



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

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

**April 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 6:30 pm.

In attendance were Directors Barbara Graham, Andrea Larson, Lisa McCann, Mark Boren and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Kathleen Pizzola attended remotely via zoom.

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 April Citizenship Award was presented to Options High School student, Bailey Estrella who was not present for the school board meeting, by Forrest Cooper.

**FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3):** Board Chair Graham led the flag salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 4):** 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 Owen Booth voiced his support for students as a student and outdoor school counselor. Director McCann asked Owen to read back the first two sentences, to which he repeated his public comment until Director McCann stopped Owen. She then asked Owen to clarify the purpose of his public comment. Owen Booth stated he was voicing his support of the high school student and outdoor school counselor to be allowed to participate like anyone else.

Community member Jessica Colwell spoke out of order as her public comment form was not submitted by the 1pm deadline. Board Chair Graham offered her public comment to be submitted and heard at the May 19 board meeting. Board Chair Graham requested that community member, Colwell refrain from disrupting the meeting further. Jessica submitted each board member with a copy of a parent email pertaining to her intended public comment. Director McCann apologized to community member Jessica Colwell.

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

**5. A. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the work session and regular meeting on March 17, 2025, were presented for approval.

Director Boren moved to approve the March 17, 2025 work session and regular session minutes, seconded by Director Larson. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann 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, 2025. District Enrollment is 1,286, which is 2 over our budgeted enrollment. The elementary level is down by 2, the middle school is up by 27, and the high school is down by 23. There are six more out of district placements than what was projected in the budget.

**6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of March 31, 2025. The district has received 87% of our budgeted revenue. We were at 93% last year. The district's operating expenditures are at 60%, we were at 60% last year as well. This is the triple pay month for licensed staff which means the expenses are higher than prior months.

Director Larson moved to accept the general fund revenue and expenditure report for the period ending with March 31st, seconded by Director Boren. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

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

**7. A. Bond Mechanical Improvements-Contractor Award:** Scott Rose presented the Bond Mechanical Improvements Contractor Award for board approval.

Director Boren moved to approve the recommendation of the Alliant Systems contract for \$924,629.00, seconded by Director Larson. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

**7. B. Bond Interior Renovations- Contractor Award:** Scott Rose presented the Bond Interior Improvements Contractor Award for board approval.

Director Boren moved to award 2G Construction the bid as presented for \$1,202,000.00, seconded by Director Larson. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

**7. C. FRSD Family Resource Coordinator:** Family Resource Coordinator, Amy Hand presented via zoom the accomplishments, funding, and community involvement that the Family Resource Department has accomplished throughout the year.

**7. D. Veneta Elementary School Report:** Principal Dawn Dean presented the Veneta Elementary School slides to highlight the school's programs and initiatives.

**7. E. Fern Ridge Education Association:** Mari Jones presented the Elementary level updates. Debra Lloyd presented the Middle School updates. Jennifer Prutzman presented the High School updates. Mari Jones talked about the OEA RA which is the largest democratic deliberating body in the state of Oregon representing 43,000 educators.

**7. F. Student Representatives(s) to the School Board:** Student Representative JT Myers began the presentation with a statement addressing the anticipated public comment and the online comments from the community, from a transgender student who will be a counselor at Outdoor School. Representative JT Myers and Fern Arvizu presented the Elmira High School events and updates. JT and Fern were announced as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. A sophomore won the 'If I were Mayor' contest and will be honored at the City Council Meeting on April 28. The Distinguished Service Awards were announced on April 17. JT gave the sports updates and current records for baseball, softball and track and field. State testing and Advanced Placement testing begin this week. Leadership will be participating in a field trip to Seaside to attend an Oregon Association of Student Council Spring Conference. Rotary Citizens of the month will be honored on May 1. Fern Arvizu announced that Prom will be at the University of Oregon Ford Alumni Center on May 10. Prom tickets are on sale April 28-May 7. National Honor Society Banquet will be on May 12 at Elmira High School for new members. Drama Class will be performing Sense and Sensibility on May 31 and June 1.

**7. G. Director of K-12 Programs:** Director Michelle Marshall presented the slides for the FRSD Integrated Plan.

**7. G.1: Integrated Plan Application:** Director Michelle Marshall presented the FRSD Integrated Plan Application for approval.

There was a time of discussion with a member of the audience around the supports and interventions for the students coming up that were impacted by Covid school conditions.

Director Larson moved to approve the 25-27 Integrated Plan Application, seconded by Director

McCann. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes 5-0.

**7. H. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Carpenter congratulated JT and Fern for their Salutatorian and Valedictorian achievement. The Bond Projects were presented as on track and the schedule is posted on the wall in the board room. The Board will be presented the appraisal and purchase price for the house property south of Veneta Elementary for approval in August of this year. Superintendent Carpenter discussed the topic of Outdoor School and how Fern Ridge School district is following state law. He informed the board of the requests of around 14 families that have expressed the desire to have specific arrangements for their students at outdoor school and will be informed of those needs met in May.

Director Larson asked a clarifying question regarding the reason for the rhetoric surrounding the language to families regarding making accommodations to their request not as a guarantee. Superintendent Carpenter explained that requests for accommodations will be fulfilled with the notion that if there were some unforeseen circumstance that caused that need to not be met there would be problem solving involved.

Director McCann wanted to discuss the Outdoor School matter more with questions and answers of the public with the board and superintendent during the Closing Comments agenda item. Chair Graham explained the board policy and that it is not the process for this discussion. Director McCann expressed strong disapproval of Chair Graham's explanation of the board process. After further restatement of the policy and process, Director McCann concluded and proposed a work session to be held to have this public discussion. Chair Graham allowed that motion to be made during the Closing Comments at the end of the meeting agenda.

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

**8. A. First Reading of Proposed 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule:** A first reading was held on the proposed School Board Meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.

**8. B. 2025-2026 Public Calendar Revision:** Revision to move the October 10 Work Sample day to November 10.

Director Boren moved to approve the proposed public Calendar Revision for 2025-2026, seconded by Director Larson.

Director McCann asked a clarifying question on the dates.

The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, and Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

**8. C. First Reading of Proposed Policy Updates:** The following policies and administrative rules were presented to the board for a first reading: GBED G1 updated (Medical Examinations and Drug Testing), IGBAF G1 update Special Education-IEP, IGBAF R G1 update Special Education-IEP, and IGBAG G1 update Special Education-Procedural Safeguards.

**8. D. Second Reading of Proposed Policy Updates:** A second reading was held on the following

proposed administrative rule and policy updates for approval: AC G1update (Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights 11/24), GBN\_JBA G1update (Sexual Harassment 4/24), JBA\_GBN G1update (Sexual Harassment 4/24), and JFE G1update (Pregnant and/or Parenting Students 4/21).

Director Larson moved to approve the second reading of the proposed policy updates, seconded by Director Boren.

Director McCann made a clarifying statement as to why she would be voting 'no' for Policy AC.

The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, voting yes, and Director Pizzola and McCann voting no. 3-2.

There was a time of discussion to revisit the policy updates as individual motions.

Director Larson made a motion to restate the previous motion and vote on the policies individually, seconded by Director Boren. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, and Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

Director Boren made a motion to approve AC G1update, seconded by Director Larson.

Student Representative JT Myers directed a series of clarifying questions to Director McCann in regards to her previous comment about voting 'no' to the Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights policy. There was a time of discussion about discrimination standards and qualification standards for hiring in reference to the policy AC G1.

The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, and Pizzola, voting yes and McCann voting no. 4-1.

Director Boren made a motion to approve GBN\_JBA G1update, seconded by Director Larson. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

Director Larson made a motion to approve JBA\_GBN G1update, seconded by Director Boren. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

Director Boren made a motion to approve JFE G1update, seconded by Director Larson. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

**8. E. Fern Ridge Education Association 2025-2028 Contract:** The Fern Ridge Education Association teacher contract was presented for approval.

Director Boren made a motion to approve 2025-2028 Contract with Fern Ridge Education Association, seconded by Director McCann.

Director McCann expressed her appreciation and thanks for the process of negotiations.

The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

**PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):**

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

**9. B:** Resignation of Elizabeth Booth, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Veneta Elementary School, effective June 30, 2025.

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

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Jessica Cooper, 4.4 Options Instructional Assistant at Elmira High School, effective June 12, 2025.

New Hires/Transfers

1. None at this time.

Other

2. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Resignation of Donald Harris, Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective March 19, 2025.
2. Hiring of Donald Harris, Varsity Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 18, 2025.
3. Resignation of Kobe Bechtel, Varsity Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective March 18, 2025.

**9. C.1. Renew District Office Group for 2025-2026:** Quanah Bennett, Leiisa Boytz, Amy Hand, Paul Lambert, Dan Prutzman, and Brie Scriber.

Director Larson made a motion to renew the District Office Group for 2025-2026, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Boren, Larson, Graham, Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

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

- Director McCann wanted to make a motion to establish a work session to address the outdoor school topic.

Director McCann made a motion to hold a work session on April 30, 2025, seconded by Director Pizzola.

Director Larson expressed a conflict in the schedule for herself.

The motion failed with Directors Boren, Larson, and Graham, voting no, and Pizzola, and McCann voting yes. 3-2.

- Director McCann wanted to make a motion to set another date for a work session. Chair Graham emphasized the need to follow policy and submit the request via email at a later time. Chair Graham and Director McCann agreed to discuss this after the meeting is adjourned.

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

### **11. A. Upcoming Events:**

April 21-25: Volunteer Recognition Week

April 23: Secretary Day

May 1: School Principal Day

May 2: Lunch Hero Day

May 5-9: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 23: No School

### **Elmira Elementary**

April 29: Talent Show

May 7-10: Spring Book Fair

May 9: Chalk the Walk 5-7:30

May 20: PTA Meeting 6:00

### **Veneta Elementary**

April 22: Planned Parenthood Preview Presentation 5:30-6:30

April 22: Earth Day Celebration

May 7: Walk & Roll to School

May 13: PALS Meeting 5:30

### **Fern Ridge Middle**

April 29: 7th Grade Field Trip

May 16, 19-22: 8th Grade Flyups

May 21: Fly-up Parent Meeting

### **Elmira High**

April 22: JV Track and Field @ Marist

V Baseball @ Sisters

V Softball @ Sisters

April 25: V Baseball @ Harrisburg Doubleheader

V Softball @ Harrisburg Doubleheader

April 29: JV Track and Field @ Cottage Grove

V Baseball @ Creswell

V Softball @ Creswell

May 2: JV Baseball @ Pleasant Hill Doubleheader

JV Softball @ Pleasant Hill Doubleheader  
V Baseball @ Pleasant Hill Doubleheader  
V Softball @ Pleasant Hill Doubleheader  
May 3: Track and Field @ Junction City  
May 6: JV Baseball @ La Pine  
V Baseball @ La Pine  
V Softball @ La Pine  
May 7: Track and Field @ Thurston  
May 8: JV Baseball @ Crow  
JV Softball @ Crow  
May 9: V Baseball @ Sisters Doubleheader  
V Softball @ Sisters Doubleheader  
May 13: JV Softball @ Harrisburg  
V Softball @ Harrisburg  
May 16: Track and Field @ Regis St Mary Catholic School  
V Baseball @ Creswell Doubleheader  
V Softball @ Creswell Doubleheader

**ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 12):** Chair Graham adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

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

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Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent