



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

July 21, 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 6:29 pm by Director Kathleen Pizzola.

In attendance were Directors Lisa McCann, Kathleen Pizzola, Mark Gent, WC Grover, Brian Kirkpatrick 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.

FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 2): Director Kathleen Pizzola led the flag salute.

OATH OF OFFICE (Agenda Item 3): WC Grover, Position 2, Mark Gent, Position 3, and Brian Kirkpatrick, Position 4 stated their names as Director Pizzola read their School Board Member Oath of Office aloud and were officially sworn into duty.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (Agenda Item 4):

Director Pizzola moved to elect WC Grover as Board Chair, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Grover voting yes. 5-0.

Director Grover moved to elect Kathleen Pizzola as Vice Chair, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Grover voting yes. 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 5): 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 Mike Mazzei spoke to welcome the new board members and congratulate them on their election success.

MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 6):

5. A. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the regular meeting on June 19, 2025, were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, seconded by Director McCann. Director McCann discussed a change to the wording in item 9A from “move to discuss” to “move to table”. Director Pizzola moved to approve that correction, seconded by Director McCann. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0. It was presented that there was a first and second on the motion to approve the minutes with that correction. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

The minutes from the regular meeting on June 26, 2025, were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from the June 26th meeting, seconded by Director McCann. 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. Superintendent’s Report: Superintendent Carpenter welcomed the new board members and thanked Directors Grover and Pizzola for taking on the chair and vice chair roles. He welcomed questions to himself or Administrative Assistant Brie anytime in the coming weeks. Superintendent Carpenter updated the board on the status of the purchase of the property south of Veneta elementary. He then informed them the appraisal will be done before the July 28 meeting and will require action to approve the purchase then. He summarized the bond projects and how they are still on schedule, and what athletic facility work is still waiting on the permit approvals from the county. He explained that the September 5th game could be in jeopardy and may be an away game. Superintendent Carpenter presented the upcoming planning and events

that are happening as we approach the new school year.

7. B. Elmira High School New Curriculum: Principal Cydney Vandercar presented the three new curricula, Statistics, Robotics, and Computer Science for Elmira High School as no cost additions to be scheduled during study hall time slots.

There was a time of discussion around student interest and the value of study hall depending on the student needs.

Director Pizzola moved to accept all three curricula presented, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. Retreat Agenda: Superintendent Carpenter welcomed suggestions for agenda items to be submitted to Board Chair Grover for discussion and approval.

8. B. Oregon School Board Association Summer and Fall Conferences: Assistant Brie Scriber informed the board that the three members who are attending have been booked for the event and their hotels reserved. Their confirmations have been emailed to each of them for reference upon arrival.

8. C. West Lane Charter Annual Review: Superintendent Carpenter reviewed his sight visit and report of West Lane Charter with the board.

8. D. Fern Ridge School District Parent/Student Handbook: Superintendent Carpenter summarized the updates that have been made to the handbook. A discussion was had about attendance notifications and volunteers vs. visitors and changing that language in the handbook with the review of the building processes and email clarification. The approval of the handbook was set to be moved to the July 28th meeting.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENTS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 – RESOLUTION #25-26/01 (Agenda Item 9):

Director Pizzola moved to accept Resolution #25-26/01, seconded by Director Gent. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

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. Resignation of Deanna Alldridge, 5.2 Speech and Language Pathologist, District wide, effective June 23, 2025.
2. Retirement of Kelly Keller, 7.0 Instructional Assistant at Elmira High School, effective July 18, 2025.

New Hires/Transfers

1. Hiring of Katie Howe, 6.5 Instructional Assistant at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 25, 2025.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Hiring of Conrad Davis, 2025-2026 Varsity Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 18, 2025.
2. Hiring of Jeannie Core, 2025-2026 JV Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 18, 2025.

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

None at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 12):

12. A. Upcoming Events:

Elmira and Veneta Elementary:

August 13: 7am - 7pm Kindergarten and New Student Registration

August 19: 7am - 7pm Registration

August 20: 8am - 3pm Registration

August 21: 8am - 12pm Registration

September 2: First day for 1st-5th Graders

September 8: First day for Kindergartners

Fern Ridge Middle School:

August 11: Office Re-Opens

August 13: 12pm - 8pm New Student and Incoming 6th Graders Registration

August 15 & 18: Office Closed

August 19: 7am - 7pm Student Registration

August 20: 8am - 3pm Student Registration

August 21: 8am - 12pm Student Registration

September 2: First day for 6th Graders Only

September 3: First Day for 7th & 8th Graders Only

September 4: All Students attend

Elmira High School:

August 13: 9am - 7pm NEW to District Pre-Registration

August 20: 8am - 4pm Seniors/Sophomores Registration/Picture Day

August 21: 10am - 6pm Junior/Freshman Registration/Picture Day

September 2: First Day for students

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 13): Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent