



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1901 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, NY 14228

Office of the Superintendent
Dr. Michael V. Ginestre
Superintendent of Schools
(716) 250-1402

Sweet Home Central School District Board of Education Goals for the 2025–2026 School Year

At its annual retreat on August 12, 2025, the Sweet Home Board of Education engaged in a collaborative discussion regarding its goals and major initiatives for the upcoming school year. The goals identified include advocating for and continuing the implementation of the District's Strategic Plan; providing opportunities for all students; securing community support for the next major capital project; promoting open and honest communication; and developing a financial plan that benefits all stakeholders.

Goal #1

The Board of Education will continue to lead in the promotion, advocacy, and implementation of year three of the Sweet Home Strategic Plan. The Board will work with administration, faculty, and staff to ensure that the Sweet Home Portrait of a Graduate remains the central focus of the plan. The Board will collaborate with District Office and building administration to ensure that key benchmarks in academics and social-emotional development are being met. Regular updates will be requested at Board of Education meetings to monitor progress and assess outcomes.

Rationale

The Sweet Home Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in June 2023. The Board emphasized that the plan must not “sit on a shelf.” Instead, benchmarks outlined in the plan must be achieved, with the District adopting a 21st-century, student-centered learning approach that benefits all students.

Possible rewrite:

The Board of Education will continue to lead in the promotion, advocacy, and implementation of the Sweet Home Strategic Plan. The Board will collaborate with District Office and building administration to ensure that key benchmarks in academics and social-emotional development are being met. Regular updates will be requested at Board of Education meetings to monitor progress and assess outcomes

Mid-Year Notes

-

Goal #2

The Board of Education will lead efforts to inform the public about the next major capital project and support all initiatives necessary to be transparent and communicate the scope and financial aspects of the project. The Board will work collaboratively with all stakeholder groups—including, but not limited to, the Building Use Committee and the Athletic Council—to develop a comprehensive communications plan that reaches all District voters. The Board will execute this plan in preparation for the public vote scheduled for December 16, 2025.

In addition, the Board of Education will create and adopt a 2026–2027 fiscal budget that aligns with the Strategic Plan and remains fiscally responsible to taxpayers. The Board will direct District administration to continue advocating for State and Federal aid to support program growth and address student needs.

Rationale

An increase in enrollment, evolving student needs, real estate development within the District, expansion of mental health services, and demographic shifts in several neighborhoods have led to space concerns in our elementary buildings. This capital project addresses those concerns, which were identified through the 2022 ThoughtExchange and subsequent focus group discussions. Successful passage will enable the District to meet community expectations and transform elementary buildings to support 21st-century learning.

Potential re-wording: The Board of Education will lead efforts to educate the community regarding the next major capital project by providing accurate, transparent, and comprehensive information about the two propositions to be presented to voters. The Board will collaborate with stakeholder groups, including but not limited to the Building Use Committee and the Athletic Council, to develop and implement a communications plan that ensures consistent dissemination of information to all district residents in advance of the public vote scheduled for December 16, 2025.

Additionally, the Board of Education will develop and adopt a fiscally responsible 2026–2027 budget aligned with the district’s strategic plan and long-term priorities. The Board will direct district administration to continue advocacy efforts for adequate state and federal funding to support program development, maintain educational quality, and address evolving student needs.

Possible rewrite:

The Board of Education will lead efforts to educate the community regarding the next major capital project by providing accurate, transparent, and comprehensive information about the two

propositions to be presented to voters. The Board will collaborate with all stakeholder groups. This communication plan will ensure consistent dissemination of information to all district residents in advance of the public vote scheduled for December 16, 2025.

Mid-Year Notes

-

Goal #3

The Board of Education will strengthen stakeholder engagement by fostering deeper connections with school buildings, educators, and the broader community. The Board will promote frequent, transparent communication to clearly convey District priorities and decisions, while also creating regular opportunities for feedback to support collaborative and informed governance.

Rationale

The Board is committed to ensuring that we are “One Community.” We believe the best way to achieve this is through transparency and strong relationships, particularly with our teachers. It is essential that all members of our school community are informed, engaged, and heard. Open and honest discussions will help move the District forward, ultimately enhancing our ability to serve the students of Sweet Home.

Mid-Year Notes

-

Goal #4 find a way to add unity in this goal

*The Board of Education is committed to expanding opportunities for all students in the District. The work of the District-Wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is well established, and the committee will continue to develop and implement initiatives that ensure equitable opportunities for student growth—such as Leader in Me. This work will help continue to unify our District and support our mission of “Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.” The DEI Committee and its Teaching and Learning Subcommittee will review the Strategic Plan and recommend the next phase of its implementation. **The Board remains committed to advancing equity and ensuring that every student benefits from the full range of opportunities Sweet Home offers. (Possible additional sentence).***

Rationale

Sweet Home’s strength lies in the cultural diversity students experience every day. This diversity provides rich learning opportunities that prepare students for success after graduation. After three years of successful implementation by the District DEI Committee, it is now essential for individual schools to integrate this work into their own systems, such as *Leader in Me*. This will ensure that all students have access to transformational learning experiences and equal opportunities for growth.

Potential re-wording: *The Board of Education is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment that ensures every student has access to equal opportunities for success and growth. The districtwide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee will continue its work in partnership with district leadership to develop and implement initiatives that promote belonging, respect, and opportunity for all students, such as Leader in Me.*

The Board of Education remains committed to advancing student achievement and unity across the district, ensuring that all students benefit from the full range of programs and supports that Sweet Home offers. The DEI Committee and its Teaching and Learning Subcommittee will review the district's strategic plan and recommend the next phase of implementation to ensure alignment with the district's mission and goals.

Possible rewrite:

The Board of Education remains committed to advancing student achievement across the district, ensuring that all students benefit from the full range of programs and support that Sweet Home offers. The Board of Education is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment that ensures every student has access to equal opportunities for success and growth. This work will help continue to unify our District and support our mission of "Every Student, One Community" Ready for the Future".

Mid-Year Notes

-

###