

## SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55

Sweet Home, Oregon

Board Chairman Jason Redick called the **regular meeting** of the board of Directors of Sweet Home School District No. 55 to order at 6:30 p.m. on October 9, 2023.

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### **Board Members in Attendance**

Jason Redick, Mike Adams, Dale Keene, Mary Massey, Jenna Northern, Jim Gourley, Floyd Neuschwander: Absent: Sara Hoffman, Amanda Carter

### **Staff Members in Attendance**

Superintendent: Terry Martin; Administrators: Kevin Strong, Barbi Riggs, Brian Brands, Josh Darwood, Todd Barrett, Josh Dargis, Mark Looney, Darrin Perry, Ralph Brown, Luke Augsburg  
Certified: Steve Thorpe, Scott Jacobson; Classified: Misty Duncan; Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

**Other Attendance:** Ronda Barton, New Era; Students of the FFA Charter at the High School, Susan Coleman, Emanuel Grajeda, Jesse Grajeda, John Marinco

### **1. Call the meeting to order/pledge**

### **2. Agenda Approval/Changes**

Chairman Redick called for changes and/or approval of the agenda.

***Motion No. 23-67: Board Member Dale Keene moved to approve the agenda as presented. Board Member Jim Gourley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously***

### **3. Public Comments:** Manuel Grajeda - Focus on reading, writing and critical thinking. State Report Card, how do you get the information and read it? Would like to have help to get this information. ODE - Looking into Graduation reports.

John Marinio - Primary Responsibility: What is the philosophy of the school.

### **4. Student & Personnel Reports/Comments**

- A. Certified & Classified Representatives: Steve Thorpe; Discussed graduation rates, dropout rates and teaching one school one family. Wants the board to ask him questions about what is going on.
- B. Student Report - Addison Graber - shared the activities that are happening at the High School and activities that are coming. Dances, games, game night, field trips
- C. Superintendent's Report:
  1. Enrollment/Attendance/Class sizes: Hawthorne won the September attendance award with 93.41%
  2. Strategic Plan Progress
    - A. Pillar 1 - OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT - State Report Card- Superintendent Martin shared the at-a-glance district profile received from Oregon Department of Education which includes; attendance, Language Arts, Mathematics, On-track to Graduate, On-time Graduation, Five-year Completion. District Goals, State Goals
    - B. Pillar 2 - THRIVING CITIZEN -FFA Chapter/Scott Jacobson - Brought the FFA Students and they presented information about their chapter.
    - C. Pillar 3 - THRIVING COMMUNITY -Jamboree Update - The district received \$41,957.81 that will go to different groups in the schools.

D. Pillar 4 - SAFE AND WELCOMING FACILITIES AND SERVICE- Seismic update on Oak Heights.

## 5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approved minutes from the September 11, 2023 School Board Meeting
- B. Approved hire of Brent Nichols, Special Education Teacher at the High School effective second semester for the remainder of the 2023-2024 School Year
- C. Approved temporary hire of Raande Sharp, 5th Grade Teacher at Oak Heights Elementary for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year
- D. Accepted Donation from Boshart Trucking for the classroom of Scott Jacobson, Agriculture Education teacher at the High School
- E. Accepted resignation of Bailey Bronson, District Substitute effective December 31, 2023

***Motion No. 23-68: Board Member James Gourley, moved to approve the revised consent agenda as presented. Board Member Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

## 6. Information/Discussion

- A. Budget Update- Kevin Strong gave a budget update on the year to date spending
- B. Division 22 Director of Teaching and Learning, Barbi Riggs, will share the Division 22 report on compliance for the 2022-23 school year. School districts must annually assess if they are in compliance or out of compliance with each Oregon Administrative Rule, Chapter 581, Division 22, Standards for Elementary and Secondary Schools. If a standard is identified as “out of compliance” the district must report this to ODE along with a written plan to correct current practices. We are in compliance.
- C. Property Tax Information: Linn County recently published the 2023-2024 property tax rates. The Sweet Home School District’s property tax rates continue to decline, decreasing by \$0.02 per \$1,000 of assessed value compared to the prior year. The permanent rate and the local option rate remained the same while the bond rate declined. The bond rate’s denominator is growing at a faster rate than the numerator, reducing the rate.

The Sweet Home School District’s initial bond was passed in 2001. The tax rate during the 2001-2002 property tax year was \$1.91 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The rate has declined since then to \$1.48 per \$1,000 due to refinancing outstanding bonds at a lower interest rate and growth in assessed value. The bond rate is also lower than it was prior to the May 16, 2017 bond election that was primarily used to renovate Sweet Home Jr. High.

## 7. Action Items:

- A. Appoint Mike Reynolds to the Budget Committee, Position #9 Sweet Home

***Motion no. 23-69: Board member Jim Gourley moved to appoint Mike Reynolds to the Budget committee, Position #9 Sweet Home. Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

- B. Appoint Kevin Hill to the Budget Committee, Position #3 Foster

***Motion No. 23-70: Board Member Mike Adams moved to appoint Kevin Hill to the Budget committee, Position #3 Foster. Board Member Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

- C. Approve to utilize federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to pay for Junior High Outdoor Recreation Area

***Motion no. 23-71: Board Member Jenna Northern moved to utilize ESSER funds to pay for Jr. High Outdoor Recreation Area. Board Member Mary Massey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**8. Board Comments:** No Comments

**9. Late Items** – No late items

**10. Future Agenda Items**

- A. Special Board Meeting October 16, 2023 at 6:30 in the DO Boardroom
- B. Next Board Officers Meeting THURSDAY, November 2, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.  
Superintendent's Office
- C. OSBA's 2023 Annual Convention, November 10-11, 2023, Portland Marriott Downtown  
Waterfront Hotel
- D. Next Board Meeting November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in DO Boardroom

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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*Signature, Board Chairman*

*Julie Emmert, Board Recording Secretary (This meeting was also recorded and saved supt/board/audio)*