

**SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mr. Bellanti, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Mr. Bellanti led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

**ABSENT:**

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, 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. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:07 pm for matters related to a student matter covered by FERPA and contract negotiations.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 6:55 pm. Action was not taken during the executive session.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, February 10, 2026 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting held Thursday, January 22, 2026, 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. Call for Nominations – BOCES Election from Nancy Potter.
2. A nomination letter from Janet MacGregor Plarr
3. A nomination letter from John Sherman

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. Superintendent update**

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

**B. Outstanding Educator Award**

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, recognized Alan Baczkiewicz at the voting meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**C. Superintendent update**

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**OPEN SESSION – Agenda Topics – Policy 1510**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the following resolution was offered for agenda items A, B, C, D, and E.

**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

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

**A. Special Education**

**1. Class placements for 2025-2026 – Policy 7613**

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 27, 2026.

**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 students 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 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 27, 2026.

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. Internal Audit Report & Corrective Action Plan**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approve the Internal Audit Report for 2024-2025 and the Corrective Action Plan in response to the Internal Auditor’s Report as recommended by the District Audit Committee.

and be it further...

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

**D. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – Second 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 22, 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 22, 2026 presentation.

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

and be it further...

**E. 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 February 10, 2026 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 February 10, 2026 presentation.

a.	<b>3311 – Notification of Disclosure of Employee Disciplinary Records</b>
b.	<b>5850 – Data Networks and Security Access</b>

**NEW BUSINESS-continued...**

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

J. Coleman, during the Study Session on February 3rd, asked if we discussed remote options for snow days. Dr. Ginestre indicated that there is a plan being prepared. Mrs. Battaglia inquired about the comfort levels of the teachers in remote teaching. Dr. Wilson spoke about the PD catalog available, and Dr. Ginestre indicated that principals are discussing the plans in their faculty meetings.

*J. Coleman:* With it being February and Black History Month, Student Government put together a few things honoring Black History. Our vice president, Summer Mack, and I set up the wall titled, "Celebrate Black History Every Day" in front of the senior lounge, recognizing a new individual each day of the month, which has received a lot of positive feedback. Some members of the Academic, Student Life, and DEI Committee put together videos and posters to be displayed on the morning show. The chair of that committee put together a video on Oprah Winfrey, and I created one on Amanda Gorman. We plan to do the same thing in March for Women's History Month. It is spirit week, and we have our spirit week calendar up for our students to participate in and show off their school spirit. We did plan to have a pep rally this Friday, but there were conflicting issues with the organization and the wrestling tournament. We do plan to have one later in March, with it potentially being outside if the weather is nice enough. Student Government is also putting together a sweetheart station tomorrow for students to stop by and order a rose and a lollipop free of charge to be delivered to someone anonymously. Members of Student Government will gather on Thursday and Friday, first period, to go to the allotted classrooms and hand them out. Senior tiles were originally scheduled to be painted after school each day this week, but due to timing, we will move them to next week, where seniors can come in and paint, which drastically extends the amount of time we would have. I'd like to give a shout-out to Mr. Lucenti for making this happen. Lastly, Summer Mack and I are still regularly meeting with Dr. Luchey to discuss plans for mental health awareness. We will begin putting together pamphlets and informational posters that students will be able to take and read. We also reached out to Mr. Murphy and plan to work with him sometime this week on trying to get the weight room back open during the day for students to utilize. We've also contacted Dr. Bailey about bringing back vending machines to the senior lounge. Thank you.

*M. Jansen:* We had a PTA meeting, and I wasn't there for it long, but they had a great turnout for their McTeacher night, and they raised \$1,040, which is pretty good. That was the same night as our Board Meeting, so I couldn't make that. I went to the National Honor Society. Just watching the pride of those parents put on their children's pins, I love seeing their faces. We all sat in for the budget meeting, and the High School Musical Jr. was fun to watch. We all got our On board this last month. There was an article on little things that can make a difference for Superintendents, and one of the things it says is to acknowledge the invisible work, and we know how much work you put in behind the scenes. So, I think it's appropriate to say thank you for all you do behind the scenes that make this district successful. I think we'd all agree that there's a lot you do. So, thank you.

*S. Johnson:* I had a SHEF meeting at the beginning of the month, our audit committee, which we just got out the report on tonight. It was actually a relatively short meeting because the audit went so well. I did manage to make it to the breakfast of champions at the middle school for the seventh and sixth grade, and they said it is specifically in that order, rather than vice versa. I missed the one for the eighth grade because my car and a flat tire wouldn't cooperate. I also attended the virtual NYSSBA conference last Friday. I did quite a bit on it. I can write it up and get it out to everybody. I think I brought up the majority of the main points at our budget meeting on Saturday. Today I was at a leadership event with the Western New York Educational Service Council. They were doing a handful of things that's primarily aimed at people who are looking to be

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued...**

superintendent candidates and to help them along in the process of what to expect. I was asked to come in and speak as part of a panel so that they could get a board member's perspective, and it was with our former superintendent, Tony Day, Dr. Capuana, and Scott Payne, who's the district superintendent for Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES. We sat down with a small group of people and talked about it. Tony had a whole bunch of questions prepared about where we would go with it in order to help out future superintendents with interviewing. They also had a few sessions before that. I went to one where they had four superintendents of different levels of service, and we were asking them a variety of questions and letting the audience talk to them. I know there was also one about budget building in another room. I didn't go into that one. It was a very interesting process. Not a huge group, but you know people are looking have a role like yours at some point (spoken to Dr. Ginestre). It's to prepare them for what they need to know when they get there, and what type of things they should expect.

*A. Battaglia* - nothing new for me.

*D. Rabenold* - One was my little adventure to DC. Thank you to the district for sponsoring me. It's not an inexpensive trip, and unfortunately, at times it feels like a lot to do about nothing. Hill Day is the day we prepped for. I met with the chief of staff, the two senators, and I couldn't get to Langworthy, although I stopped and dropped the card off, but the final was Tim Kennedy. The theme across most of those conversation was not about how do we help you, although they say they want to help us in terms of the IDEA and the Title 1 and some of these other issues we had there, but they complained constantly about the administration and they complained about ICE and they complained about lots of things and even rose above professionalism and swore a couple times. I was really disappointed in it. So, as a representative of Western New York and my role, what I did was suggest to help get some bipartisan support on where we want to go. I asked if the school districts could prepare something that shows the use of the funds, how we're using them, and the results we're getting from them, would that help again get fully funded and whatever else we were trying to do and most of them responded yes. Again, every meeting I sat in, I delivered that message and I also at the end delivered Sweet Home's response to the issues, which primarily my focus was on the amount of money we receive for Title 1, where we're getting a million dollars, and we're spending 11. So really, I think it drove home what we're trying to do and why we were there. So otherwise, I enjoyed being there. I really like the whole kind of knock on the door and say, "Guys, this is what's going on out there. How can you help us?" I got home reasonably late Tuesday night, so I couldn't make the school board meeting. I'll just make a comment on Saturday. I do hope that we move towards something under the cap and even below that if we can. I know there are some additional things we want to purchase that make sense to purchase now. In the end, I do think as Marianne has said, seniors are out there. It's not easy in today's world and economy to make ends meet. You got higher utility costs, and you got taxes that seem to never go down. So, just one other thing I want to clarify this because I said something to Dr. Ginestre on Saturday about the amount of effort and time and money we spent on getting people to show up to vote on the capital project. It is really shocking to me that we would spend that time, money, and effort to deliver 600 votes. I always thought that maybe there should be some percentage of people that need to show up in order for it to be a valid vote, but I know that doesn't exist. Shame on those who really didn't want to have their taxes raised for not showing up. I didn't mean anything personal. I'm just disappointed in the number of people who show up to vote. So, thank you.

*D. Anthon*: Not too much for me. There was a Glendale PTA meeting last month. It was Jamie Mancine, the president's last meeting. So, everybody sobbed pretty much the whole time. She has moved to Syracuse. I don't believe there's a new person in that seat yet. There is a meeting tomorrow, so, I hope to find out what is happening with Glendale then. I did a couple of school drop-offs. Ready Academy has a couple of senior projects where they are beautifying the space and creating a student lounge. I had some extra paint and things that I bought for the house that they had requested donations for, and I stopped at Maplemere and dropped some stuff off, and that's pretty much it.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-continued...**

*B. Laible:* We had the audit committee meeting last week, and as Scott mentioned, we had the results tonight. I think the job that Mr. Feldmann and his team does, you know, is great. These audits are always going to come up with something, but I think it was relatively minor. I attended the middle school musical, and I really enjoyed that. The theme this year, with being a high school musical, just seemed to really resonate well with all the students and parents. My daughter does the microphone. All the students who were the actors and actresses did a great job, but I also know there are a lot of students and teachers behind the scenes. I know for the high school, my nephew's an art teacher here, and he was out at Michael's after school getting supplies for the costumes for the high school musical. There's a lot of work that goes on for these, not just during the time that the teachers are here, but they do a lot of extra work after hours, and they come in on Saturdays. I attended the Willow Ridge Sweetheart dance on January 30th. With the job that we're doing, sometimes we're many feet away from the ground floor at times. Despite all the challenges and issues we have, it's nice going to these things because there are just hundreds of kids having fun dancing, doing Valentine's Day cards, and whatnot. I wasn't allowed on the dance floor. I was told that I was considered an Uber driver primarily for the event. It was a lot of fun just to see all the young kids there enjoying themselves and having a lot of fun. It's important to keep perspective with everything we're doing. Ultimately, it's about the kids.

*P. Bellanti:* I have a Willow Ridge PTO meeting the first week of March, and then we have our Athletic Council meeting with Young and Wright, and other groups on March 10th. We will also be having an open house with our first bargaining unit on March 10<sup>th</sup>, before our board meeting. We will get out the information on that.

**OPEN SESSION - Policy 1510**

There were no speakers during the open sessions at the Study Session and Voting Meeting, but we did have a speaker during our Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Budget Meeting.

Katherine Smyser – Parent and Teacher Aide for the District- I just had a question to follow up on some conversations I had about long-term building maintenance and improvements that are not included in the capital plan. Specifically, I've talked to both Dr. Ginestre and Mr. Feldmann about the middle school track. In talking about the capital project, it was presented as an upgrade for every single student in our district. We do have wheelchair users who participate in gym class at the middle school, and the current dirt track is inaccessible to them to the point where our wheelchair user students who participate in gym class have to wheel themselves around the tennis courts while their peers go around the track. Additionally, there is a huge safety issue with fencing, so when we have students who are fast, and there is no fencing currently between the middle school track and the former Value City parking lot, there's no fencing at all. There is also no fencing to Maple Road, but there is a bog situation. The understanding is they'd probably get bogged down in the bog before they got to Maple Road. It is a concern for us who are working with special needs students, but also just maybe I know that like all the signage, a lot of the information comes on the high school sign because the high school is sort of seen as like the center of the district, but the middle school is the most public facing part of the district, I would say, in that it's right on Maple Road and people drive by it. The conversations I've had in the past with Dr. Ginestre and Mr. Feldmann have been very amenable, and this is something we have to address, but there is this perception that we're doing two tracks on this capital project right now, and we're leaving one track completely non-ADA compliant, and the most public-facing track non-ADA compliant. There's the safety issue, there's sort of the inclusion issue, and also, it's just at some point it's going to be a usability issue, right? So we have all this space behind the middle school, we have this space beside the middle school, and it's used for sports and other various incidental things when the goose poop doesn't prevent that. As both a parent, a community member who drives by the school, and working with the special needs population, I don't mean this to undermine any conversations that we've had with Dr. Ginestre or Mr. Feldmann, but I think as a board and as a community we really need to think about like other things that are not getting done that weren't included in the capital project, and this would be one that I would just call your attention to. Thank you for your time this morning.

**PERSONNEL**

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

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointments**

**a. Tenure**

RESOLVED: That, the *tenure* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Brittany Weber		
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**c. Encumbered**

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Devon Perri		
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**i. Salary Adjustments**

See Salary Adjustments- In-service Credits Memo dated February 10, 2026  
See Salary Adjustments- Graduate Credits Memo dated February 5, 2026

**B. Substitutes**

**2. Appointments**

**a. Long Term**

RESOLVED: That, the *long term* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lisa Schmitt		
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**b. Substitute teachers for 2025-2026 school year**

RESOLVED: That, the *substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** 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. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**d. Mentor**

RESOLVED: That, the *mentor* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Nicole Baker (Chg.)	Scott Harriger	Paul Szymendera
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**PERSONNEL-continued...**

**I. Teaching and Administrative**

**B. Substitutes**

**2. Appointments**

**g. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sarah Wright	Kimberly Marianos (Chg.)	Patricia Miranda
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**h. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ann Marie Kelly	Michael Prince	Ashleigh Emery
Kiele Barbalate		

**C. Interscholastic Activities**

**1. Interscholastic Activities (SPRING) 2025-2026**

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments-spring* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jon Campolo	Michael Mettler	Cory Mitchum
Luke Rehbaum	Joseph Bennett	Jane Woloss
Keegan Woloss	Kelsey Chubb	Samantha Dean
Crystal Carlson	Rayna Davis-Tubin	Brian Koziol
Steven Becker	David Radlich	Donald Lilly
Morris Fried	Heidi Jones	Jeremy Murphy
Christopher Monaco	Jerell Thompson	Kelly Corcoran
Neal McLoughlin	Richard Cicero	Christopher Dabney
Jayna Galley	Thomas Smith	Evan Lysek
Gavin Janas	Cole Milliron	

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**1. Discontinuance**

**a. Retirement**

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Angela Martinelli		
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**PERSONNEL-continued...**

**II. Service**

**A. Regular**

**2. Appointments**

**a. Regular**

RESOLVED: That, the *appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Pradyuman Joshi	Debbie Opala	Amzad Khan
Christopher Dabney (Chg.)		

**c. Permanent Civil Service**

RESOLVED: That, the *permanent Civil Service* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lisa Cebulski	Amanda Reed	Christine Donaldson
Susan Perras		

**f. Leave of Absence**

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Gary Mistretta	Kevin Schwab	Lisa Schmitt
Eric Keim		

**g. Reinstatement from Leave**

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Carla Semaan	Ariel Carlino	Gary Mistretta
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**B. Substitutes**

**2. Per Diem Substitutes**

RESOLVED: That, the *per diem substitutes* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 746 dated February 10, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Mr. Laible, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	7	No	0	Absent	0
Carried	X				

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Falon Derion  
Secretary, Board of Education  
District Clerk  
Sweet Home Central School District

DRAFT