



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF AMHERST AND TONAWANDA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDY SESSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

6:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION/ 6:30 PM MEETING

A G E N D A

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 Tuesday, January 20, 2026 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

IV. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting held Monday, December 15, 2025 be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 24/25 Assessment Data Grades 3-8 Overview

Toya Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and Principals, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

B. Course Handbook Update

Joseph Lucenti, High School Principal, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

C. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

D. 24/25 Assessment Data Grades 3-8 by Building

Toya Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and Principals, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

E. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

A G E N D A

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-continued...

F. Upcoming Events

•	January 12...	HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 pm MS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Cafeteria
•	January 13...	DO: BOE Study Session, 6:30 pm @ NVCC
•	January 14...	WR: Skating Party, 5:00 – 7:30 pm MM: PTA Meeting, 6:15 pm GL: PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
•	January 16...	GL: Glow Party, 6:00 pm
•	January 17...	Music: Jr. High Instrumental Solo Festival @ Orchard Park Schools
•	January 19...	<i>DO: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School Pre-K - 12</i>
•	January 20-23...	Regents Exams
•	January 20...	DO: BOE Voting Meeting. 6:30 pm @ NVCC
•	January 21...	DO: DEI Meeting, 4:15 – 6:15 pm @ NVCC
•	January 22...	MM: McTeacher Night, 4:00 – 7:00 pm
•	January 23...	HH: Dance, 6:30 – 8:30 pm MS: Winter Activity Night, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
•	January 24...	Music: Sr. High Instrumental, Choral and Vocal Jazz Solo Festival @ Kenmore West High School
•	January 30...	WR: Sweetheart Dance, 6-8 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 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 2025-2026 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated January 5, 2026.

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

A. Special Education

2. Preschool class placements for 2025 – 2026 - 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 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 January 5, 2026.

B. Monthly Financial Reports-Policy 2140

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts 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 Activity Account Report as provided.

C. 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.

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."

At the regular Board of Education meeting held on January 20, 2026 the Superintendent of Schools recommends 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 January 20, 2026 presentation.

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

D. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – First Reading

a.	1220 – Board Members: Nomination and Election
b.	5413 – Procurement: Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards
c.	5674 – Data Networks and Security Access
d.	5681 – School Safety Plans
e.	5685 – Maximum Temperature for School Buildings and Indoor Facilities
f.	5851 – Cybersecurity Incident Response
g.	7316 – Use of Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day
h.	7513 – Medication and Personal Care Items
i.	7521 – Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions
j.	7522 – Concussion Management

E. High School Course Planning Guide – Policy 8110

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Sweet Home High School Student Curriculum Handbook 2026-27.

F. Maplemere Temporary Classroom Lease Renewal

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District is hereby authorized to extend the existing lease agreement for modular temporary classrooms between the District and Mobile Modular Management Corporation.

G. State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) – Maplemere Temporary Classrooms

BE IT RESOLVED by the Sweet Home Central School District Board of Education that:

1. The District's Board of Education remains the lead agency for the SEQRA review of the proposed updated lease of the modular classrooms building in the developed lawn area adjacent to Maplemere Elementary School.
2. The SEQRA determination made in 2021 that the then-proposed lease and installation of the modular classrooms building of less than 10,000 square feet is a Type II action which is not subject to review under SEQRA, and the proposed action on the developed Maplemere Elementary School campus, including the terms of the Addendum to extend the lease of the modular classrooms, will not result in significant adverse impacts on the environment is hereby affirmed.
3. The Superintendent continues to be authorized to sign and file or have filed on behalf of the District all documents necessary to comply with SEQRA.
4. This resolution is effective immediately.

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

H. Amended District Safety Plan

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accept the revised Sweet Home District Safety Plan for the 2025-2026 school year to include Desha's Law as recommended.

I. Acceptance of Donations

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept a donation of two (2) buckets of baseballs from Precious Holmes, Middle School Parent, with a total value of \$238.00.

J. Resolution to the Sweet Home Board of Education, Settlement of Legal Matters, January 20, 2026

Submitted by: Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home Central School District and its legal counsel from Lippes Mathias LLP engaged in mediation on December 11, 2025 in an effort to resolve three civil actions filed pursuant to the Child Victims Act currently pending in New York State Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Supreme Court's Index Numbers for the three pending cases are 810761/2021, 810987/2021, and 811174/2021; and

WHEREAS, the Parties were able to tentatively reach a settlement of these three cases pending approval of the Sweet Home Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and legal counsel recommend the Board's approval of the settlements below in order to avoid the time, cost, and risk of further litigation in these matters; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and legal counsel, the Board authorizes expenditures up to the monetary amounts listed below to fully and finally settle these three pending legal actions:

- 810761/2021: \$75,000.00
- 810987/2021: \$1,500,000.00
- 811174/2021: \$350,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent and Board President are authorized to execute any documents necessary upon the recommendation of legal counsel to settle and dispose of these pending actions.

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

K. Budget Amendment

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education agrees to amend the budget for the Child Victims Act settlements.

L. A Bond RESOLUTION, DATED January 20, 2026, of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") authorizing the issuance of serial bonds or OTHER obligations of the District (UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000) TO FINANCE THE district's COST of CERTAIN approved LEGAL settlements, AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES (IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") has entered into settlement agreements that have been approved by the Board of Education of the District (the "Board") in order to resolve certain lawsuits that have been brought against the District (the "Settlements"); and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that \$2,000,000 of the Settlements will be financed through the issuance of serial bonds or other obligations of the District (the "Purpose"); and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board (by a favorable vote of at least two-thirds of all of the members of the Board), as follows:

SECTION 1. The object or purpose to be financed pursuant to this resolution is the payment of the Purpose, as described above and as approved and authorized by the Board.

SECTION 2. The estimated maximum cost of such object or purpose is determined to be \$2,000,000. The plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of serial bonds or other obligations of the District in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 (such issuance being hereby specifically authorized), with such amount to be offset and reduced by any federal, state, county and/or local funds that may be received by the District for the purpose of paying all or part of the Purpose. To the extent not paid from such other sources, the estimated maximum cost of the Purpose is to be paid by the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the District to pay the principal of such bonds or other obligations that are authorized hereby, and the interest thereon, as the same shall become due and payable.

SECTION 3. All funds in payment of the Purpose are hereby declared to be ordinary contingent expenses of the District.

SECTION 4. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid object or purpose is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision 33(a)(1) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

L. A Bond RESOLUTION, DATED January 20, 2026, of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") authorizing the issuance of serial bonds or OTHER obligations of the District (UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000) TO FINANCE THE district's COST of CERTAIN approved LEGAL settlements, AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES (IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECTION 5. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and of Section 50.00, Sections 56.00

to 60.00, Section 62.00, Section 62.10, Section 63.00, and Section 164.00 of the Local Finance Law, the powers and duties of the Board pertaining or incidental to the sale and issuance of the obligations herein authorized, including but not limited to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and details as to the sale and issuance of the bonds herein authorized and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of such bonds, and the renewals of such notes, are hereby delegated to the President of the Board, as the chief fiscal officer of the District. Without in any way limiting the scope of the foregoing delegation of powers, the President of the Board, to the extent permitted by Section 58.00(f) of the Local Finance Law, is hereby specifically authorized to accept bids submitted in electronic format for any bonds or notes of the District.

SECTION 6. The temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the purpose or purposes described in this resolution.

SECTION 7. This resolution shall constitute the declaration (or reaffirmation) of the District's "official intent" to reimburse the expenditures authorized in this resolution with the proceeds of the bonds, notes or other obligations authorized herein, as required by United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2.

SECTION 8. Each of the obligations authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such obligations, shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, and such obligations shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by a general tax upon all the taxable real property within the District, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain

statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York). The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations, and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District by appropriation for (1) the amortization and redemption of any such obligations to mature in such year and (2) the payment of interest on any such obligations to be due and payable in such year.

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

L. A Bond RESOLUTION, DATED January 20, 2026, of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") authorizing the issuance of serial bonds or OTHER obligations of the District (UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000) TO FINANCE THE district's COST of CERTAIN approved LEGAL settlements, AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES (IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

SECTION 9. The President of the Board is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the obligations authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and may designate the obligations authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" in accordance with Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

SECTION 10. The President of the Board is further authorized to enter into a continuing disclosure agreement with the initial purchaser of the obligations authorized hereunder (or any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such obligations), containing provisions that are satisfactory to such purchaser in compliance with the provisions of Rule 15c2-12, as promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

SECTION 11. The President of the Board is further authorized to call in and redeem any outstanding obligations (at such times and in such amounts and maturities as may be deemed appropriate after consultation with District officials and the District's municipal advisor), to approve any related notice of redemption, and to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to effectuate any such calls for redemption pursuant to Section 53.00 of the Local Finance Law, with the understanding that no such call for redemption will be made unless such notice of redemption shall have first been filed with the District Clerk.

SECTION 12. In the absence or unavailability of the President of the Board, the Vice President of the Board is hereby specifically authorized to exercise the powers delegated to the President of the Board in this resolution.

SECTION 13. The District Clerk is hereby authorized to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in the District's official newspaper(s). The validity of the obligations authorized hereby, or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such obligations, may be contested only if:

(1) _____ (a) _____ such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

- L. A Bond RESOLUTION, DATED January 20, 2026, of the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") authorizing the issuance of serial bonds or OTHER obligations of the District (UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000) TO FINANCE THE district's COST of CERTAIN approved LEGAL settlements, AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES (IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution (or a summary thereof) are not substantially complied with.

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within 20 days after the date of such publication; or

(2) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

SECTION 14. This bond resolution is effective immediately and shall be placed in the official minutes of the Board as an official action of the Board.

X. OPEN SESSION (Policy 1510)

XI. 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. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jeffery Thomas	Collin Reid	Marc Freda
Karen Young	Dawn Kauderer-Kromer	

2. Appointments

b. Regular

RESOLVED: That the *teaching appointment*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Marissa Henesey	Janinna Farragher	
-----------------	-------------------	--

A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

d. Mentor

RESOLVED: That, *mentor*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Kimberly Gugino (chg.)		
------------------------	--	--

g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jessica Greco		
---------------	--	--

h. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ashley Bell	Gabrielle Carrier	Dina Mann
Elif Weiser	Jacqueline Stablewski	Mary Rao

j. Co-Curricular Activities

j. Co-Curricular Activities, Music, 2025-2026 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, Music*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jessica Gottschall		
--------------------	--	--

j. Co-Curricular Activities, High School, 2025-2026 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, High School*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Richard Cicero		
----------------	--	--

A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

j. Co-Curricular Activities, Middle School, 2025-2026 school year

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities, Middle School*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Anna Stang (chg.)	Kelly Gravel	Samantha Carol Grawe (chg.)
Diana Hyland		

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. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Devon Perri	Daniel White	Alex Gauld
Victoria Wilkinson		

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Gary Cox	Debbie Opala (chg.)	
----------	---------------------	--

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Leon Higbee	Joseph Smajdor	Roda Ndayikunda
Kaylee Holderrieth	Siany Kloss	Amy Reinhart
Allison Janowski		

A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued...

II. Service

A. Regular

2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Felicia Kirkland	Kaylee Holderrieth	Siany Kloss
Amoni McKithen	Christopher Dabney	

e. Transfer

RESOLVED: That, the *transfer* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lisa Cebulski	Christine Donaldson	Susan Perras
Amanda Reed		

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Debbie Opala	Ariel Carlino	
--------------	---------------	--

g. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lisa Schmitt	Victoria Wilkinson	Anjum Qadri
Debbie Opala		

h. Salary Adjustment/Confidential Employee Agreements

RESOLVED: That, the *salary adjustment & confidential employee agreements* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 745 dated January 20, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Amy Reinhart		
--------------	--	--

A G E N D A

XII. ADJOURNMENT

XIII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- a. 2026 State of the State Book