SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Sweet Home Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center. President of the Board, Mr. Laible, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

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

PRESENT: Scott Johnson, Marianne Jasen, Amy Battaglia, Brian Laible

ABSENT: Dirk Rabenold, Jessica Stephens, Danyelle Anthon

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, the Board of Education accepted the roll as called.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:04 pm for matters related to the employment history of a particular individual as well as collective negotiations.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, the following resolution was offered to come out of executive session at 6:53 pm. Action was not taken during the executive session.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RESOLVED: That, the agenda set forth for the regular Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, September 15, 2026 is hereby adopted in its entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

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MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the Board of Education voting meeting held Tuesday, September 1, 2026, be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Recognition of Richard Stuewe's Upcoming Book Publication

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, recognized Richard Stuewe, a District bus driver, who is self-publishing a series of children's books on bus safety and related topics, at the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

B. Superintendent's Report

Michael Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, gave an update to the Board of Education at the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

OPEN SESSION - AGENDA TOPICS - POLICY 1510

1. Jonathan Makeley, community member - Spoke again regarding the proposed revisions to the public-comment policy, reiterating that the time and participation minimums should be treated as a floor rather than a ceiling, and that the sign-up deadline should still allow the public adequate time to review the agenda in advance.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, the following resolution was offered for agenda items A, B, C, E, F, G, and H.

A. Special Education

1. Class placements for 2026-2027 - 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

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NEW BUSINESS-continued…

A. Special Education

1. Class placements for 2026-2027 - Policy 7613

WHEREAS, all parents have approved said special education class placements, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That, the 2026-2027 placements for students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated August 31, 2026.

2. Preschool class placements for 2026-2027 - 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 2026-2027 placements for preschool students with disabilities be approved as recommended in a memorandum to Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools, dated August 31, 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. Professional Learning Plan

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the Professional Learning Plan as written.

and be it further…

E. Unassigned Fund Balance

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the allocation of surplus funds from the 2025-2026 fiscal year, in the amount of $2,715,204 to the Unassigned Fund Balance for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

and be it further…

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NEW BUSINESS-continued…

F. School Breakfast/Lunch Prices - 2026/2027

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorize the following breakfast and school lunch prices for adults for the 2026-2027 school year.

Breakfast: Adult breakfast $3.62

Lunch: Adult lunch $5.40

and be it further…

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.

and be it further…

H. 403b Employee Option

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the addition of Orion Group -- Roth to our list of approved 403b options for our employees.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

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 August 18, 2026, the Superintendent of Schools recommended the Board of Education accept the first reading of the following revised policies: a. 1510 -- Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure); b. 1511 -- Agenda Format; c. 5140 -- Administration of the Budget.

Mr. Johnson offered the following amendments to the proposed policies for the Board's consideration. Each amendment was moved, seconded, discussed, and voted upon individually; the vote on the policies as a whole was not taken until all proposed amendments had been addressed.

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NEW BUSINESS-continued…

D. Revised Policy - Policy 1410 - Second Reading

Amendment 1 - Policy 1510, Guidelines for Participation, Section a)

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, it was moved that Policy 1510, Public Comment, Guidelines for Participation, Section a) be modified to read: "The Board of Education will provide an opportunity during each meeting for public participation," replacing the entire existing section.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

Amendment 2 - Policy 1511, Agenda Format, Sections C) and I)

Mr. Johnson's original motion - that Section C) remain on the agenda and Section I) be stricken - was withdrawn before being seconded, following discussion of where the Open Session/public participation item should fall in the agenda order.

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, it was then moved that Policy 1511, Agenda Format, Section I) be stricken, and that Section C) remain but be relocated so that the Open Session/public participation item on the agenda falls immediately following the Superintendent's Report and before New Business.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

Amendment 3 - Policy 1510, Guidelines for Participation, Section h)

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, it was moved that Policy 1510, Public Comment, Guidelines for Participation, Section h) be modified to read: "Participants must register their request to speak with the District Clerk or Deputy District Clerk at least 48 hours in advance," replacing the entire existing section. It was noted that State law separately requires the agenda to be posted a minimum of 72 hours in advance, and that the District's practice is to post it the preceding Friday.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

Prior to the final vote, Mr. Laible relayed comments from two Board members who were absent from the meeting. On behalf of Ms. Anthon, he noted her concern regarding the Board president's discretion over the order of speakers, and that the full Board will have advance access to the speaker list regardless of that discretion. On behalf of Mr. Rabenold, he noted Mr. Rabenold's preference for retaining two open sessions and his view that any speaker who introduces themselves and remains courteous should be permitted to address the Board.

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NEW BUSINESS-continued…

D. Revised Policy - Policy 1410 - Second Reading

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

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following revised policies, as amended, as provided in the September 15, 2026 presentation:

a. 1510 - Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure), as amended

b. 1511 - Agenda Format, as amended

c. 5140 - Administration of the Budget

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

OPEN SESSION - POLICY 1510

None.

Dr. Ginestre gave a statement. He reminded the public that negotiations with the District's service employees are ongoing, noting that a tentative agreement reached with the Service Employees Association's leadership in early July was not ratified by the membership. Due to this, a process must be followed in negotiations. He reported that the District and the unit have since held two negotiating sessions, exchanged proposals, and have a further session scheduled, and asked for the public's patience while both sides continue to work through the process in good faith.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Jasen, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes	4	No	0	Absent	3
Carried	X				

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

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