**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
**TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the Norman Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mrs. Battaglia, called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 (until 7:21 pm), Dirk Rabenold, Mayesha Subaita (student ex-officio)

**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 | | | | |

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 5:34 pm for matters related to the employment history of a particular individual as well as a safety investigation.

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 6:45 pm. Action was taken during executive session.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X | | | | |

**PUBLIC HEARING – DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN & CODE OF CONDUCT**

Mr. Feldmann presented on the 2025-26 District Safety Plan and Code of Conduct at the public hearing.

**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, May 13, 2025 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 7 | No | 0 | Absent | 0 |
| Carried | X | | | | |

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**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 the Board of Education meetings held Tuesday, April 22, 2025 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. Letters from the Amherst IDA.
2. Letter from Dave Lowrey

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. NWACC Art and Writing Contest Winners**

Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction and Heidi Lefebvre, Project Coordinator of NWACC, presented awards at the Board of Education study session on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

**B. Panther Logo Finalists**

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, recognized the Panther Logo finalists at the study session on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

**C. Superintendent Update**

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

**D. Superintendent Update**

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

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

1. Peter Hojczyk, Millwood Drive in Tonawanda – The Board won't answer questions. Anyone on the Board currently wanting re-election, I'm recommending to not vote for them. Imposed DEI and woke policies. The Superintendent is lying about electric bus infrastructure. In the newsletter, I found out they are buying 6 more buses and it was not mentioned to the public. Second time this is a secret. Useless mail from Brian Laible. I met Dirk last year and he had the guts to admit that he wasn't woke. Jonathan at least admitted he was woke. These people will not respond to you. I don't know anything about Alan.

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**OPEN SESSION: Agenda Topics – Policy 1512-continued…**

2. Amanda Jones, Kaymar Drive in Amherst – I wanted to express thanks to handling yesterday's lockdown. I have concerns about communication. At 12:49 the school sent an email. 25 minutes later, Mr. Baker sent an update. 2 hours later, the Superintendent sent 4 paragraphs explaining the events of the afternoon. Waiting until almost 3pm was unacceptable. A 1-2 sentence update sooner would have been better. It was not communicated that students were dismissed. I received music updates before the Principal and Superintendent. I'm asking the district to evaluate and problem-solve these issues. A parent told me a student left school prior to the incident without permission. How can we claim all students were accounted for?

**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 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 April 30, 2025.

**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

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 April 30, 2025.

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…

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**NEW BUSINESS-continued…**

**C. Bids – Policy - 5410**

**1. Health Medical Supplies Bid**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the Health Medical Supplies bid 2025-26-17 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **$24,610.82.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Agni | $765.96 |
| Collins Sports Medicine | $2,611.78 |
| Henry Schein | $6,176.18 |
| Medco | $6,251.70 |
| Pyramid | $913.97 |
| Quill | $532.82 |
| School Health | $3,858.95 |
| School Nurse | $3,537.73 |
| **TOTAL:** | **$24,610.82** |

**2. Athletic and Physical Education Supplies Bid**

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the Athletics and Physical Education Supplies bid #2025-26-8 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **$70,590.64**.

| | |
|---|---|
| BSN Sports | $24,236.96 |
| Lancaster Sporting Goods | $4,775.81 |
| Laux | $21,702.27 |
| Longstreth Sporting Goods, LLC | $594.37 |
| MFAC | $295.00 |
| Pyramid Sporting Goods | $5,922.70 |
| S & S Worldwide | $2,361.44 |
| School Health Corp | $1,248.29 |
| Sportsman | $6,300.73 |
| Varsity | $3,153.07 |
| **TOTAL:** | **$70,590.64** |

and be it further…

**D. 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…

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**NEW BUSINESS-continued…**

**E. Municipal Cooperation Agreement - NYCLASS**

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o (Section 119-o) empowers municipal corporations [defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages, and districts] to enter into, amend, cancel, and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective functions, powers, and duties on a cooperative or contract basis;

WHEREAS the Sweet Home Central School District wishes to invest portions of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of August 1, 2023; WHEREAS the Sweet Home Central School District wishes to satisfy the safety and liquidity needs of their funds;

Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved as follows:
That the Superintendent of Schools of the Sweet Home Central School District is hereby authorized to participate in the NYCLASS program under the terms of the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of August 1, 2023.

and be it further…

**F. Municipal Cooperation Agreement – RIC ONE Risk Operations Center**

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

"WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;"

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted; and

BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and,

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**NEW BUSINESS-continued…**

**F. Municipal Cooperation Agreement – RIC ONE Risk Operations Center**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sweet Home Central School District Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 6 | No | 0 | Absent | 1 |
| Carried | X | | | | |

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

*M. Subaita*: Student Government wrapping up end of the year activities. Peer mentoring program – writing advise and thank you cards to different grade levels. Senior English classes are using Leader in Me for MS students transitioning to the HS. Student Government is doing a photo/message collage for the 24-25 school year. Mercy Flight is coming tomorrow. STARS breakfast on May 20. Students did really well yesterday during the lockdown staying collected. On behalf of students and probably parents - having easy access to cellphones in school would be appreciated during situations like yesterday.

*M.Ginestre*: Kudos to the HS students for yesterday.

*M. Jasen:* I attended the meat raffle. Where else can we hear Don talk about different types of ham? They raised $5,500 in scholarships. Mr. Johnson won the $250 Wegmans gift card. I'm looking forward to the next meat raffle on 12/5.

*S. Johnson:* I attended the district safety committee meeting. I also attended an alumni association meeting and discussed scholarships. The Sweet Home Education Foundation discussed cuts from the federal government for the food banks and how they would continue food distribution. This past Friday was the Wall of Fame ceremony. Three great people were added this year.

*D. Rabenold:* The HH PTA meeting was cancelled due to Monday's incident. I recommend you read Title IX article in the On Board magazine. Where else would you see that kind of response from first responders like yesterday's. Spectacular. Teachers did a tremendous job to protect kids.

*D. Anthon:* Had a cellphone committee meeting. That will be interesting to revisit next month. The Glendale Leadership Day is this Friday. Thank you to law enforcement who assisted yesterday. Teachers and administrators did a great job. Resources are available for counseling. I encourage anyone who needs to talk to someone to do so.

*P. Bellanti:* I went to a WR PTA meeting at the end of April. Many sporting events. Teacher appreciation was last week. May 22nd is Leadership Day at WR. Many senior events upcoming. Willow Ridge is up for Lighthouse recertification.

*A. Battaglia:* Went to the HS PTSA meeting. Talked about the brick sale and the benches were purchased. Currently working on scholarships.

**OPEN SESSION – Policy 1512**

1. Peter Hojcyk, Millwood Drive in Tonawanda – I've asked you to fire Dr. Ginestre many times and have detailed why. It hasn't happened. You can look at past dates I was here to see why. Eventually you will all be held responsible. Every time I come here, something has happened. You sent me an email about non-citizen voting and blamed the Board of Elections. In the mailing it states that you can use utility bill to prove residency. Why are you not comparing list of non-citizens in district with Board of Elections list? You're not responsive and you need to be fired. As I mentioned earlier, 6 more electronic buses. You said nothing about buses. 20 million for a charging infrastructure that doesn't exist in NYS. You raised the budget 5 million dollars. If I ran my work session like this I would have been fired a long time ago.

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**PERSONNEL**

Upon motion made by Mr. Bellanti, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered for consent agenda on personnel items I & II.

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**b. Resignation**

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Emily Lukasik | | |

**2. Appointments**

**b. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Michael Kumrow | Stephen Shepherd | Jamie Engl |

**g. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gavin Petrie | Morgan Wiacek | Ashlee Lipka |
| Jennifer DePasquale | | |

**h. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shannon Shepherd | Margaret Kruchten | Rebecca Mansell |

**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. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bethany Printup-Davis | Amy Lipowski | Erin Wendling |

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**PERSONNEL-continued…**

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**B. Substitutes**

**2. Appointments**

**b. Substitute teachers for 2024-2025 school year**

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

C. Interscholastic Activities

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

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Spring* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Riley Kromer | | |

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**a. Retirement**

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hashem Baraie | | |

**b. Resignation**

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James Caezza | DeAnna Burgess | Gary Mistretta |
| Eric Ward | Suzanne Steinbach | |

**2. Appointments**

**a. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amy Giogas | Terrance Cullen-Ball | DeAnna Burgess |
| David Moran | Darrell Hunter | JoAnne Daugherty |
| Donna Masury | Eric Ward | |

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**PERSONNEL-continued…**

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointments**

**f. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Erin Wendling | Ronald Farleo | Katherine Martinez |
| David Holm | | |

**g. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Katherine Martinez | Ravyn Adams | |

**h. Salary Adjustment/Confidential Employee Agreements**

RESOLVED: That, the *salary adjustment & confidential employee agreement*s in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amanda Reed | | |

**II. Service**

**B. Substitutes**

**2. Per Diem Substitutes**

**RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 737 dated May 13, 2025 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 7:36 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

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