



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

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

**April 20, 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 WC Grover, Kathleen Pizzola, Brian Kirkpatrick, Lisa McCann, Mark Gent and Superintendent Gary Carpenter.

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 March Citizenship Award was presented to Elmira High School student Easy Armstrong.

**FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3):** Elmira High School student Easy Armstrong led the flag salute.

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

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

**5. A. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the work session and regular school board meeting on March 16, 2026 were presented for approval.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the minutes from the work session and regular meeting on March 16, 2026, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

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

**6. A. Enrollment Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of April 1, 2026. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 23.3 and Veneta Elementary is at 22.36. Total elementary enrollment is at 570. The middle school has 308 students enrolled. The high school has 355. Overall our in-district enrollment is down 51 below our budgeted number.

**6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of March 31, 2026. The district has received 90% of our budgeted revenue which was 87% this time last year and spent 60% of our budgeted expenses, which was the exact same at this time last year. The board Chair asked why we have more sooner than last year and Mrs. Bennett clarified that its just when property taxes come in.

Director McCann moved to approve the general fund and expenditure report for March 31, 2026, seconded by Director Pizzola There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

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

**7. A. Veneta Elementary School Presentation:** Principal Dawn Dean presented slides to highlight Veneta Elementary School's programs and initiatives.

**7. B. FRSD Family Resource Coordinator Report:** Coordinator Amy Hand presented this year's services, goals for the future, and accomplishments.

**7. C. Fern Ridge Education Association:** Certified Union President, Jennifer Snider presented appreciations for each school building and their activities. Then DesiRae Wright-Rendon gave an update from the OEA RA on April 17th and 18th.

**7. D. Student Representatives:** Student representatives Riley Rice and Jake VanDamme gave updates on Spring Sports wins and losses. Outdoor school counselors have their camp names and the excitement is building. National Honor Society has their banquet on May 14th, which is the last event of the year. Leadership has Wellness Awareness week with a speaker from Lane ESD and the NO Drama Llama. They are working with their new advisor making a binder containing the year's activities and to follow through the year. They invited the board to attend the Safety Assembly that all student must attend before Prom.

**7. E. Director of K-12 Programs:** Director Michelle Marshall presented.

**7. E.1.** Director Marshall presented the Fern Ridge School District Longitudinal Performance Growth Targets (LPGT) slides for April.

**7. F. Fern Ridge Middle School Electives:** Principal Johnson and teacher Mr. Metzger, presented five electives to be added to the list of forecasting for the 26-27 school year.

Director Gent moved to approve the Middle school elective Comic and Graphic Novel Storytelling, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors

Grover, McCann and Gent voting yes and Kirkpatrick and Pizzola voting no 3-2.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the Middle school elective Engineering, seconded by Director Gent. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the Middle school elective Outdoor Survival, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Middle school elective Marine Biology, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

There was no motion to approve the fifth Middle school elective Science Fiction and World Building.

## **7. G. Superintendent's Report**

- Irrigation projects have begun. The middle school is looking into a secondary well to supplant the months that the reservoir is too low to draw from.
- The athletic fields behind Elmira Elementary is getting an updated survey to begin moving dirt sometime next month.
- The budget committee has met once and is scheduled to meet again on May 19, 2026.
- K-2 / 3-5 reconfiguration will have two scheduled community discussions at the Elmira PTA and the Veneta PALS meetings.
- The new executive order which set new requirements on student instruction time will not affect Fern Ridge School district, as we are way over the minimum.
- We applied a Safe Routes to School Grant and the state has acknowledged the grant submittal.

There was as time of discussion around when the water is drawn from our access and limitations if there are any.

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

**8. A. Contract Award recommendation for Veneta Parking Lot Improvements and Expansion:** Scott Rose presented the contract award for approval. There was a time of discussion regarding the concern with using Alpha Environmental and the assurances around quality and completion.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the bid from Alpha Environmental Services, Inc. for the contract award for Veneta Elementary School Parking Lot Improvements, seconded by Director McCann.

It was emphasized that keeping close tabs on Alpha Environmental Services during this project is important to the board.

The motion carried with Directors Grover, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes and Kirkpatrick voting no. 4-1.

**8. B. Contract Award recommendation for Phase 2 Mechanical Upgrades Project:** Scott Rose presented the contract award for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the contract award bid from Alliant Systems for the Phase 2 Mechanical Upgrades Project, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

**8. C. Second Reading of 2026-2027 Proposed Public Calendar:** A second reading of the 2026-2027 calendar was presented for approval.

Director McCann moved to approve the 2026-2027 Proposed Public Calendar, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

**8. D. 25-26 Distinguished Service Award Recipients:** The recipients of the distinguished service awards were presented.

Distinguished Volunteer – **Mary Yeager**

Distinguished Classified Employee – **Shelby Humphrey**

Twinkle A. Morton Educator of the Year Award – **Paris Hood**

Distinguished Administrator/District Office Group Employee – **Amy Hand**

Distinguished Future First Citizen – **Jake VanDamme**

Distinguished Emerging Future First Citizen – **Shavelle Cook**

Distinguished Community Builder – **Rylee Rice**

**8. E. First Reading of Proposed 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule:** A first reading of the 2026-2027 school board meeting schedule was presented for review.

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

**JGE update**-Expulsion

**EFA G1 update**-Local Wellness

**EFA R G1 DELETE** Local Wellness Program

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

**KG AR REPLACE**-Community Use of District Facilities

Director Pizzola moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Director McCann.

The was a time of clarification around the definitions of the category Priority II.

The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

**PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):**

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

**9. A.1.** Hiring of Tiffany Forsman, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Elmira Elementary School, effective August 31, 2026, Hiring of Amanda Johnson, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Elmira Elementary School, effective August 26, 2026, Hiring of Faaeaofaleupolu "Tiny" Galago, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Elmira High School, effective August 26, 2026.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the three licensed resignations, new hires, transfers, other as proposed, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick.

Director Kirkpatrick asked what grades the two elementary teachers will be teaching. Grades have not been assigned yet.

The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Donald Harris, 6.5 Title Instructional Assistant at Elmira Elementary School, effective June 11th, 2026.

New Hires/Transfers

1. None at this time.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Hiring of Sarah Davis, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 17, 2026.
2. Hiring of Aaron Franklin, Boys Varsity Soccer Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 17, 2026.

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

- None at this time.

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

April 22: Secretary Appreciation Day  
April 28: Bus Driver Appreciation Day  
May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 1: Principal Appreciation Day  
May 19: 6:30 2nd Budget Committee meeting  
May 22: NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day  
May 25: NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

**Elmira Elementary:**

April 21: 6pm PTA

May16: Chalk the Walk

**Veneta Elementary:**

April 22: Earth day

May 11: 5:30 PALS

**Fern Ridge Middle School:**

May 8: 6:30-8 Spring Dance

**Elmira High School:**

May 9: Junior /Senior PROM

**8:48pm 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.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Agenda Item 13):** Executive Session pursuant to 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.

**10:13pm RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (Agenda Item 14):**

**COMPLAINT TO BOARD (Agenda Item 15):**

Director Gent moved to take no further action on the complaint, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

**RESOLUTION #25-26/10 SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT EXTENSION (Agenda Item 16):**

Director McCann made a motion not to extend the Superintendent contract through June 30, 2029, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 17):** Board Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 10:19 pm.

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

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