

SWEET HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 55

Sweet Home, Oregon

Board Chairman Dale Keene called the Regular Board Meeting of the board of Directors of Sweet Home School District No. 55 to order at 6:30 p.m September 14, 2026.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Staff Members in Attendance

Superintendent: Terry Martin, Barbi Riggs, Brian Brands, Josh Darwood, Kevin Strong, Ryan Adams, Mark Looney, Shelley Nurre, Nate Tyler, Ralph Brown; Certified: Steve Thorpe; Classified; Michelle Bidwell, Lisa Gourley; Board Recording Secretary: Julie Emmert

Other Attendance: Brandon Saveskie, New Era, Luke Augsburg, Chelsey Augsburg, Karyn Hartsook

1. Called the meeting to order

2. Agenda Approval/Changes

Motion No. 26-56: Board Member Mike Adams moved to approve the board meeting agenda. Board Member Jenna Northern seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck -ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

3. Public Comment: Steve Thorpe expressed his gratitude to those who worked together to make the memorial service for Scott Melcher a special and meaningful event.

4. Information/Discussion

A. Certified & Classified Representatives Presidents- no representatives present

B. Student Report- Austin Hogan shared updates regarding the first day of school, fall sports, and plans for replacing the flags in preparation for Veterans Day. He also reported that repairs to the new gym are currently in progress.

C. Superintendent's Report

Attempted to share a video on the first day of school.

1. Enrollment- Enrollment is slightly higher than this time last year.

Bullseye- New Evaluation System is up and running

2. Principal Report-Strategic Plan Progress

A. *Pillar 1 - Safe & Engaging Schools* - A recap was provided of the start of the school year and staff inservice activities. The new Bullseye evaluation system is up and running.

- B. *Pillar 2 - Thriving Students & Prepared Citizens* -Mark Looney presented an update on the new playground at Hawthorne Elementary. He shared pictures of the former playground structure and the new structure. Appreciation was expressed to everyone who helped make the new playground possible.
- C. *Pillar 3 - Academic Success for All* - SB 141 - Barbi Riggs shared information regarding Senate Bill 141 and Oregon's new education legislation. Mrs. Riggs will provide the Board with monthly updates. STAR will be used as the district's assessment tool, as it was determined to be the best fit for district students. Jenna asked about i-Ready and expressed hope that STAR will be a more effective assessment tool.
- D. *Pillar 4 - Connected School Community* - Karyn Hartsook provided a presentation on the Booster Club's activities. The Booster Club hosted a meal for fall athletes, with district staff assisting by preparing hamburgers and hot dogs. The event was a great success and included a dunk tank and an ice cream truck.

On the first day of school, drinks were provided to all high school students.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approved Regular Board Minutes from the August 10, 2026 and the Special Board Meeting from August 5, 2026
- B. Approved hire of Cherrie Heimsoth, Special Ed Opportunity Rm at Foster Elementary effective August 31, 2026
- C. Approved hire of Richard Smithson, Special Ed LRC at the High School effective August 31, 2026
- D. Approved hire of Noah Talavera, Special Ed (PALS) teacher at Hawthorne effective August 31, 2026
- E. Accepted resignation from Laura Jacobsma-Opdahl, TOSA Title Teacher at Foster Elementary effective immediately
- F. Accepted Resignation from Chris Sherburne, Science Teacher at the High School effective immediately
- G. Approved hire of Phillip Ayer, Science Teacher at the High school effective August 31, 2026
- H. Approved transfer for Jennifer Ashcraft from High School Spanish Teacher to TOSA Title Teacher at Foster Elementary effective August 31, 2026
- I. Accepted resignation from Jane Ydia, Special Ed PALS Teacher at Hawthorne Elementary effective immediately ** pulled for discussion
- J. Accepted resignation from Elizabeth Eder, Special Ed Teacher at the High School effective immediately
- K. Accepted resignation from Deborah Suing, 5th Grade Teacher at Oak Heights effective immediately
- L. Approved hire of Alex Day, 5th Grade Teacher at Oak Heights effective August 31, 2026
- M. Approved hire of Juan Vasquez, Spanish Teacher at the High School Effective September 8, 2026
- N. Approved hire of Kobe Olson, Natural Resources Teacher at the High School Effective August 31, 2026
- O. Accepted resignation from Ofelia Damag, Special Ed Teacher at Foster Effective September 30, 2026
- P. Accepted resignation from Razel Hamol, Special Ed Teacher at the High School Effective September 30, 2026
- Q. Resolution 4-2627- Board Resolution of Condolence for Scott Melcher

Motion No. 26-57: Board Member Mike Adams moved to approve the consent agenda but removed I. for discussion. Board Member Jenna Northern seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck - ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

Dale Keene explained the purpose of Resolution 4:2627 -Board Resolution of Condolence for Scott Melcher

Superintendent Terry Martin provided information regarding current Special Education vacancies. Jenna Northern and Rachel Maynard asked questions regarding the vacancies. Superintendent Martin explained that the visas for the teachers from the Philippines had been revoked, resulting in the vacancies.

Motion No. 26-58: Board Member Mike Adams moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board Member Jenna Northern seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck - ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

6. Information/Discussion

A. Budget Report- Kevin Strong provided an updated budget report. Dale Keene asked about PERS and future financial considerations. Kevin explained that the district has a side account and has been preparing for future PERS costs.

B. 25-26 Integrated Programs Annual Report Kevin Strong presented the 2025–26 Integrated Programs Annual Report. Dustin Nichol asked about Measure 98 funds and whether funding was available for the Junior High. Kevin explained that the Junior High currently offers forestry and career-related classes, but these programs are not funded through Measure 98. The middle school program includes dropout prevention efforts at the eighth-grade level.

C. High School Activity Gym Update- Glulam Roof Support Beam K. Strong/Josh Darwood Kevin Strong and Josh Darwood provided an update on the permanent repair of the High School Activity Gym and explained the next steps in the repair process. The gym is currently not usable. An action item regarding the repair was included later on the agenda.

Jenna Northern asked whether the repair would affect the bond. Kevin explained that the repair is not part of the bond.

7. Action Items

A. Approve Board Policy - KNA - Immigration Enforcement on District Property

Motion No. 26-59: Board Member Jenna Northern moved to approve Board Policy KNA-Immigration Enforcement on District Property as presented. Board Member Mike Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck - ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

- B. Resolution 3-2627- Authorizing the District to use the CM/GC Contracting Method for the Upcoming SHHS Renovation and Construction Project

Motion No. 26-60: Board Member Mike Adams moved to approve the Resolution #3-2627 Authorizing the District to use the CM/GC Contracting Method for the Upcoming SHHS Renovation and Construction Project as presented. Board Member Jenna Northern seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck - ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

- C. Resolution 5-2627 - Emergency Procurement for Sweet Home High School Activity Gym Structural Repairs

Motion No. 26-61: Board Member Jenna Northern moved to approve the Resolution #5-2627 Authorizing the District to use Emergency Procurement for Sweet Home High School Activity Gym Structural Repairs. Board Member Dustin Nichol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Jenna Northern asked where the funding for the repair would come from. It was explained that the expense will be paid from the long-term maintenance fund.

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck - ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

Superintendent Martin provided additional information regarding the revocation of the teachers' visas after Jenna Northern asked about the circumstances surrounding the situation. Superintendent Martin explained the impact the visa revocations had on staff and families.

Motion No. 26-62: Board Member Jenna Northern moved to approve the consent agenda item I. as presented. Board Member Mike Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Robert Webster - ab

Chris Hiaasen - yes

Rachel Maynard - yes

Amanda Carter - yes

Mike Adams - yes

Dale Keene - yes

Jenna Northern - yes

Mary Speck - ab

Dustin Nichol - yes

8. Board Comments: Dale Keene explained the email password update. Reminder that the agendas are always posted on the website

9. Late items: None

10. Future Agenda Items

- A. Next Board Officers Meeting - Monday, October 5, 2026 at 3:30
- B. October 9, 2026 - Teacher Inservice Day
- C. Next Board Meeting Monday, October 12, 2026 at 6:30pm
- D. October 22-23, 2026 - Parent Teacher Conferences

11. Adjourned at 7:39pm

Signature, Board Chairman

Julie Emmert, Board Recording Secretary