SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF AMHERST AND TONAWANDA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOTING MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026
6:00 pm at Maplemere Elementary

AGENDA

I. A. CALL TO ORDER
B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
C. ROLL CALL

II. MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That, the reading of the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held Tuesday, October 20, 2026, and Wednesday, November 4, 2026, be waived and are hereby adopted in their entirety.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. **Course Planning Guide** – Lisa LaBrake and Brian Koziol

B. **Maplemere Building Project Update**

C. **Superintendent's Report –** Dr. Michael Ginestre

D. **Board Goals –** Board of Education

E. **Board Self-Evaluation –** Board of Education

F. **Items of Interest**

November 18…	GL/MM: Family Lighthouse Mtg @ GL, 6:30pm - 7:30pm Mus: Concert Orchestra, Mixed Choir, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble Concert @ HS, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
November 20…	Sr. High Area All State - Fredonia
November 21…	Sr. High Area All State - Fredonia
November 25…	MM: Drop Everything and Lead
November 26-27…	Thanksgiving Recess, No School Grades Pr-K - 12
December 3…	HS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 2:30pm - 6pm WR: Math Night, 6pm - 7:30pm

A G E N D A

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-continued…

F. Items of Interest

December 4…	Elementary Half Day/Report Card Day DO: Dollars for Scholars Meat Raffle @ St. Leo's, 7pm - 9:30pm
December 7…	DO: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:15pm - 6pm DO: Education Foundation Meeting @ NVCC, 6pm - 7pm GL: PTA Meeting, 6:15pm - 7:15pm MS: PTA Meeting-Cafeteria, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
December 8…	HH: Merry Moose Starts (12/8 - 12/11) GL: Merry Moose Starts (12/8 - 12/11) Mus: 7th Grade Choir & 8th Grade Choir, 7pm - 8pm
December 9…	Mus: GL Choir & 6th Grade Choir @ MS, 7pm - 8pm
December 10…	MS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3pm - 6:35pm Mus: MM Chorus, WR Chorus Concert @ HS, 7pm - 8pm
December 11…	*Full Day ES Parent/Teacher Conf - NO SCHOOL UPK-5* HH: Merry Moose Ends (12/8 - 12/11) WR: Winter Wonderland Holiday Shop
December 14…	HH: PTA Meeting, 5pm - 6pm Mus: 6th Grade Band & 7th Grade Band @ MS, 7pm - 8pm
December 15…	DO: Board Voting Meeting @ NVCC, 6pm Mus: 5th Grade Band & 8th Grade Band @ MS, 7pm - 8pm

VII OPEN SESSION

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

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 November 2, 2026.

A G E N D A

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-continued…

A. Special Education

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 November 2, 2026.

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.

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. Sweet Home Girls Wrestling

RESOLVED: That, the Sweet Home Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, agrees to allow the combining of schools with Amherst Central School District, Tonawanda City School District, and the Cheektowaga Central School District for the sport of Girls' Wrestling for the 2026-2027 school year.

E. 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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-continued…

E. Revised Policy – Policy 1410 – Second Reading

At the regular Board of Education meeting held on November 17, 2026, the Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education accept the second reading of the following revised policies.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following policies as provided in the November 17, 2026 presentation.

a. 7135 – Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students

F. Appointments

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following appointment as provided:

Immigrant Student Rights Liaison - Dr. Michael Ginestre

G. 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 November 17, 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 November 17, 2026 presentation.

a. 3275 – Use of District Trademark-Service Marks
b. 4321 – Board Protocol
c. 5676 – Privacy and Security for Student Data

H. Suspension Appeal

WHEREAS, the Parent/Guardian on behalf of their child #810274 timely filed an appeal with the Sweet Home Board of Education pursuant to Board Policy 7313 contesting the District's suspension determination; and

A G E N D A

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-continued…

H. Suspension Appeal

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed the record of suspension in executive session to maintain the confidentiality of this matter; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board denies the appeal. The Superintendent or his designee shall send notice of this decision to the Parent.

I. Resolution Urging Congress to Fulfill Its Promise to Fund 40 Percent of IDEA Costs

A Resolution of the Sweet Home Central School District School Board Urging the United States Congress to Fulfill its Longstanding Commitment to Fund 40 Percent of Special Education Costs Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

WHEREAS, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 to ensure that students with disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, Congress made a clear commitment in IDEA to fund 40 percent of the cost to educate students to help cover the excess costs of providing special education services; and

WHEREAS, despite this longstanding promise, federal IDEA funding has consistently fallen far short in 2026 providing just 10 percent of the cost—leaving state, local school districts, and taxpayers to subsidize the federal government's unmet obligation; and

WHEREAS, students covered by IDEA have grown exponentially from 3.7 million in 1975 to 8.3 million students today; and

WHEREAS, New York State school districts collectively face a statewide special education shortfall of hundreds of millions annually, requiring local districts to redirect general education revenues to meet mandated special education needs; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding shortfall places significant and increasing pressure on local budgets, widens funding imbalances among school districts, undermines general education programs, and forces reductions in staffing, class size initiatives, mental health support, and their essential student services; and
WHEREAS, fulfilling the federal promise of 40 percent IDEA funding would provide substantial relief to New York State school districts, reduce reliance on local levies, stabilize district budgets, and strengthen educational outcomes for all students;

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-continued…

I. Resolution Urging Congress to Fulfill Its Promise to Fund 40 Percent of IDEA Costs

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Sweet Home Central School District hereby urges the United States Congress to:

1. Fulfill its statutory commitment to fund 40 percent of IDEA special education costs through a multi-year glide path;
2. Support annual increases in IDEA appropriations that meaningfully reduce the federal funding shortfall;
3. Ensure IDEA funding remains stable and protected from across-the-board cuts.
4. Publicly reaffirm the federal government's responsibility to fully fund (40%) mandated special education services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Superintendent are directed to share this resolution with:

- Members of the New York State congressional delegation;
- New York State School Boards Association;
- NYS Commissioner of Education, Dr. Betty A. Rosa; and
- NYS Legislators representing the Sweet Home Central School District

ADOPTED by the School Board of Sweet Home Central School District on this 17th day of November 2026

J. Grant of Easement to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and Verizon New York, Inc.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the grant of easement to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and Verizon New York, Inc. for the purpose and at the location as presented.

K. Acceptance of Donations

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the following donations for our Sweet Home Family Support Center:

- 500 Backpacks from Costco
- $1,000 gift card for use at Costco

L. Extracurricular Activity Account - Policy 7410

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following extracurricular activities accounts be opened.

RESOLVED: That, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take the appropriate action regarding the following extracurricular activities accounts.

ACCOUNTS TO BE OPENED: Drama Club

A G E N D A

IX. STUDENT EX-OFFICIO REPORT

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

XI. PERSONNEL

I. TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLVED: That the following *discontinuances* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A.1.a. Retirement Resignation
Keli Koran Luchey
Lisa Brzeczkowski

A.1.b. Resignation
Elham Dehghanipour
Benjamin Morton

RESOLVED: That the following *appointments* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A.2.c. Encumbered
Mya Sciolino

A.2.d. Mentor
Katelyn DiRosa
Julia Taboni
Michelle Schmitt

A.2.g. Leave of Absence
Andrea Wodarczak
Emma Ruggiero
Sarah Nowak
Lauren Mastracci
Tanya Barbic
Danielle Kawa
Kerri Iraci

A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued…

I. TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE

A.2.h. Reinstatement from Leave
Michelle Schmitt
Kailee Fitzpatrick
Lori Roth
Melinda Calandra
Andrea Wodarczak
Gavin Petrie

A.2.j. Co-curricular
Jadon Wegrzyn (Remove)
Jadon Wegrzyn

B.2.a. Substitute Long-Term Appointments
Joseph Lucenti
Amy Lipowski
Heidi Muck
Owen Van Dewater

B.2.b. Substitute teachers for the 2026-2027 school year

RESOLVED: That the *substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

B.2.c. Student teachers for 2026-2027 school year

RESOLVED: That the *student teachers* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

C.1. Interscholastic Appointments
Mia Stefeler
Patrick Mix
Sarah Wright
Tomaris Bell

A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued…

II. SERVICE

RESOLVED: That the following *discontinuances* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A.1.a. Retirement Resignation
Thomas Rackl
Barbara Sweet

A.1.b. Resignation
David Annas
Ayana Campagna
Noel Carretero
Caleb Dabney
Rochelle Drake
Joseph Emmerling
Lisa Jones
Joseph Rice
Carla Semaan
Crystal Still
Dylan Walker
Jennifer Williams

A.1.c. Termination
Ralph Gregory

RESOLVED: That the following *appointments* in the **SERVICE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A.2.a. Regular Appointment
David Annas
Rodney Carmichael
Rochelle Drake
Quinn Edholm
Liberty Genovese
Maria Koehler
Toni Morales
Noemi Sepulveda
Dylan Walker

A.2.c. Permanent Civil Service
Andrew Herb
Alexis Swanson

A G E N D A

XI. PERSONNEL-continued…

II. SERVICE

A.2.f. Leave of Absence

Gul Turk (Change)
Ravyn Adams
Ariel Carlino
Roxanne Genau
David Holm
Jeffery Lawson
Jerry Mohr
Mirvat Rizeq

A.2.g. Reinstatement from Leave

Ayana Campagna
Maria Ginsburg
Donald Lilly
John Shields
Estella Slaughter
Gul Turk
Brian White
Jeffrey Lawson
Karen Kneitinger

B.2. Per Diem Substitutes for 2026-2027 school year

RESOLVED: That the *per diem substitutes* in the **TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 755 dated November 17, 2026,** be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

XIII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Field trip requests through November 6, 2026.
b. Claims Auditor's Report, September 2026.