



**FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J**  
School Board Meeting Minutes

---

**REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD**

**May 19, 2025**

**Zoom Webinar & In-Person Meeting**  
88834 Territorial Rd.  
Elmira, Or 97437

**CALL TO ORDER (Agenda Item 1):** The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

In attendance were Directors Kathleen Pizzola, Lisa McCann, Mark Boren and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Andrea Larson attended remotely via zoom. Board Chair Graham submitted her resignation via email May 15<sup>th</sup> and was approved in Late Items (10) later in the meeting.

We have a shared vision in the Fern Ridge School District: Provide excellence for every student so that each will reach their greatest potential.

Thank you to the members of the public who have joined us. As a reminder, School Board meetings and work sessions are meetings of the Board held in public, providing an opportunity to observe the Board's discussion and actions.

In an effort to conduct official Board business, we ask that the audience be respectful and refrain from questions, comments, and unnecessary noise while the Board conducts the meeting.

There is an opportunity for citizen comment tonight, and the Board looks forward to hearing from those who signed up. I will share some reminders when we get to that portion of the meeting.

Also, please note that all Board meetings are live streamed and posted on the School Board area of the website.

**CITIZENSHIP AWARD (Agenda Item 2):** The May Citizenship Award was postponed until June since the winner was a fifth grader who was at Outdoor School.

**FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3):** Board Chair Boren led the flag salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 4):** The Fern Ridge School Board encourages public input. A person wanting to provide public comment will need to complete and submit an Intent to Speak form to the Board secretary by 1:00 pm on the day of the board meeting.

Public comment is limited to this place on the agenda not to exceed a total of 30 minutes for all commenters. A person giving public comment is limited to an established time limit of (3) three

minutes. While speakers may, during public meetings, offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, the Board will not hear personal complaints concerning district personnel nor against any person connected with the school system.

- Community member Jessica Colwell spoke about her concerns of student safety at Outdoor School.
- Community member Jen Gent spoke about parental consent with regards to Outdoor School.
- Community member Erik Carlstrom submitted a letter to be read in to record with regards to comments from a board member from the last meeting and community social media pages.
- Community member Jason Alansky spoke to the board about comments made at the last meeting.
- Community member Jolene Dugan spoke regarding a board member putting politics above the best interests of the students.
- Community member Debra Lloyd gave a gratitude statement to the board showing appreciation for the support of the education for every student in the district.
- Community member Maya Trout spoke in support of the district's decisions regarding equity and inclusivity.

#### **MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 5):**

**5. A. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the regular meeting on April 21, 2025, were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the April 21, 2025 regular session minutes, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

#### **BUSINESS OFFICE (Agenda Item 6):**

**6. A. Enrollment Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of May 1, 2025. District Enrollment is 1,283, which is 1 below our budgeted numbers. The elementary level is down by 2, the middle school is up by 29, and the high school is down by 28. There are six more out of district placements than what was projected in the budget.

**6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of April 30, 2025. The district has received 93% of our budgeted revenue. We were at 96% last year. The district's operating expenditures are at 68%, we were at 69% last year.

Director Pizzola moved to accept the general fund revenue and expenditure report as reported, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

#### **REPORTS (Agenda Item 7):**

**7. A. Fern Ridge Middle School Report:** Principal Olivia Johnson presented the Middle School

slides to highlight the school's programs and initiatives.

**7. B. Fern Ridge Education Association:** Mari Jones presented the Elementary level updates. Debra Lloyd presented the Middle School updates. Michelle Nelson presented the High School updates. Jennifer Prutzman talked about the collective bargaining agreement process and gave thanks to the district team and the board for approving the contract in April.

**7. C. Student Representatives(s) to the School Board:** Student Representative Fern Arvizu presented four main events that happened recently. Prom was very successful and there were no complaints. There were spirit days preceding the dance that had great participation. The eighth-grade shadow days with the ninth graders were last week. Advanced Placement testing went very smoothly. Outdoor school is up and running and going great. Representative JT Myers gave a statement to the board with regards to the previous meeting discussions on public comments and policy.

**7. D. Director of K-12 Programs:** Director Michelle Marshall presented the slides for the FRSD Board Goals for review.

**7.D.1. Fern Ridge Middle School Curriculum adoption – Anime Elective:** Principal Olivia Johnson presented the summary for the Anime Elective class.

Director McCann asked for clarification on what film rating will require parental approval. Principal Johnson explained that they would follow policy guidelines for parental permission for students to view all films.

Director Pizzola moved to accept the new Anime Elective, seconded by Director McCann. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

**7. E. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Carpenter reported on the weekly meetings for the bond work and the work that is being done and on schedule. Tomorrow is the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30. Superintendent Carpenter expressed a "thank you" to Sierra Pacific for their donation of \$9,117.88 towards a wood working CnC machine. Two important dates are EHS Awards Night June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> is Graduation.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):**

**8. A. Second Reading of Proposed 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule:** A second reading was held on the proposed School Board Meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the School Board Meeting Schedule as is, seconded by Director McCann. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

**8. B. Resolution 24-25/12 – Transfer Students for 2025-2026:** The Resolution for Transfer Students was presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to accept the Resolution 24-25/12 , seconded by Director McCann. There

was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

**8. C. Alternative Education Programs:** The Alternative Education Programs were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the Alt Ed Programs for the 2025-2026 school year as presented, seconded by Director McCann. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

**8. D. First Reading of Proposed Policy Updates:** The following policies and administrative rules were presented to the board for a first reading: IIA delete Instructional Materials, and IIA replace Instructional Materials.

**8. E. Second Reading of Proposed Policy Updates:** The following policies and administrative rules were presented to the board for a first reading: GBED G1 updated (Medical Examinations and Drug Testing), IGBAF G1 update Special Education-IEP, and IGBAG G1 update Special Education-Procedural Safeguards.

Director Pizzola moved to accept all proposed policy updates as listed, seconded by Director McCann. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

## **PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):**

### **9. A. Licensed Employees Resignations/New Hires/Transfers/Other:**

**9. A.1.** Hiring of Tami Lux, 1.0 FTE Bridges Special Education Teacher at Elmira Elementary, effective August 20, 2025, Hiring of Oliver Kaneft, 1.0 FTE Physical Education Teacher at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 20, 2025, Hiring of Keely Green, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Elmira Elementary, effective August 20, 2025. Resignation of Bo Highburger, 1.0 Health Teacher at Elmira High School, effective June 30, 2025.

Director Pizzola moved to accept the licensed resignations, new hires, transfers, other as proposed, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

**9. B. Non-Licensed Personnel Report:** The non-licensed personnel report was presented for review:

#### Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Kiffany Oxnam, 3.0 Instructional Assistant at Veneta Elementary School, effective May 2, 2025.
2. Resignation of Nikie Brink, 7.0 Instructional Assistant (Title IA) at Veneta Elementary School, effective June 12, 2025.
3. Resignation of Callie Johnson, 1.0 FTE Secretary II at Elmira Elementary School, effective June 19, 2025.

4. Resignation of Sherry Cooper, 6.5 SPED Instructional Assistant at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective June 12, 2025.

New Hires/Transfers

1. None at this time.

Other

2. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Resignation of Bo Highburger, Head Varsity Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective May 6, 2025.
2. Hiring of Jeannie Core, JV Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective May 19, 2025.

**LATE ITEMS/CLOSING COMMENTS/BOARD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Agenda Item 10):**

Superintendent Carpenter proposed the approval of Board Chair Barbara Graham's resignation from the Fern Ridge School Board.

Director Pizzola moved to accept the resignation of Board Chair Graham, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 4-0.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 11):**

**11. A. Upcoming Events:**

May19- 22: Outdoor School

May 23: NO SCHOOL

May 26: Memorial Day NO SCHOOL

June 11: Full Day - No Early Release

June 12: Last Day - Early Release

June 13: NO SCHOOL

**Elmira Elementary**

May 20: PTA

May 28: Bottle Drop

June 10: Field Day

June 17: PTA 6pm

**Veneta Elementary**

June 6: PALS Kona Ice

June 10: PALS 5:30

June 11: Field Day

**Fern Ridge Middle School**

June 9: 8th Grade Promotion 6:30pm

June 12: Field Day 6th/7th

**Elmira High School**

May 20: V Baseball vs Amity

May 31 - June 1: Spring Play

June 2: Music Performance

June 4: Awards Night 6pm

June 6: Class of 2025 Graduation 7pm

**ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 12):** Vice Chair Boren adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Board Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent