

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Battaglia, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

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

PRESENT: Danyelle Anthon, Amy Battaglia, Peter Bellanti, Marianne Jasen, Scott M. Johnson, Dirk Rabenold

ABSENT: Brian Laible

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	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

Also present: Michael V. Ginestre, Donald G. Feldmann, Toyia Wilson

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:32 pm for matters related to the employment history of a particular individual.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 6:55 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
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 regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, December 17, 2024 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
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 meetings held Tuesday, November 12, 2024 and Tuesday, November 19, 2024 be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mr. Rabenold noted that he receives many political emails about Proposition 1 and DEI. He asked if the Board of Regents will be voting on Proposition 1, and stated that he will do everything he can to oppose biological boys being on girls teams. (Mr. Bellanti replied that the Board of Regents took the item off their agenda, but the Legislature added it back in to theirs.)
2. Mr. Rabenold heard from a mother about snow days and when we choose to cancel and when we don't. He also mentioned an article in On Board about changes proposed under the incoming administration.
3. Mr. Johnson heard from a mom at the DEI Committee meeting who is very happy with the District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 23/24 Assessment Data Grades 3-8

Toya Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and Principals, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

B. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

C. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

OPEN SESSION: Agenda Topics – Policy 1510

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, E, and F.

A. Special Education

1. Class placements for 2024-2025 – Policy 7613

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disability 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

NEW BUSINESS-continued...**A. Special Education****1. Class placements for 2024-2025 – Policy 7613**

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 Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated December 3, 2024.

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

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disability 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 special education placements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That, the 2024-2025 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated December 3, 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 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. Capital Outlay Project 2024/25 – Construction Bid

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and Young & Wright Architectural, the Board of Education award the Construction Bid to **Kelley Brothers, LLC** in the amount of **\$29,826.44** and **Toth's Sports** in the amount of **\$69,975.00** for a total of **\$99,801.44** for the 2024/25 Capital Outlay Project.

and be it further...

D. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – First Reading

Board of Education By-Law #1410 states that "Board of Education policy and rules and by-laws shall be adopted, amended and/or suspended...only when the addition, amendments or suspension is first introduced in writing and is subsequently moved and seconded at a public meeting at least 27 calendar days prior to the time when such adoption, amendment and/or suspension may be voted upon."

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

D. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – First Reading

At the regular Board of Education meeting held on December 17, 2024 the Superintendent of Schools recommended the Board of Education accept the first reading of the following revised policies.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following revised policies as provided in the December 17, 2024 presentation.

a.	5240 – School Tax Assessment & Collection – recommend to delete
b.	5241 – Property Tax Exemptions – recommend to delete
c.	5574 – Medicaid Compliance Program – recommend to delete
d.	6190 – Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement
e.	6550 – Leaves of Absence
f.	7618 – Use of Time Out Rooms – recommend to delete

and be it further...

E. Charter Agreements

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Annual Unit Charter Agreements with the following organizations:

- Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Cub Scout Pack No. 444
- Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scout Troop No. 444

and be it further...

F. Resolution to Appoint Physician Under Education Law §913

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is authorized under Section 913 of the NYS Education Law to require any person employed by the District to submit to such medical examinations as deemed necessary for the purpose of determining the physical or mental capacity of the employee to perform his or her duties;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes it is in the best interest of both the District and its employees for such referrals to be made without the need for individual Board approval;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Superintendent or his designee is hereby authorized to require any employee to submit to a medical examination by a physician appointed by the Board of Education.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Evelyn Coggins, with offices located at 128 Eagle St. Buffalo, NY, be hereby appointed effective December 18, 2024 as a director of school health services/school medical inspector to conduct such examinations as requested by the District Superintendent pursuant to NYS Education Law Section 913.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or his designee is authorized to negotiate a contract with Dr. Evelyn Coggins to perform such services.

NEW BUSINESS-continued...

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

M. Subaita: Student gov't is working on some long term proposals, including having the fitness center open during school hours. They met with Mr. Murphy and he helped with ideas. It would be beneficial for students in so many ways. Hoping to have a pass system. After break we will meet with Mr. Schiumo and then Mr. Baker. Want to start with 1st and 9th periods, and eventually open during lunch periods. Also want to bring back the school store – visiting schools that have them to see how they operate. Will have a poster contest for the 7 Habits, hoping to introduce one habit per month. Also planning a school wide movie night for after break.

M. Ginestre: Thank you to student government for assisting with the cap & gown survey.

M. Jasen: The student survey is how it should work for changing our cap & gown protocol. Thanks to music teacher for their work toward the November NYSSBA Festival in Fredonia. Maplemere was listed as a top school, top 4% in the nation.

S. Johnson: Through SHEF, WNY Heroes donated a carload full of backpacks filled with supplies, around 75 of them. Helped pick them up and bring them here.

D. Rabenold: Missed the HH PTA meeting but the minutes are posted. They are doing a great job getting folks involved. Last week was the Merry Moose holiday shop. Also saw the article about Maplemere.

D. Anthon: The Merry Moose shop was adorable. Thanks to our Transportation Department for getting all the kids to school safely with snow on the ground.

P. Bellanti: Attended the 8th grade band concert, the building use committee meeting, the DFS Meat Raffle, and the SHEF faculty/staff basketball game. Congrats to all our scholar athletes and fall teams.

D. Feldmann: The Meat Raffle raised about \$5,600 and the SHEF Basketball game raised about \$5,800.

OPEN SESSION: Policy 1510

Peter Hojczyk – Millwood Dr.: Last time I was here, I brought up firing the Superintendent. He's still here. Why? I'll give you another reason – on the Next Door social media sight people are tearing up this district, especially the Middle School. One family claims the District is irresponsible. Have you bought any electric buses yet? When are you going to tell residents about the cost of the charging infrastructure? Assuming you hired a consultant, it's supposed to cost \$10-11 million, and that's likely to double. What is Wendel charging you for this? The temporary charging phase is \$1 million alone. Batteries cost \$50K to replace, 36 hours to fully charge one bus. National Grid is involved but the electric grid can't handle what you want to install here. And you have to maintain the charging infrastructure – you will need to hire someone for that. It's ridiculous that you can't answer me. According to the consultant you hired – they are giving you best case cost estimates. Residents need to know this.

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**
 - 2. **Appointment**
 - a. **Tenure**

RESOLVED: That, the *tenure appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Carol Kamph		
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PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointment

d. Mentoring

(2). Teaching

RESOLVED: That, the *appointment (mentoring/teaching)*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Denea Czapla (chg.)	Kimberly Gugino (chg.)	Melissa Campbell
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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. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Margaret Kruchten	Kelly Ann O'Brien	Gavin Petrie
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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. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Madeline Cappuccilli		
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j. Co-Curricular Activities

j. Co-Curricular Activities, Middle School, 2024-2025 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, Middle School*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Gavin Petrie (remove)		
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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. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Amelia Kancar	Lindsay DeBoth	Adele Eagan
Stacy Williams		

b. Substitute teachers for 2024-2025 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

B. Substitutes

2. Appointments

c. Student teachers for 2024-2025 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *student teachers* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sherry McNamara		
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b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Geogry Robbins	Matthew Cannamela	Malik Fuller
Andrew Herb	Mariana Garcia Partearroyo	

c. Termination

RESOLVED: That, the *termination* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Michael Maluso		
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2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Hera Davidson	Melody Snyder	Evan Reese (<i>chg.</i>)
Melaney Nance	Andrew Herb	

c. Permanent Civil Service

RESOLVED: That, the *permanent civil service appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 14, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Deanna Johnson		
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PERSONNEL-continued...

II. Service

A. Regular

2. Appointment

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 14, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Nicole Kuss	Katherine Meldrum	Lisa Schmitt
Adele Eagan	Sufia Begum	Thomas Buckley III
Stacy Williams		

g. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 14, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

John Shields (<i>chg.</i>)	Katherine Meldrum	Lisa Maurin
Sufia Begum	Collin Polyachyck	

B. Substitutes

2. Per Diem Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 732 dated December 17, 2024** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	6	No	0	Absent	1
Carried	X				

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