



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

February 23, 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 and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Mark Gent attended 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 February Citizenship Award was presented to Veneta Elementary School student Cameron James Brown-Pearson.

FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3): Veneta Elementary School student Cameron Brown-Pearson 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 regular school board meeting on January 26th, 2026 were presented for approval.

Director McCann moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 26th, 2026, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. 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 Quannah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of February 1st, 2026. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 23.6 and Veneta Elementary is at 22.14. Total elementary enrollment is at 572. The middle school has 312 students enrolled. The high school has 359. Overall our in-district enrollment is 1,243 which is 41 below our budgeted number. There was a time of discussion about the size of classrooms in the Middle School.

6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quannah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of January 31, 2026. The district has received 76% of our budgeted revenue and has spent 43% of our budgeted expenses, which is very close to the same at this time last year. Director McCann asked about transportation fees and earnings on investments. She requested to see the numbers from the interest of the bank accounts. There was a time of discussion on the previous years underspending and how this year is in comparison.

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

6. C. Resolution 25-26/03 – Approve the 2024-2025 Audit Report & GASB 54: Business Manager Quannah Bennett presented the resolution for the audit and answered questions.

Director McCann moved to approve Resolution 25-26/03 2024-25 Audit Report & GASB 54, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

6. D. First Student Inc. Contract Renewal: The contract renewal was presented for review or approval. It was discussed that it will go on the March work session.

Director McCann moved to table the approval for the First Student Contract to March , 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. West Lane Charter Presentation: Director Darci Stuller presented slides to highlight West Lane Charter School's programs and initiatives.

7. B. Outdoor School Committee Planning: Outdoor School Directors Mrs. Pebworth, Mrs. Moeller and Mrs. Vandercar presented slides and answered questions regarding the updated plans for 2026 Outdoor School. There will be a fundraiser on March 19. An invitation was extended to the board members to attend during the week of Outdoor School.

7. C. Fern Ridge Education Association: Certified Union President, Jennifer Snider presented appreciations for each school building and their activities. She announced the Papas Pizza

fundraiser to help fund the scholarship amount from OSEA and FREA. Then DesiRae Wright-Rendon described the Legislative session updates and two bills that effect schools and education.

7. D. Student Representatives: Student representatives Riley Rice and Jake VanDamme gave the updates on all three winter sports concluding. They announced that boys basketball made it to the playoffs and named the five wrestlers that made it to State competition as well. Outdoor School held interviews for counselors and training will begin.

7. E. Director of K-12 Programs: Director Marshall gave a brief update of some of the upcoming professional development that teachers are participating in.

7. F. Superintendent's Report

- Requested 100k to dedicate for irrigation improvements ahead of Bond dollar remainder distributions. It was recommended for the board to decide at the March meeting.
- Shared the plan that with phase II of the mechanical improvements of the heating and cooling system, Elmira Elementary will have the controls replaced to match the Middle and High School.
- The facilities use form has been updated and simplified. It was recommended that the board approves it in March.
- Requesting approval to turn the property behind Elmira Elementary into athletic fields at the March meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. District Athletic Director Update: Superintendent Carpenter explained the request to investigate different possibilities for an Athletic Director expansion or to remain the same. It was requested the board make a decision to move forward with one of the options or to continue as is by the March meeting.

8. B. K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration Update: Superintendent Carpenter presented the draft webpage that will supply information to the community about the elementary school reconfiguration. It was stated the page will go live this week. There was a time of discussion around the details of this reconfiguration and the plan to share information in a community forum.

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

DBEA (1) update Budget Committee; this policy was presented to be *approved as amended* since it was previously approved at the January meeting. There was a question after its approval, during the January meeting, that was then presented to OSBA and the change was noted for this amendment. There was a time of clarification to support moving forward with a motion to approve.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve as amended Policy DBEA Budget Committee, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

CB update Superintendent, **EBC NEW** Emergency Plan and First Aid, **EBC/EBCA R delete** Emergency Procedures and Disaster Plans, **EBCB update** Emergency Procedure Drills and Instruction, **JECA update** Admission of Resident Students, **JGA update** Corporal Punishment, and **LBEA update** Denial for Virtual Public Charter School Student Enrollment.

8. D. Second Reading of Proposed Policy Updates: A second 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,
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,
JHCC delete-Communicable Diseases - Students,
JHCC-AR delete-Communicable Diseases – Students.

There was a motion to approve all of the policies together.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the policies of the second reading in 8.D., seconded by Director Kirkpatrick.

Director McCann began discussing recommendations and asking questions in regards to the content of the policies. There was a time of discussion on the process of having a first and second reading for policies, getting questions or concerns in before the second reading so research and answers can be acquired to inform the vote. Director McCann wanted to table the approval and made a motion.

Director McCann moved to table the approval for the second reading of the policies, there was no second. The motion failed.

The motion to approve the policies of the second reading in 8.D. moved to vote.

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

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):

9. A. Licensed Employees Resignations/New hires/Transfers/Other:

9. A.1. Resignation of Teri Moen-Gay, Special Education Teacher at Elmira High School, effective June 12th, 2026.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the licensed resignations, new hires, transfers, other 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.

- 9. A.2. Resolution 25-26/04 Administrator Three-Year Contract Extension,
- 9. A.3. Resolution 25-26/05 Retired/Temporary Terminal Contract,
- 9. A.4. Resolution 25-26/06 Probationary Administrators Contract Renewal,
- 9. A.5. Resolution 25-26/07 Probationary Teacher Contract Renewal,
- 9. A.6. Resolution 25-26/08 Teacher Contract Extension,
- 9. A.7. Resolution 25-26/09 Administrator Contract Extension.

Director Pizzola moved to approve all 9.A. contracts, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover voting yes and McCann voting no. 4-1.

Director McCann asked to change her vote on **9.A.2 – 9.A.7.**
Director McCann changed her vote to aye. 5-0

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Cody Brock, YTP Coordinator/Leadership at Elmira High School, effective February 27th, 2026.

1.

New Hires/Transfers

1. None at this time.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

None at this time.

9. B. 1. Renew District Office Group for 2026-2027: Quanah Bennett, Leiisa Boytz, Amy Hand, Paul Lambert, Dan Prutzman, and Brie Scriber.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the renewal of the district office group 9. B. 1., seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Grover voting yes. 5-0.

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

- Director Gent would like to look at more alternatives to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration. There was a time of discussion to summarize the solutions that have been investigated.
- Director McCann spoke about the Elmira High School CTE tour.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 11):

February 17: 100th Day of School !
March 20: NO SCHOOL
March 23-27: Spring Break

Elmira Elementary:

March 5: 5:30pm Kindergarten Information Night
March 17: 6pm PTA

Veneta Elementary:

March 4: 5:30pm Kindergarten Information Night
March 9: 5:30pm PALS
March 11: 6pm Heart of the Community

Fern Ridge Middle School:

March 19: Parent Teacher Conferences-evening only

Elmira High School:

March 19: Parent Teacher Conferences-evening only

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.

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 13): Board Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent