SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF AMHERST AND TONAWANDA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOTING MEETING **MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025**
6:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION/ 6:30 PM MEETING

AGENDA

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

II. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Monday, December 15, 2025 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

IV. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, November 18, 2025 be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Counseling Plan
Katie Barillari, Director of Pupil Services, will give a presentation to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

B. Portrait of a Graduate
Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

C. Superintendent Update
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

D. Proposed Amendment to District Safety Plan – Desha's Law
Don Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Plant Services, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025.

E. Superintendent Update
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025.

A G E N D A

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-continued…

F. Upcoming Events

•	December 15…	Music: Holiday Concert @ Amherst Baptist Church, 7-9 pm DO: BOE Voting Meeting, 6:30 pm @ NVCC
•	December 16…	MS: 6th & 7th Gr Band Concert, 7 pm @ MS Aud DO: Capital Project Vote, 7:00 am – 9:00 pm @ NVCC
•	December 17-18…	MM: Holiday Gift Shop
•	December 17…	DO: Dollars for Scholars Meeting, 8 am @ NVCC DO: DEI Meeting, 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm @ NVCC HH: Winter Concert 6:30 pm
•	December 18…	GL: Winter Wonderland Event, 6:00 – 8:00 pm Music: 8th Gr Chorus Concert, 7 pm @ MS Aud
•	December 22 – January 2 …	**Winter Recess – No School Pre-K-12**
•	January 5…	DO: SHEF Meeting, 6 pm @ NVCC
•	January 7…	Music: 6th Gr Chorus Concert, 7 pm @ MS Aud
•	January 8…	HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 pm WR: PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

VIII. OPEN SESSION: Agenda Topics – Policy 1510

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Education

1. Class placements for 2025-2026 – 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

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 2025-2026 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated December 5, 2025

2. Preschool class placements for 2025-2026 – 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

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued…

A. Special Education

2. Preschool class placements for 2025-2026 – Policy 7614

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 2025-2026 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated December 5, 2025.

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.

C. Comprehensive School Counseling Plan

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the Comprehensive School Counseling Plan for 2025-26 as presented.

D. Request for Proposal – Driver Education

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the in-car instruction portion of the Driver Education RFP #2025-26-24 for the spring 2026 and 2026-207 school year to **Hoffman's Driving Academy** at the price of **$879.00 per student.**

E. HELPS Program Resolution

Whereas, The Sweet Home Central School District board has the authority to manage the Sweet Home Central School District Personnel efficiently and effectively in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and collective bargaining agreements, including New York State Civil Service Laws and the Erie County Rules for the Classified Service; and

Whereas, New York State Civil Service Commission has developed and the Erie County Personnel Department has adopted the NYS HELPS (Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide) program, which allows for the inclusion of titles where qualified individuals may be appointed to a non-competitive version of a competitive title in order to gain permanent status without competitive examination and upon completion of a necessary probationary term be placed in the competitive class without further exam; and

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued…

E. HELPS Program Resolution

Whereas, Erie County has recommended that the below resolve clause regarding the appointment process be approved to allow the Sweet Home Central School District to appropriately utilize the NYS Helps program in its most efficient form so as not to delay the ability of employees hired through the program to gain permanent status.

Now therefore be it resolved, that any individual appointed by this honorable body prior to or going forward which is afforded the opportunity to utilize the NYS Helps program, as approved and administered by The County of Erie, shall be, without further approval of this body, appropriately placed where possible into said program and upon completion of the minimum probationary term of the position and the requirements as outlined/approved by Erie County Civil Service, be afforded the rights of that of a competitive class appointment without further exam or approval by this body.

F. Acceptance of Donations

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept a donation from The Fischer Family in the amount of $100,000.00 for the specific purpose of constructing and outfitting a new multimedia classroom at the Sweet Home High School.

G. Handicapped Transportation Bid

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Contracted Handicapped Transportation bid #2025-26-23 to First Student, Inc. at a cost of $425.00 per day from December 18, 2025 - June 26, 2026, for a total cost of $48,875.00.

H. Settlement Agreement

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a settlement with SHEA and employee 02195 and carry out the terms of its agreement.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

XI. OPEN SESSION: Policy 1510

A G E N D A

XII. PERSONNEL

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Toyia Wilson	Michelle Iwankow	

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Izeal Bullock III		

2. Appointment

c. Encumbered

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered appointment,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Gabriella Farinacci		

e. Continuing Activities

Building Leadership Team – Heritage Heights 2025-2026

RESOLVED: That, the *continuing activities,* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Melissa Campbell		

g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Allison Radecke	Gabrielle Carrier	Lisa Brzeczkowski
Jacqueline Stablewski	Keli Koran Luchey	

A G E N D A

XII. PERSONNEL-continued…

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointment

h. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Dominique Dibble	Kamryn Barr	

j. Co-curricular Activities

Co-curricular Activities – Middle School

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jadon Wegrzyn	Katelyn Bechtel (Remove)	Samantha Carol Grawe

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. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Timothy Arnold		

b. Substitute teachers for 2025-2026 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025, 2025 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

c. Student teachers for 2025-2026 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *student teachers* in the TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025 be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

A G E N D A

XII. PERSONNEL-continued…

I. Teaching and Administrative

C. Interscholastic Activities

1. Interscholastic Appointments

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Patrick McNelis (chg.)		

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Debbie Opala		

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Katherine Rivera	Angelina Bruno	Mary Demmick
Samuel Gonzalez	Morgan Galusha	Shavindu Goonerathna

2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Leon Higbee	Shavindu Goonerathna	Elisabetta Antonacci
Shanika Smith	Emily Mrozek (chg.)	Cameron Millender

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Stephanie Drabinski	Anjum Qadri	Donna Daniele
Nancy Dwyer	Lori Varney	

A G E N D A

XII. 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. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jennifer Gradzewicz	Patricia Merrifield	

B. Substitutes

2. Per Diem Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the per diem substitutes in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 744 dated December 15, 2025** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

XIV. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Field Trip requests through December 12, 2025.