



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

November 17, 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 6:42 pm.

In attendance were Directors Lisa McCann, WC Grover, Kathleen Pizzola, Brian Kirkpatrick and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Mark Gent attended via Zoom.

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 November Citizenship Award was postponed until the December meeting where two citizenship winners will be recognized.

FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3): Chair Grover 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 (4) four 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, Erika McGuire spoke on the K-2/3-5 reconfiguration proposal from an elementary teacher perspective.

MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 5):

5. A. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the regular school board meeting on October 20th, 2025 were presented for approval.

Director McCann moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 20th, 2025, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

BUSINESS OFFICE (Agenda Item 6):

6. A. Enrollment Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of November 1st, 2025. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 24 and Veneta Elementary is at 22.29. Total elementary enrollment is at 576. The middle school has 313 students enrolled. The high school has 375. In-district enrollment is down by 20 than what was projected in the budget and the total in district enrollment including the charter school is down by 7 compared to our budgeted projections.

6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of October 31st, 2025. The district has received 30% of our budgeted revenue compared to 29% this time last year. The district has spent 20% of our budgeted expenses compared to 21% last October.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the general fund and expenditure report for October 31, 2025; seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

REPORTS (Agenda Item 7):

7. A. Fern Ridge Education Association: Certified Union Teachers President, Jennifer Prutzman presented appreciations for each school building in their activities. Then DesiRae Wright-Rendon talked about supporting students with the OEA Relief Fund Committee and OEA Foundation grants.

7. B. Student Representatives: Student representatives Riley Rice and Jake VanDamme gave the updates on winter sports beginning. They gave a brief overview of how the cell phone policy has been going. Riley explained some ideas they have to improve and change some of the activities that were planned so far this year. Leadership attended OASC on November 1st thru the 3rd. Jake was asked to explain what National Honor Society (NHS) is to the board. The Western Regional Education Network (WREN) is hosting a survey for students to share what resources they have access to. Leadership was awarded monies to use for Mental Health Awareness week. They have scheduled a speaker and some activities for students to engage and participate. There

was a time of discussion to clarify some of the activities planned for next year.

7. D. Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Carpenter gave a brief overview of the bond projects that are finishing up and some fixes to address. The planning for the Summer 2026 projects has begun. There was a time of discussion about how the high school parking lot drainage problem is being resolved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. OSBA Conference Report: Director McCann and Chair Grover shared some highlights from the OSBA Conference.

8. B. Board Stipends: The discussion about moving forward with board stipend implementation or not to proceed was discussed in the work session and presented for a motion.

Director McCann moved to that at this time we do not approve the stipends; seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

8. C. Second Reading of Proposed Policy Updates: A second reading was held on the following proposed administrative rule and policy updates:

BG – Board Staff Communications,

Director Pizzola moved to approve the policy BG – Board Staff Communications; seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):

9. A. Licensed Employees Resignations/New hires/Transfers/Other:

9. A.1 None at this time.

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. None at this time.

New Hires/Transfers

1. None at this time.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. None at this time.

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

- Item 2.D. Superintendent Evaluation Process from the work session was discussed.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 11):

Elmira Elementary:

November 18: 6pm PTA

November 21-22: Holiday Bazaar and Book Fair

November 24-25: NO SCHOOL-Parent/Teacher Conferences and Book Fair

November 26-28: NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving Break

December 3: PTA Bottle Drop

Veneta Elementary:

November 19:: 5-8pm Literacy Night

November 24-25: NO SCHOOL-Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 26-28: NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving Break

December 8: 5:30pm PALS Meeting

Fern Ridge Middle School:

November 26-28: NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving Break

Elmira High School:

November 26-28: NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving Break

7:50pm EXECUTIVE SESSION (Agenda Item 12): Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i): to review and evaluate the performance of the chief executive officer or any other public officer, employee or staff member, unless the person whose performance is being reviewed and evaluated requests an open hearing.

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 13): Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent