



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

August 18, 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 6:37 pm.

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 Grover led the flag salute.

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

MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 4):

5. A. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the regular meeting on July 21, 2025 and the retreat on July 28, 2025, were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from the last school board meeting on July 21st, seconded by Director Grover.

Director McCann asked for clarification if it was the Retreat and regular meeting minutes for

approval. Director Pizzola said she will change the motion and make it both minutes. Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from both minutes from the regular meeting and the retreat, seconded by Director Grover. Director McCann proposed a change to the wording in agenda item 14 from “new law” to “executive order”. Director Grover moved to accept the two agendas with the amendment of changing from a “new law” to “new executive order”, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

BUSINESS OFFICE (Agenda Item 5):

5. A. Unaudited Financial Report for 2024-2025: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the unaudited financial report for 2024-2025. The district has collected 107% of the budgeted revenue and spent 93% of operating expenditures. The district estimated ending fund balance is 28.15%/roughly \$5.5 million. There was some time of discussion on the previous years ending fund balances.

5. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of July 31, 2025. The district has received 12% of budgeted revenue and spent 4% of operating expenditures.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the general fund revenue and expenditures for fiscal year 24-25; 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. Director of K-12 Programs:

6. A. 1. 24-25 Integrated Plan Annual Report: Director Marshall presented the 24-25 Annual Report.

6. B. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Carpenter gave a reminder that teachers are about to return and gave the schedule for in-service with all staff. He gave a brief staffing update. The bond updates for each project schedule was summarized as it pertains to the first day of school when students return and the athletics schedules. There was a time of discussion on the reason for delays with the sports complex.

6. C. Student Representatives: Student representatives Rylee Rice and Jake VanDamme presented a request for an outdoor graduation. There was a time of discussion on being on the graduation planning committee and that is a high school decision not a school board decision. There was a time of discussion about state testing and encouraging other students to put in their best efforts.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 7):

7. A. Recommendation for Budget Transfer for Site Work Package #4 (EHS to FRMS): Scott Rose summarized the bond progress and then presented the Recommendation for Budget

Transfer for Site Work Package #4 (EHS to FRMS). There was a time of discussion around the details of the site work.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the transfer the money to the site work budget; seconded by Director Grover. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

7. B. Board Operating Agreement: Postponed until September 15, 2025 meeting.

7. C. Board Meeting Schedule: The 25-26 School Board Meeting Schedule was presented for approval.

Director Grover moved to approve it based on our conversation earlier; seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

7. D. Board Stipends: The board made a motion to further investigate Board Stipends.

Director Grover moved to move forward with looking in to it; seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

7. E. Electronic Devices Building Practices: The Parent/Student Handbook language regarding the electronic devices policy was presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the policy and start at the beginning of the school year; seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

7. F. First Reading of Proposed Policy Updates:

7. F. 1. Policy KK – Visitors to District Facilities, Policy GCDA/GDDA Criminal Records Check and Fingerprinting.

Policy GCDA/GDDA Criminal Records Check and Fingerprinting was presented to approve edits to wording.

Director Pizzola moved to accept edits as written in policy GCDA/GDDA, seconded by Director Gent. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

Policy KK – Visitors to District Facilities was presented for discussion and the First Reading in September.

7. B. Board Goals: Postponed until September 15, 2025 meeting.

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. Licensed Employees Resignations/New Hires/Transfers/Other:

8. A.1. Hiring of David Kashuba, Temporary One Year 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 20, 2025.
Hiring of Tiffany Forsman, Temporary One Year 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 20, 2025.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the licensed resignations, new hires, transfers, other as proposed, seconded by Director Grover. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Diann Shuck, 7.0 Behavior Instructional Assistant 3-5 at Elmira Elementary School, effective July 29, 2025.
2. Resignation of Diann Shuck, 7.0 Instructional Assistant at Elmira High School, effective August 12, 2025.

New Hires/Transfers

1. Hiring of Diann Shuck, 7.0 Instructional Assistant at Elmira High School, effective August 25, 2025.
2. Hiring of Devin Blair, 6.0 Instructional Assistant at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 25, 2025.
3. Hiring of Alese Williams, 3.0 Instructional Assistant at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 25, 2025.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Resignation of Jamal Wilson, JV Assistant Basketball Coach at Elmira High School, effective July 23, 2025.
2. Hiring of Brycen Bechtel, Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 18, 2025.
3. Hiring of David Querubin, Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 18, 2025.

LATE ITEMS/CLOSING COMMENTS/BOARD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Agenda Item 9):
Superintendent Carpenter shared that he attended a zoom meeting with UPBEAT which is a WREN funded staff retention and survey program. The district will be moving forward with this.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 10):

10. A. Upcoming Events:

August 27: Papa's Pizza Fundraiser-FREA/OSEA

Elmira Elementary:

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
September 16: 6pm PTA Meeting
September 18: 6-7pm Open House

Veneta Elementary:

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
September 9: 5:30pm PALS
September 18: 6-7pm Meet the Teacher

Fern Ridge Middle School:

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 20: 8am - 4pm Seniors/Sophomores Registration/Picture Day
August 21: 10am - 6pm Junior/Freshman Registration/Picture Day
September 2: First Day for 9th Graders Only
September 3: All Students back to school

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 11): Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent