



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF AMHERST AND TONAWANDA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDY SESSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
Immediately following voting meeting

A G E N D A

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, March 17, 2026 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

II. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the voting meetings held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, and Wednesday, February 25, 2026, be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

1. E1B Call for Nominations
2. Letter from Janet MacGregor Plarr
3. Letter from John W. Sherman

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. SkillsUSA Regional First Place Winner

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education will recognize Gavin Flatau at the study session on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

B. Hero Spotlight

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education will recognize Susan Perras and Elizabeth Barbato at the study session on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

C. 26/27 Budget Update

Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Plant Services, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

D. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

E. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

F. Upcoming Events

March 9...	Athletics: Spring Sports Begin HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 pm
March 10...	DO: BOE Study Session, 6:30 pm @ NVCC

A G E N D A

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT-continued

E. Upcoming Events

March 11...	GL: PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
March 12...	HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 pm
March 13...	<i>Staff Development Day, No School Pre-K to 12</i> HS: Musical, 7:30 pm @ HS Aud
March 14...	Music: Elementary All County Music Festival @ Grand Island HS HS: Musical, 7:30 pm @ HS Aud DO: Dollars for Scholars Craft Show/Basket Raffle @ HS, 9:00-3:00 pm
March 15...	HS: Musical, 2 pm @ HS Aud
March 17...	DO: BOE Voting Meeting, 6:30 pm @ NVCC
March 18...	DO: DEI Meeting, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
March 19...	GL: McTeacher Night, 4:30 – 7:30 pm
March 20-21...	Music: Senior High All County Music Festival @ UB
March 24-27...	GL: Scholastic Book Fair
March 24-26...	MS: Night at the Library, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
March 24...	HH: Spring & Cap/Gown Pictures GL: Literacy Night, 6:00 pm MS: Night at the Library, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
March 25- Apr 1...	HH: BOGO Book Fair
March 25...	Music: Elementary All County Music Festival @ Grand Island HS MM: Spring Pictures MS: Night at the Library, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
March 26...	HH: Multicultural Night/Book Fair/Art Show MS: Night at the Library, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
March 27...	WR: Multicultural Night, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
March 27-28...	Music: Elementary All County Music Festival @ Kleinhans
April 1...	Music: Heritage Heights Spring Concert, 6:30 pm MM: PTA Meeting, 6:15 pm
April 3-10...	<i>Spring Recess, No School Pre-K to 12</i>
April 10...	DO: Dollars for Scholars Meat Raffle, 7:00 – 9:30 pm @ St. Leo's

VI. OPEN SESSION: AGENDA TOPICS – Policy 1510

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rules for Use of Optical Scan Voting Machines

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District the following rules were adopted:

Rules for use of Optical Scan Voting Machines and the Submission of Questions or Propositions to be Placed Thereon:

A G E N D A

VII. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

A. Rules for Use of Optical Scan Voting Machines

1. The form of ballot and the voting procedure shall conform substantially with the operational requirements of the optical scan voting machines to be used by the District, and with any requirements prescribed by the Election Law of the State of New York for use of optical scan voting machines applicable to school districts.
2. The optical scan voting machines shall be those supplied by the Erie County Board of Elections, but if voting machines are not available from that source, voting machines may be obtained from some other source satisfactory to the Board of Education.
3. For each optical scan voting machine used, two (2) qualified voters of the District shall be appointed by the Board of Education to act as Election Inspectors.
4. The Board of Education shall pay all expenses necessary or incidental to the use or rental, as the case may be, of optical scan voting machines, including but not limited to the operation, calibration, maintenance and securing thereof and the training of the Election Inspectors in the use thereof.
5. Immediately before any optical scan voting machine is used at meetings, elections or votes, annual, special or however otherwise denominated or designated, the Election Inspectors shall examine and calibrate it and see that the machine is, in all respects, in proper condition for use. The Election Inspectors shall also ensure that the configuration of the voting area provides for voter privacy.
6. Each optical scan voting machine shall remain locked against voting, and the paper ballots cast through the optical scan voting machine shall be secured and retained, for the period of thirty days following the meeting, election or vote at which same has been used and as much longer as may be necessary or advisable because of existing or threatened contest over the result of the meeting, election or vote, except as otherwise provided by the Education Law of the State of New York.
7. Any proposition to be voted upon, when presented other than by the Board of Education, must be set forth in such manner as to conform to the requirements of the Education Law of the State of New York, and must be presented in a petition bearing the signatures of twenty-five (25) qualified voters, or 5% of the number of qualified voters voting in the previous annual vote - whichever is greater, of the School District (except where the number of signatures is specified in said Education Law in which case the provisions of the Education Law shall apply) and filed with the Board of Education not less than sixty (60) days before the meeting, election or vote, unless otherwise prescribed by law.
8. Any question or proposition to be presented by the Board of Education must be set forth in a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, election or vote, except as to a question or proposition required by law to be stated in the published notice of the meeting, election or vote, in which event such resolution must be adopted at a meeting of the Board not less than fifty (50) days before the meeting, election or vote, except that the fifty (50) day time limitation shall not apply to a special meetings called under the provisions of Section 2007 subdivision 3, paragraph a. of the Education Law of the State of New York.

A G E N D A

VII. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

A. Rules for Use of Optical Scan Voting Machines

9. In the event that any question or proposition to be voted upon is too lengthy to be placed upon the ballot to be used in conjunction with the optical scan voting machines, an abstract of such question or proposition shall be placed thereon in such form as may be prescribed by the Board of Education of the District, concisely stating the purpose and effect and setting forth and indicating generally and briefly the subject matter of the question or proposition. Wherever the question is excessively lengthy as above described, a sufficient number of copies thereof shall be available at the voting place in order that each voter may be furnished with a copy thereof before voting.
10. Except as may be otherwise required by law, the District Clerk shall have sole discretion in determining when optical scan voting machines shall be used. Paper ballots may be used if so determined by the District Clerk, including under circumstances where optical scan voting machines are unavailable or not operational, in which case the use of paper ballots shall be consistent with applicable legal requirements, as well as consistent with these Rules to the extent practicable as determined by the District Clerk.

B. Annual Public Hearing and District Vote – Policy 1610

RESOLVED: THAT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND DISTRICT VOTE OF THE SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AMHERST AND TONAWANDA, NEW YORK, BE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting and election of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 7:00 am (EDST) to 9:00 pm (EDST) at the Norman Vergils Community Center, located at the north end of the high school behind the District Office for the purpose of electing one member of the Board of Education, voting on the budget of the District for the 2026-27 fiscal year, and voting on any other proposition(s) authorized by law and the rules of the Board to be voted on at such time.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the election of members of the Board shall be held to fill one (1) at-large position on the Board. The candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected to a five-year term (commencing July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2031.)

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that voting at the Annual Vote shall consist of the Board election, voting on the following propositions, and voting on any other propositions authorized by law and the rules of the Board to be voted on at such time:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 (2026-27 BUDGET)

RESOLVED, that the basic budget for the Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda (“the District”) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

A G E N D A

VII. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

B. Annual Public Hearing and District Vote – Policy 1610

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that applications for absentee ballots may be obtained from the Office of the School District Clerk, 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, New York, or on the District website at www.sweethomeschools.org. A list of persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available in the Office of the School District Clerk on each of the five days prior to the election during regular office hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk's Office on or before May 12, 2026 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter for completion. Applications may be filed on or before May 18, 2026 if the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter at the District Clerk's Office. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that military voters who are qualified voters of the School District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk or via the District website, www.sweethomeschools.org. For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 4:00 pm on April 23, 2026. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. (EDST) and 5:00 p.m. (EDST) no later than Monday, April 20, 2026. Each petition shall be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, or 2% of the number of qualified voters voting in the 2025 annual vote - whichever is greater, and shall state the name and residence of the candidate, and shall state the residence of each signer.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that optical scan voting machines will be used to record the votes on the Board election, the budget, and the other proposition(s) presented, pursuant to the District's Rules for the Use of Voting Machines and the Submission of Questions of Propositions to be Placed Thereon. Printed copies of the Rules are available at the Office of the District Clerk located at 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst, New York.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the Budget for the school year 2026 – 2027 will be available to any taxpayer of the District from May 5, 2026, until and including the date of the election, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, at any school of the district between the hours of 8:00 a.m. (EDST) and 3:30 p.m. (EDST).

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Board of Education meetings in May will be held on May 5, 2026 and May 12, 2026.

For publication during the weeks of: April 2, 2026, April 16, 2026, April 30, 2026, and May 14, 2026.

A G E N D A

VII. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

C. 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 Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated March 2, 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 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 2025-2026 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated March 2, 2026.

D. 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-Classroom Activity Report as provided.

E. 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.

A G E N D A

VII. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

F. Bids – Policy 5410

1. Commercial Printing Envelopes and Forms, Specialty Paper & Other

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the commercial printing envelopes and forms bid #2026-27-14 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **\$14,353.09**.

Concept Print	\$398.00
Indiana Printing & Publishing Co.	\$738.29
Orffeo Printing	\$12,423.00
Quill	\$67.80
Ridgewood Press	\$726.00
Total	\$14,353.09

2. Commercial Printing School Calendar

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the commercial printing school calendar bid #2026-27-13 to **Orffeo Printing & Imaging** in the amount of **\$4,642.00**.

3. Commercial Printing – Sweet Home Source Magazine

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the commercial printing “Sweet Home Source Magazine bid #2026-27-15 to **Orffeo Printing & Imaging** for a total bid of **\$15,470.00**.

G. Capital Improvement Project Phase 1 – Hazardous Materials Survey and Testing

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Hazardous Materials Survey and Testing RFP to **Stohl Environmental** with a total cost of **\$5,085.00** for Phase 1 of the Capital Improvement Project.

H. Overnight Field Trip Request – Policy 8460

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following Overnight Field Trip Requests:

Hungen, Germany, August 17-31, 2026 (Leader – Daniel Murphy)

I. 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.”

A G E N D A

VII. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

I. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – Second Reading

At the regular Board of Education meeting held on February 10, 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 February 10, 2026 presentation.

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

J. Contract for iPads/Laptops with Apple Inc. (Lease)

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District hereby agrees to enter into the attached contract with the Apple Inc. for a four-year period to authorize Apple Inc. to furnish certain computer services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950 (4) (JJ) for an amount not to exceed \$812,385.00 and authorizes 4 annual payments to be made to Apple Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$203,096.25 per year.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District hereby authorizes the Board President to execute on behalf of the district.

K. Designees for Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to appoint impartial hearing officers as needed; and in the event the Board President is unavailable, the Vice President is authorized to make such appointments.

VIII. OPEN SESSION – Policy 1510

IX. PERSONNEL

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Luna Yager		
------------	--	--

A G E N D A

IX. PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

c. Encumbered

RESOLVED: That, the *encumbered*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Daniel White		
--------------	--	--

g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jeanne Hocieniec-Gentile	Lisa Brzeczowski	Tavis Baish
Cindy Biersbach	Jennifer DePasquale	

h. Reinstatement from leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sarah Wright		
--------------	--	--

j. Co-curricular Activities

Co-curricular Activities - High School

RESOLVED: That, the *co-curricular activities* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Zachary Garland (chg.)		
------------------------	--	--

B. Substitutes

2. Appointment

a. Long Term Substitutes

RESOLVED: That, the *long term substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jennifer Bennett	Jade Shipkosky	Samantha Crane
Ryan Palmer		

A G E N D A

IX. PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

C. Interscholastic Activities

1. Interscholastic Activities, High School, (SPRING) 2025-2026

RESOLVED: That, the *interscholastic activities appointments, High School, Spring* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Luke Rehbaum (Remove)	Luke Rehbaum	Jeremy Murphy (Remove)
Jeremy Murphy		

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Gregory Nowakowski	Charles Lyons	Julia McLean
--------------------	---------------	--------------

2. Appointments

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Dana Gregory	Precious Scott	Charlene Buczynski
Emma Coburn	Tessa Davidson	Alexis Swanson
Barachel Brown		

f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Sandyanne Hoestermann	Lisa Maurin	Lauren Webber
-----------------------	-------------	---------------

g. Reinstatement from Leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO.747 dated March 17, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Elisabetta Antonacci	Donna Daniele	Julia McLean
----------------------	---------------	--------------

A G E N D A

X. ADJOURNMENT

XI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- a. Claims Auditor's Report – Jan. 2026