.'s violations of the District's Code of Conduct, and the positions of both the Parent and District relevant to the length of C.H.'s suspension, the Board hereby resolves to sustain the penalty issued by the Superintendent against student C.H. in his written determination dated June 24, 2024.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Motion/M.G.

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

Whereas, pursuant to Board Policy 7313, the Parents of M.G. submitted a timely appeal to the Board of Education requesting that the Board consider rescinding or modifying the length of suspension issued by the Superintendent of Schools in his determination dated June 24, 2024;
Having fully considered the hearing record, the facts and evidence involved in M.G.'s violations of the District's Code of Conduct, and the positions of both the Parent and District relevant to the length of M.G.'s suspension, the Board hereby resolves to sustain the penalty issued by the Superintendent against student M.G. in his written determination dated June 24, 2024.

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 10:19 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