



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

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

**September 15, 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 Lisa McCann, Kathleen Pizzola, WC Grover, 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.

**FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 2):** Director Grover led the flag salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 3):** None at this time.

**MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 4):**

**4. A. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the work session and regular school board meeting on August 18th, 2025 were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from the work session meeting on August 18th, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover voting yes and McCann abstaining. 4-1.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 18th, 2025, the second was skipped unintentionally, there was unanimous consent to consider the motion since the board still moved forward with the motion, and the chair didn't declare that the motion failed due to lack of a second. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover voting yes and McCann abstaining. 4-1.

#### **BUSINESS OFFICE (Agenda Item 5):**

**5. A. Enrollment Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 19.92 and Veneta Elementary is at 21.4. Total elementary enrollment is at 582. The middle school has 316 students enrolled. The high school has 382. In-district enrollment is down by four than projected in the budget.

**5. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of August 31, 2025. The district has received 18% of our budgeted revenue. The districts operating expenditures are at 6%, the same as last year at this time. September expenses increase quite a bit.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the budget as proposed; 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 6):**

**6. A. Fern Ridge Education Association:** Certified Union Teachers President, Jennifer Prutzman and DesiRae Wright-Rendon discussed what their plan is to present for the year. Desi-Rae presented a slide that explained all the levels of the Education Association, from locally to nationally.

**6. B. Student Representatives:** Student representatives Jake VanDamme and Rylee Rice recited their oath of office to the school board. They both reported on the efforts and successes of cross country, girls and boys soccer, cheer, and volleyball. They both reported on the electronic device policy since its implementation said overall it is going well. Leadership has received a YARG grant and is deciding how to use it. Events and activities were described for Homecoming week and the game which is on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the dance on the 11<sup>th</sup>. National Honor Society has been active and going well.

**6. C. Director of K-12 Programs:** Director Marshall announced that Social Sciences will be the curriculum adoption for the year. There will be board action for the curriculum in late spring. Director Marshall reported the Integrated Plan for Early Literacy annual report was submitted. The High School Success ODE review panel is coming up. Professional development is planned for certified and classified staff throughout this year. The Longitudinal Performance Growth Targets have 2 new standards, K-2 attendance and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, being added next year. This year's data will be collected to start that.

#### **6. B. Superintendent's Report**

- Superintendent Carpenter gave an update on the bond projects' details and status.

- Reminder that Superintendent Carpenter, Director Marshall, and Tech Director Paul Lambert all visited Maple Elementary to see the RAPTOR security system in place and will be discussing more later under item 7.F.
- The cell phone policy that has been in place since the beginning of the school year has been going well. The students have been adjusting and it is only expected get better as this restriction continues.
- The Veneta property purchase will be closing by the end of the week.
- A redistricting cycle is under review with OSAA. There is a committee to petition to remain in the 3A Mountain Valley Conference. Superintendent Carpenter will be sending a follow up email to update the board.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 7):**

**7. A. Division 22 Update:** The 24-25 Report was presented to the board to look over. This will be presented for approval at the October 20th school board meeting.

**7. B. Board Operating Agreement:** The first reading and discussion was held during the work session. Second reading and board action will be in October.

**7. C. Board Goals:** The first reading and discussion was held during the work session. Second reading and board action will be in October.

**7. D. Board Stipends:** The discussion was held during the work session. A survey for community input will be held before any decision will be made.

**7. E. First Reading of Proposed Policy Updates:** A first reading was held on the following proposed administrative rule and policy updates:

KK - Visitors to district facilities,  
 JFCEB NEW and JFCEB R NEW- Personal Electronic Devices and Request for Personal Electronic Devices Exception,  
 (JFCEB DELETE and JFCEB R DELETE)  
 GCDA/GDDA - Criminal Records Check,  
 BDDH and BDDH-AR Public Comment at Board Meetings.

**7. F. Report on RAPTOR (Building Security):** Superintendent Carpenter shared what he and Director Marshall learned with Maple Elementary's process in regards to the RAPTOR security system in their school. The plan was proposed that more discussions will be had with staff. Research into other systems that may provide different service checks will occur before the district moves forward.

**7. G. OSBA Annual Convention :** The Oregon School Board Association is November 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>. Please let Board Secretary Scriber know if you are going and which days.

#### **PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 8):**

**8. A. Licensed Employees Resignations/New hires/Transfers/Other:**

**8. A.1** None at this time.

**8. 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. Hiring of Randall Heide, 7.0 Instructional Assistant at Elmira High School, effective September 18, 2025.
2. Hiring of Jaimie Atwater, 6.75 Instructional Assistant at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 25, 2025.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. None at this time.

**LATE ITEMS/CLOSING COMMENTS/BOARD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Agenda Item 9):**

- None at this time.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 10):**

**10. A. Elmira Elementary:**

September 16: 6pm PTA

September 18: 6-7pm Open House

**Veneta Elementary:**

September 18: 6-7pm Meet the Teachers

October 13: 5:30pm PALS

**Fern Ridge Middle School:**

September 25: 6:30pm Open House

October 17: NO School/Teacher Conferences (MS/HS only)

**Elmira High School:**

October 1: 5:45pm Open House

October 17: NO School/Teacher Conferences (MS/HS only)

**ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 11):** Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

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

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Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent