



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

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

**January 26, 2026**

**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, Brian Kirkpatrick, Lisa McCann and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Mark Gent attend via Zoom and conference call.

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 January Citizenship Award was presented to Elmira Elementary School student Anthony Ramirez.

**FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3):** Elmira Elementary School student Anthony Ramirez led the flag salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 4):** None at this time.

**LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT 2025-27**

**LOCAL SERVICE PLAN YEAR TWO (Agenda Item 5):** Lane Education Service District Superintendent Tony Scurto gave an explanation and answered questions about the Local Service Plan Year Two as presented for approval.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Lane ESD 2025-27 Local Service Plan Year Two, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

## **MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 6):**

**6. A. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the work session and regular school board meeting on December 15th, 2025 were presented for approval.

Director McCann moved to approve the minutes from the work session on December 15th, 2025, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 15th, 2025, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE (Agenda Item 7):**

**7. A. Enrollment Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of January 1st, 2026. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 24.2 and Veneta Elementary is at 22.21. Total elementary enrollment is at 578. The middle school has 315 students enrolled. The high school has 371. Overall our in-district enrollment is 1,264 which is 20 below our budgeted number.

**7. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of December 31st, 2025. The district has received 70% of our budgeted revenue and has spent 35% of our budgeted expenses, which is the exact same at this time last year. Quanah explained that the district will be receiving the audit this week and will present next month. There was a time of discussion of some future plans of budget in general.

Director McCann moved to approve the general fund and expenditure report for December 31st, 2025, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

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

**8. A. Elmira High School Presentation:** Principal Cydney Vandercar presented slides to highlight Elmira High School's programs and initiatives.

**8. B. Fern Ridge Education Association:** Certified Union President, Jennifer Snider began the presentation by expressing appreciation to the Board for their continued support of the students and district. She then presented appreciations for each school building and their activities. Then DesiRae Wright-Rendon announced the Oregon Education Association (OEA) PAC convention. DesiRae also described how money is raised and how pro-education candidates are supported.

**8. C. Student Representatives:** Student representatives Riley Rice and Jake VanDamme gave the updates on all three winter sports current records. They requested that more students and community members attend the games. Jake gave the update on Outdoor School and the application process and interviews are underway. He also spoke about fundraisers for

Valentine's Day, the plan for video morning announcements, and a project targeted toward new students that is a quick reference to all Elmira High School information.

**8. D. Director of K-12 Programs:** Director Marshall offered words of gratitude and appreciation to the Board members. With budget concerns and the work load for teachers, Director Marshall discussed the reasons proposed to postpone adoption and merge the K-5 Social Studies into existing curriculum.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to postpone the K-5 Social Studies adoption, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

### **8. E. Superintendent's Report**

- Superintendent Carpenter gave recognition to the School Board for the volunteer work that they do.
- Superintendent Carpenter gave a Bond update on the wrap up of past projects and the planning of upcoming projects.
- Superintendent Carpenter explained that Chair Grover charged him with investigating what it would look like having a district wide athletic director and to expect a report on that in the February meeting and a decision at the March meeting.
- Superintendent Carpenter reported we are on track to get the Superintendent Evaluation survey questions out.
- Oregon State Assessments are under way.
- Superintendent Carpenter explained that the K-2 / 3-5 Configuration has been pushed out to the Fall of 2027.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 9):**

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

JHFE/GBNAB replace-Suspected Abuse of a Child Reporting Requirements\*\*,  
JHFE/GBNAB-AR (1) replace-Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child,  
JHFE/GBNAB-AR (2) replace- Abuse of a Child Investigations Conducted on District Premises,  
JHFF/GBNAA update-Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students and Reporting Requirements,  
GBNAA/JHFF update-Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students and Reporting Requirements,  
JOA update-Directory Information\*\*,  
IGBAB/JO-AR update-Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities,  
JO/IGBAB-AR update-Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities,  
GBNAB/JHFE update-Suspected Abuse of a Child Reporting Requirements\*\*,  
GBNAB/JHFE-AR(1) update-Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child,  
GBNAB/JHFE-AR(2) update-Abuse of a Child Investigations Conducted on District Premises,  
JHCC delete-Communicable Diseases - Students,  
JHCC-AR delete-Communicable Diseases - Students,  
JHCCA delete-Students - HIV, HBV and AIDS\*\*, and  
GBEBA delete-Staff – HIV, AIDS, and HBV.

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

Director McCann moved to approve policy CBG Evaluation of the Superintendent, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve policy CCG Evaluation of Administrators, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve policy DBEA Budget Committee, seconded by Director McCann.

Director McCann asked a couple clarifying questions about the policy.

The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve policy EBCA Safety Threats, seconded by Director McCann.

Director McCann clarified which policy this policy was.

The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve policy IKF Graduation Requirements, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve policy JEA Compulsory Attendance, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

## **PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 10):**

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

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

**10. 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 Christy Crow, 7.0 Bridges K-2 Behavior Instructional Assistant at Elmira Elementary School, effective January 5th, 2026.

Other

1. Hiring of Lauri Rice, Temporary Childcare Provider for Parenting Education Class, effective February 5th, 2026.

Coaches

1. Hiring of Katy Miller, Track and Field Assistant Sprints Coach at Elmira High School, effective February 23rd, 2026.
2. Hiring of Pete Frazee, Track and Field Assistant Distance Coach at Elmira High School, effective February 23rd, 2026.
3. Hiring of Tessa Slager, Track and Field Assistant Throws Coach at Elmira High School, effective February 23rd, 2026.
4. Resignation of Karson Laing, Head Boys Soccer Coach at Elmira High School, effective January 13th, 2026.
5. Resignation of Maddy Laing, Head Girls Soccer Coach at Elmira High School, effective January 13th, 2026.

**LATE ITEMS/CLOSING COMMENTS/BOARD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Agenda Item 11):**

- Director Kirkpatrick brought attention to ParentSquare posts coming from separate numbers in the notification and that it can make that overwhelming.
- Director Kirkpatrick brought attention to not scheduling events and sports at the same time.
- Director Kirkpatrick brought attention to the cost of admission to sporting events and trying to incentivize more attendance.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 12):**

February 16: No School-Presidents Day

Elmira Elementary:

February 11: Bottle Drop

February 17: 6pm PTA

Veneta Elementary:

February 9: 5:30pm PALS

Fern Ridge Middle School:

February 17: Rock, Paper, Scissors Schoolwide Competition Begins

Elmira High School:

February 19: 9am-12pm CTE Tour

**ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 13):** Vice Chair Pizzola adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

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

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Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent