

SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55

Sweet Home, Oregon

Board Vice Chairman Dale Keene called the **Regular meeting** of the board of Directors of Sweet Home School District No. 55 to order at 6:30 p.m. April 13, 2026.

Board Members in Attendance

Mike Adams, Dale Keene, Jenna Northern, Rachel Maynard, Dustin Nichol, Chris Hiaasen, Robert Webster, Mary Speck Absent: Amanda Carter

Staff Members in Attendance

Superintendent: Terry Martin; Administrators/Supervisors: Kevin Strong, Darel Bidwell, Ralph Brown, Josh Dargis, Shelley Nurrey, Mark Looney, Nate Tyler Certified: Steve Thorpe; Classified; Michelle Bidwell, Brandy Duncan; Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

Other Attendance: Scott Swanson, New Era, ESPY parents and Grandparents, Jr. High student reps: Natalie Godell, Sierra Jones, Addy Osinga, Breyonna Payne, Robert Egner

1. Called the meeting to order/pledge -ESPY Students led pledge
2. ESPY Awards- 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.
3. Public Comment: Robert Egner, Comments on budget, replies from board, questions about prior meetings.
4. Agenda approval/changes
Chairman called for changes and/or approval of the agenda

Motion No. 26-22: Board Member Dale Keene moved to approve the agenda as amended. Board Member Mary Speck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster- yes

Chris Hiaasen -yes

Rachel Maynard- yes

Amanda Carter- AB

Mike Adams- yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern- yes

Mary Speck - yes

Dustin Nichol -yes

5. Student & Personnel Reports/Comments

A. Certified & Classified Representatives -Steve Thorpe- He is stepping down, this is the last meeting he will be attending. Thank the board for their service for our district. Gone through a lot from Covid to so many views. The purpose is for our kids. People are leaving not because they are disgruntled but because they are moving on in their lives, moving; having babies. Negotiations have been amazing the last two years. We are here to serve kids! Social media has been a terrible tool and the things that are being said are just not true. No Classified Representatives

B. Student Report - Cannon Klump- Kevin Strong came and gave a lesson. May Court and prom is coming up. We had a State champ assembly. If anyone has ideas for the leadership for fundraising ideas let him know. Fireschool is coming. Have a new tennis team. Band Concert, May 21, is our Choir concert. Ag science update. Theater, the 24th- 25th of this month.

Jr. High- Natalie Godell, Sierra Jones, Addy Osinga, Breyonna Payne- Leadership team from Jr. High. Sports update. Students who are overachieving. Spirit week is next week. Spring Formal is coming up with a live DJ. Thank the board for their support.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. Enrollment/Attendance Update: Hawthorne Elementary reported the highest attendance for the month at 93.34%.

2. Strategic Plan Progress

A. *Pillar 1 - Safe & Engaging Schools - Bully Report- Superintendent Martin went over the bullying report from March*

B. *Pillar 2 - Thriving Students & Prepared Citizens -Shelley Nurre, Principal at Foster and several Fox leaders. Student leadership. 5th and 6th grade students. They had to interview to be on this leadership team. Service opportunities. The student leaders all shared their experiences and what their job is at the school and the importance of the things they are doing. Madison Martin, Paige, Blake, Emma Martin*

C. *Pillar 3 - Academic Success for All*

D. *Pillar 4 -Connected School Community - Conferences - 90 to 95% in our elementary school, Jr. High 150 and over 100 for the High School. Thursday at 6:00 pm Russell Theatre it is CTE programs. We have 9 that are signing.*

Certified Appreciation week is the first week of May. We want to remember.

Superintendent Martin shared information on the teachers who are leaving the district. Budget update each month.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Approved minutes from the March 9, 2026 School Board Meeting and Special Work Session Meeting, March 20, 2026 Special Board Meeting

B. Approved out of state travel for the High School Basketball team to Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington for a team camp, June 27-July 1, 2026

C. Approved hire of Amy Middlemiss, Student Success Coordinator at the High School effective March 30, 2026

D. Accepted Resignation from Emily Wagner, Math Teacher at the High School effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year

E. Accepted Retirement from Michelle Snyder, Science Teacher at the High School effective July 1, 2026 contingent on being rehired back for the 2026-2027 School year under a post retirement agreement

F. Accepted Retirement from Heidi Thorstad, Credit Recovery Teacher at the High School effective July 1, 2026 contingent on being rehired back for the 2026-2027 School year under a post retirement agreement

G. Accepted Retirement from Jerika Spencer, 3rd grade Teacher at Hawthorne Elementary effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year

H. UPDATED: Approve Out-of-State field trip for TRIO at the High School to Seattle Washington. Tour Colleges, explore career pathways

Motion No. 26-23: Board Member Jenna Northern moved to approve the consent agenda. Board Member Dale Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster- yes

Chris Hiaasen -yes

Rachel Maynard- yes

Amanda Carter- AB

Mike Adams- yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern- yes

Mary Speck - yes
Dustin Nichol -yes

7. Information/Discussion

- A. Budget Update- Kevin Strong gave an update on budget and selected line items. Sweet Home is looking great. We have a stable financial budget for the next year 2026-2027 school year. Mary had several questions, employee hires and technology. Mr. Strong answered fully. Parent Square, Malware that type of thing. Budget
- B. Board Policies - 2nd reading with adjustments
 - JFCIA - Student Drug testing- Extracurricular Activity Participants
 - JFCIA-AR(1) - Student Drug Testing Authorization Form
 - JFCIA- AR(2) - Student Drug Testing
 - BCB - Board Officers

Motion No. 26-24: Board Member Dale Keene moved to approve accept policies presented; JFCIA - Student Drug testing- Extracurricular Activity Participants, JFCIA-AR(1) - Student Drug Testing Authorization Form, JFCIA- AR(2) - Student Drug Testing, BCB - Board Officers . Board Member Jenna Becker seconded the motion. The motion passed 7- yes and 1 no

Mary Speck shared that she did not receive her packet and felt that she did not have time to see the changes. Dustin Nichol explained the policy. Discussion continued for clarity.

Robert Webster- yes
Chris Hiaasen -yes
Rachel Maynard- yes
Amanda Carter- AB
Mike Adams- yes
Dale Keene - yes
Jenna Northern- yes
Mary Speck - no
Dustin Nichol -yes

8. Action Items - none

9. Board Comments: Rachel Maynard referenced a statement made at the previous meeting regarding an employee concern, administrative investigation, and budget impacts related to leave of absence and administrative staffing. Jenna Northern reminded the Board that personnel investigations cannot be discussed in regular session.

Mike Adams commented on the repeated discussion of the same concerns during board meetings and expressed frustration with the ongoing nature of the issue.

10. Late Items: none

11. Future Agenda Items

- A. May 4, 2026 - Board Officers Meeting - 3:30 in the Superintendents Office
- B. May 11 2026 - Board Meeting, 6:30 in the Board Room

15. Adjournment at 7:41 pm

Signature, Board Chairman

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