

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 14, 2024.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Staff Members in Attendance

Superintendent: Terry Martin; Administrators/Supervisors: Barbi Riggs, Brian Brands, Kevin Strong, Josh Darwood, Darel Bidwell, Ralph Brown, Aaron Huff, Luke Augsburger, Nate Tyler, Darren Perry, Josh Dargis; Certified: Steve Thorpe; Classified: Michelle Bidwell, Velma Canfield; Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

Other Attendance: Skyler Chappell, New Era, Parents/Guardians of ESPY/SPARK award winners. Hannah Lovik, Antonia Jernejcic, Eturnyti Allison, Christopher Allison

1. Call the meeting to order/pledge

2. ESPY /SPARK Awards -Exceptional Student Performance this Year – This award is given to students who are doing well academically and have an exceptionally positive attitude about school. They demonstrate respect and responsibility towards staff and their peers. They show courage by not conforming to Peer pressure and refuse to accept anyone who bullies. The School Board and the District want to recognize these students by celebrating their success at the beginning of each Board Meeting. Students received a Certificate, met each of our Board members and their names were announced on the web.

A. Several other awards were presented:

1. Hannah Lovik - Life Saving award for telling aid that a student was choking
2. Antonia Jernejcic - Life Saving award for saving a choking student
3. Eturnyti Allison and Dad Christopher for telling authorities of the threats to the school

3. Agenda Approval/Changes

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

Motion No. 24-55: Board Member Jim Gourley moved to approve the agenda as amended. Board Member Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

4. Student & Personnel Reports/Comments

- A. Certified & Classified Representatives: Velma Canfield- Thanked Antonia Jernejcic for her life saving award; Steve Thorpe- Thanked Holley Church for their thoughtfulness with the baskets for ALL employees in the district. Appreciated the Superintendent and team for the threat and the way that was handled. Shared what is happening at all of the schools in the district.
- B. STUDENT REP: Rita Victor - Gave a report on Homecoming and the success it was. Student activities are up with over 219 students out for school athletes. Assemblies have been successful with parent participation. Career days are next few weeks and the annual food drive is coming up.
- C. Superintendent's Report:
Thanked Holley Church for the basket of goodies for all staff.

1. Enrollment- Superintendent Martin reported on current enrollment and funding. We are seeing smaller elementary classes.
2. Division 22 - Barbi Riggs and Darel Bidwell reported on Compliance with Pubic School Standards. By November 1 the district must share the results and compliance of Division 22. Darel Bidwell shared information on First aid compliance.
The District has met all of the requirements.
3. Strategic Plan Progress
 - A. Pillar 1 - OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT- 23/24 Assessment Results - Superintendent Martin shared the assessment results. Shared information on training days and will continue with curriculum and special ed training throughout the year.
 - B. Pillar 2 - THRIVING CITIZEN - Will get a link out to the board - Our Last you First. It was a legacy type event. It was pretty special.
 - C. Pillar 3 - THRIVING COMMUNITY- We were awarded coins from the City for our part in the threat towards the school and city.
 - D. Pillar 4 - SAFE AND WELCOMING FACILITIES AND SERVICE - Oak Heights - Entrance is open and the Gym will be in working order next week.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approved minutes from the September 9, 2024 School Board Meeting
- B. Approved hire of Rebecca Ley, Special Education Teacher at the High School for the 2024-2025 school year
- C. Approve temporary hire of Donna Dipietro, Special Education Teacher at Foster Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year

Motion No. 24-56: Board Member Jim Gourley moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board Member Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Information/Discussion

- A. Budget Update/Property Tax Information

Budget - Kevin Strong reported the YTD General Fund Spending

Property Tax - Kevin Strong shared that Linn County recently published the 2024-2025 property tax rates. Sweet Home property owners will see higher tax rates this year due to a significant increase in the City of Sweet Home Police Local Option Levy and an increase in the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District bond rate. He shared a summary of the year-to date tax rate changes for properties within the city limits. The financial impact of a \$1/923 per \$1,000 overall increase in tax rates for a property with an assessed value of \$300,000 is \$576.90. The Sweet Home School District's tax rate continued a long-term trend of decreasing, although very modestly this year.
- B. Board Policies - First Reading
 - EBBA – First Aid, Delete
 - EBBA – Student Health Services
 - EBBAA – Infection Control and Bloodborne Pathogens
 - EBBB – Injury or Illness Reports
 - EBC – Emergency Plan and First Aid
 - EBC/EBCA – Emergency Procedures and Disaster Plans, Delete
 - EBCA – Safety Threats
 - EBCB – Emergency Procedure Drills and Instruction
 - GBEB – Communicable Diseases in Schools

7. Action Items: None

8. Public Comment: None

9. Board Comments:

Floyd Neuschwander would like to see a Climate Survey sent to employees, staff, classified to see how people are feeling about the district. Would like to form a committee of board members.

Motion No. 24-57: Board Member Floyd Neuschwander made a motion to form a committee of board members to do a survey. Board Member Mary Massey seconded the motion. The motion did not pass. Mike Adams-yes, Floyd Neuschwander-yes, Mary Massey-yes - Amanda Carter-no, Jim Gourley-no, Sarah Hoffman-no, Dale Keene-no.

Dale Keene handed out a summary of what he gleaned from the OSBA Summer Conference. Information presented:

- News and information coming through the OSBA, finance and the upcoming Legislative session, were referenced extensively in the various breakout sessions. Most of the larger schools were concerned with the class size and the promises made to their unions on pay and benefits. We will see some discussions and possible legislative fixes coming out of the next legislative session. As Dale sees it, if the formula that is used to pay the school districts is updated, that could be a definite win for our school district. However, if there is a creation of a new funding stream for pay and benefits that might have a negative impact on future negotiations and our community. Definitely something to keep in the back of our minds looking forward.
- The main thing that Dale took away from the Summer Conference is how school districts are using Artificial Intelligence to help teachers reach “every student” wherever they are on the learning curve. In essence, utilizing AI allows our teachers and staff to teach to every student’s level. Using AI in a beneficial way we can create IEP’s for every student. Several examples were given on this subject and how it ties into the creativity of teaching to students in a different way utilizing different modalities. One was of a young girl that was non-verbal. With the help of AI and a personal assistant, she was able to communicate and do basic writing assignments. Along with these interesting breakout sessions, there were also many opportunities for Board Members to get some of the basic training.
- These trainings help us, as Board Members; navigate through pitfalls that we might see at the board level. Dale encouraged board members to attend the next OSBA Summer Conference if possible. He has always taken away something from these to help at the district level, and to grow as a Board Member.

10. Late Items – NONE

11. Future Agenda Items

- A. Next Board Officers Meeting, Friday, November 8, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. Superintendent’s Office
- B. Next Board Meeting November 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in DO Boardroom ** The third Monday

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Signature, Board Chairman