

## SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55

Sweet Home, Oregon

Board Chairman Mike Adams called the **Work Session** of the board of Directors of Sweet Home School District No. 55 to order at 3:00 p.m. July 13, 2026.

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### Board Members in Attendance

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

### Staff Members in Attendance

Superintendent: Terry Martin; Administrators/Supervisors: Kevin Strong; Classified; Michelle Bidwell; Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

1. Called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. Call the meeting to order

### 3. Work Session

**Presenter:** Jennifer Nelson, Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA)

Jennifer Nelson facilitated a Board Governance Work Session titled "**Aligning Priorities, Governance, and Accountability.**" The session focused on governance practices, superintendent goal setting, and the superintendent evaluation process.

Topics discussed included:

- The importance of strong governance through role clarity, shared expectations, effective communication, meaningful goals, and ongoing monitoring.
- A review of the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Board and Superintendent.
  - **Board Responsibilities:** Establishing vision, adopting policy, approving the budget, ensuring accountability, and providing superintendent oversight.
  - **Superintendent Responsibilities:** District operations, personnel, educational programs, recommendations to the Board, and implementation of Board direction.
- Discussion of governance scenarios illustrating the distinction between Board and administrative responsibilities, including:
  - Personnel complaints
  - Student safety concerns
  - Declining student achievement data
- Recognition that many day-to-day issues are administrative in nature and fall under the Superintendent's authority, while the Board's role is to provide oversight and governance.
- Review of the importance of understanding individual versus collective Board authority.
- Discussion regarding effective Board communication practices, including:
  - Reviewing Board packets in advance of meetings.
  - Maintaining professional communication.
  - Participating in ongoing Board development and training.

- Strategies for raising concerns effectively and maintaining productive working relationships.
- The relationship between the District Strategic Plan, Board priorities, Superintendent goals, and the evaluation process.
- The importance of communication, transparency, and the use of student achievement data to monitor district progress.
- Discussion regarding district operations, Board priorities, identifying evidence to measure progress toward goals, and the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation.

No action was taken during the work session.

4. Adjournment at 5:03 pm

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*Signature, Board Chairman*

*Julie Emmert, Board Recording Secretary*