



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF AMHERST AND TONAWANDA
BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDY SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

5:30 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, April 21, 2026 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

IV. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the voting meetings held Tuesday, March 10, 2026, and March 17, 2026, be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from David Lowrey.
2. Erie 1 BOCES Annual Meeting Notice.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2026/27 Budget Update

Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Plant Services, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

B. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the study session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

C. Athlete Spotlight

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education, will recognize exceptional athletes at the voting meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

D. 2026/27 Budget Update

Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Plant Services, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

E. Superintendent Update

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, will give an update to the Board of Education at the voting meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

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VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT-continued...

F. Upcoming Events

April 13...	DO: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:00 pm @ NVCC DO: SHEF Meeting, 6:00 pm @ NVCC HH: PTA Meeting, 5:00 – 6:00 pm MS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Cafe
April 14...	DO: BOE Study Session, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ NVCC
April 15...	GL: PTA Meeting, 6:30 – 7:30 pm DO: DEI Meeting, 4:15 – 6:15 pm
April 16...	HS: PTSA Meeting, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
April 21...	DO: BOE Voting Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 pm @ NVCC
April 22...	WR: Skating Party, 5:00 pm GL: Multicultural Night, 6:00 pm
April 23-24...	MM: Scholastic Book Fair
April 23...	HH: STEM Night MM: Art Show, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
April 24...	MS: Spring Activity Night, 6:30-8:00 pm
April 29...	MM: PTA Meeting, 6:15 pm
April 30...	GL: STEM Night (UPK-2), 6:00 – 8:00 pm
May 1...	MS: Spring Activity Night, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

VIII. OPEN SESSION: Agenda Topics – Policy 1512

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Adoption 2026 – 2027 – Policy 5130

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education approve and adopt for the 2026 – 2027 school year a school budget with the total expenditure of **\$108,608,147** with a breakdown as follows:

FUNCTION	BUDGETED 2026-27
Board of Education	\$40,400
Central Administration	\$290,260
Finance Services	\$702,075
Legal Services	\$300,454
Human Resources	\$337,083
Records Management	\$2,500
Education/Community Services	\$8,900
Operations & Maintenance	\$6,877,225
Central Printing & Mailing	\$207,007
Central Data Processing	\$835,744
Special Items	\$1,221,506

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IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

A. Budget Adoption 2026 – 2027 – Policy 5130

Curriculum Development & Supervision	\$403,248
School Supervision	\$1,913,285
Research, Planning & Eval	\$371,939
In-Service Training	\$367,109
Teaching –Regular Schools	\$33,594,069
Special Education	\$12,105,885
Occupational Education	\$1,336,688
Teaching Special Schools	\$150,820
Instructional Media	\$2,153,756
Pupil Services	\$3,159,811
Co-Curricular Services	\$150,002
Interscholastic Athletics	\$801,951
Transportation	\$9,586,845
Community Service	\$47,500
Employee Benefits	\$24,108,387
Debt Service	\$7,273,698
Interfund Transfers	\$260,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$108,608,147

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education adopts the Property Tax Report Card.

The following will be the order in which items should appear on the voting machines for the purpose of voting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm at the Vergils Community Center at Sweet Home High School:

- I. 2026-2027 Budget \$108,608,147
- II. Proposition #2 Extension of Maplemere Modular Classroom Lease
- II. Proposition #3 Election of one (1) school board member for five (5) year terms July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031

B. 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

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

B. 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 Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated April 6, 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 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 April 6, 2026.

C. 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.

D. Bids – Policy 5410

1. Office Supplies Bid

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Office Supplies bid #2026-2027-4 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **\$109,736.69**.

Cascade School Supplies	\$10,461.61
Discount School Supplies (DSS)	\$922.26
Eaton Office Supply	\$2,124.72
Kurtz Bros.	\$1,712.27
Pyramid School Products	\$10,622.51
Quill LLC	\$6,340.10
School Specialty LLC	\$18,576.48
Staples Contract & Commercial LLC	\$28,184.71
WB Mason Co. Inc.	\$30,792.03
Total	\$109,736.69

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

D. Bids – Policy 5410

2. Athletic Uniform Bid

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, award the Athletic Uniform bid #2026-27-18 to the following vendors at the unit price offered per item specified for a total bid of **\$13,135.40**.

Sportsman's	\$11,460.40
Triple C Alliance	\$1,675.00
Total	\$13,135.40

E. Annual District Vote – Policy 1611

1. Chief Election Inspector

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education appoint, Linda Custodi, qualified voter in the district, to act as **Chief Election Inspector** at said school district's Annual Vote to be held at Sweet Home High School, Norman Vergils Community Center, 1901 Sweet Home Road, in the Town of Amherst, on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 7 am to 9 pm and to perform such duties and to take such action as prescribed by law.

2. Inspectors of Election

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education appoint the following, each being a qualified voter in the district, to act as **Inspectors of Election** at said district Annual Vote per attached memo and to perform such duties and to take such action as prescribed by the Education Law:

- Gloria Maciak
- Frank Vecchio
- Elaine Wagner
- Eileen Hassett
- Peggy Zeranti
- John Montanari
- Lorraine Beudet
- Andy Finley

F. Erie 1 BOCES

1. Erie 1 BOCES Budget

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Sweet Home Central School District Board of Education hereby adopts the BOCES administrative budget for 2026-27, as presented.

Administrative Services \$4,255,646

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

F. Erie 1 BOCES

2. BOCES Board Members

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District cast one vote for each open seat (two (2) open seats total) for the election of the following individuals to the BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES effective July 1, 2026.

- Nominees: Mr. John Sherman, Mrs. Janet MacGregor Plarr

G. 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.

H. A Resolution, dated April 21, 2026, of the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the “District”) declaring the District’s proposed Capital Outlay Project (involving modest upgrades and improvements at the District’s high school building) to be a type ii action under SEQRA, and authorizing and directing the inclusion of funding for such project in the District’s proposed 2026-2027 budget.

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the “District”), after consultation by District officials with the District’s retained architectural firm, Young + Wright Architectural (the “Architect”), has resolved that the District should propose to undertake, during the District’s pending (2026-2027) fiscal year, a capital outlay project involving modest upgrades and improvements at the District’s High School building, such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily to be limited to, the replacement of the pool starting blocks and the replacement of the doors in the main High School, as well as all associated work (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the estimated maximum cost of the Project (inclusive of all preliminary and incidental costs) has been determined by the Architect to be \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the District is proposing that the Project be financed by the application of \$100,000 of funds to be earmarked for such purpose as a “Transfer to Capital Fund” in the District’s pending (i.e., 2026-2027) budget, with the work on the Project being anticipated to occur (and be completed) during the 2026-2027 fiscal year of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to reserve the right to expand, contract or modify the scope of the Project in light of the level of future bids received, with the understanding that the estimated maximum cost of the Project will not exceed \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State Education Department (“SED”) guidance and policy, the District and its Board of Education is the appropriate agency to be the lead agency to undertake Project review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

H. A Resolution, dated April 21, 2026, of the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") declaring the District's proposed Capital Outlay Project (involving modest upgrades and improvements at the District's high school building) to be a type ii action under SEQRA, and authorizing and directing the inclusion of funding for such project in the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.

WHEREAS, Section 617.5 of the SEQRA Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617) provides that certain activities are Type II actions that are not subject to review under SEQRA and that such activities include "routine activities of educational institutions," "maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility;" "replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site...unless such action meets or exceeds any [Type I] thresholds in section 617.4"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project constitutes such routine activities of educational institutions; maintenance or repair activities; and/or in-kind, same-site replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction activities; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (a/k/a the "MOU" or the "Letter of Resolution") between the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("OPRHP") (a/k/a the State Historic Preservation Office or "SHPO") and SED, and the terms of the MOU's exemption form, a project is exempt from SHPO review if, among other possible reasons, a building is 50 years old or older but has previously been evaluated by SHPO and found not to meet the criteria for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places (the "Registers"); and

WHEREAS, as indicated in the Cultural Resource Information System ("CRIS"), SHPO has determined in 2018 that the High School building is "not eligible" for listing on the Registers because it does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Registers; and

WHEREAS, although the High School building is "not eligible" for listing on the Registers, and the Architect has determined that the proposed work is exempt from review by SHPO given that it has no anticipated impacts on historic and archeological resources under the terms of the MOU, the Architect may nonetheless choose to submit information on the proposed work to SHPO for confirmation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the final determination that the District/Board is the lead agency for the review of the proposed action, that the proposed Project is a Type II action, which is not subject to review under SEQRA, and that the proposed Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proposed Project shall be included as a "Transfer to Capital Fund" line item (not exceeding \$100,000 in amount) in the District's proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year (with appropriate additional notification to District voters regarding the anticipated details of the work to be given in connection with the District's regular budget approval

A G E N D A

IX. NEW BUSINESS-continued...

- H. A Resolution, dated April 21, 2026, of the Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District") declaring the District's proposed Capital Outlay Project (involving modest upgrades and improvements at the District's high school building) to be a type ii action under SEQRA, and authorizing and directing the inclusion of funding for such project in the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.**

process), so that such Project may be initiated and completed (assuming voter approval of the District's proposed budget) during the District's 2026-2027 fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

I. BOCES/Dexter/Sweet Home Contract

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the lease extension with Erie 1 BOCES for the rental of space in the Dexter Terrace School Building for a term of one year, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027 per the terms outlined in the attached lease agreement.

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.

J. Capital Improvement Project Phase 1 – Geotechnical Reports

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Geotechnical Reports RFP to Terracon with a total cost of \$29,825.00 for Phase 1 of the Capital Improvement Project.

K. Capital Improvement Project Phase 1 – Surveying

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Surveying RFP to Jacobs Land Surveying with a total cost of \$7,500.00 for Phase 1 of the Capital Improvement Project.

X. OPEN SESSION

XI. PERSONNEL

- I. Teaching and Administrative**
A. Regular
2. Appointments
e. Continuing Activities

Building Leadership Team – High School 2025-2026

RESOLVED: That, the *continuing activities*, in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Debbie Opala (Chg.)	Cassandra Solis	
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A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued...

I. Teaching and Administrative

A. Regular

2. Appointments

g. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Amanda Glenn	Kathryn Littlefield	Kassandra Griffin (Chg.)
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h. Reinstatement from leave

RESOLVED: That, the *reinstatement from leave* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Cindy Biersbach	Kimberly Marianos	
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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. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Liam Kelly	Christian Neureuter	Emily Velzy
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C. Interscholastic Activities

1. Interscholastic Appointments

RESOLVED: That, the *Interscholastic Activities appointments* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Christine Kasper	Ajani Wall	Quintus Simmons
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II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

a. Retirement

RESOLVED: That, the *retirement* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Margaret Desiderio	Willam Roberts	
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A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued...

II. Service

A. Regular

1. Discontinuance

b. Resignation

RESOLVED: That, the *resignation* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Tyler Godson	Cameron Millender	Dana Gregory
Christi McKay		

c. Termination

RESOLVED: That, the *termination* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Barachel Brown	Gary Mistretta	
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2. Appointment

a. Regular

RESOLVED: That, the *regular appointment* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Lisa Noe (Chg.)	Caleb Dabney	Alexander Schuster
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c. Permanent Civil Service

RESOLVED: That, the *permanent civil service* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Estella Slaughter		
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f. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: That, the *leave of absence* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Kristin Puff	Kelly Hanes	Frank Martinelli
Jennifer Rogers	Beth Shaver	Elizabeth Barbato
Sheri Glass		

A G E N D A

XI. 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. 748 dated April 21, 2026** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Eric Keim	Kevin Schwab	Victoria Wilkinson
Beth Shaver		

XII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT