



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

June 15, 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, Brian Kirkpatrick, Lisa McCann, Mark Gent and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Kathleen Pizzola, attended via zoom, experiencing connection and microphone difficulties and voted via chat at agenda item #7.D.4 until adjournment.

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 May Citizenship Award was presented to Elmira High School student Thaddius Mason.

FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3): Elmira High School student Thaddius Mason 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 May 18, 2026 were presented for approval.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 18, 2026, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

BUSINESS OFFICE (Agenda Item 6):

6. A. Enrollment Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of June 1, 2026. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 23.4 and Veneta Elementary is at 22.43. Total elementary enrollment is at 572. The middle school has 307 students enrolled. The high school has 351. Overall our in-district enrollment is down 54 below our budgeted number. Quanah will give a final enrollment report for June at the July meeting.

6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of May 31, 2026. The district has received 103% of our budgeted revenue which was 104% this time last year and spent 75% of our budgeted expenses, which was 76% at the same time last year.

Director McCann moved to approve the general fund and expenditure report for May 31, 2026, seconded by Director Gent. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, McCann and Gent voting yes. 4-0.

REPORTS (Agenda Item 7):

7. A. Chartwell's 2025-2026 report: Director Bo Gottfried presented slides to highlight Chartwells food service program.

7. B. Director of K-12 Programs: Director Michelle Marshall presented the FRSD Board Goals – LPGA June Presentation slides. There was a time of discussion regarding attendance and how that effects grades and graduation rates.

7. C. Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Carpenter gave thanks to all the principals over the last couple of weeks for all the work with the year end activities and events.
- The Facility use process is in the organizational phase with the Athletic Director Emmy Erwin and the Facility Director Dan Prutzman handing over the scheduling of all athletic events after July 1 to Emmy Erwin.

7. D. Public Hearing for the 2026-2027 Budget

7. D.1. Open Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 Budget

7.D. 2. Public Comment: None at this time.

7. D.3. Close Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 Budget

7. D.4. Resolution #25-26/12 Adopt the 26-27 Budget and Impose the Tax Levies:
Resolution #25-26/12 was presented for approval.

There was a time of clarification on line item 5100.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve Resolution #25-26/12, 26-27 Budget and Impose the Tax Levies, seconded by Director Gent.

There was a time of discussion and clarification on reserve amounts and all funds.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. Lease of East Lot of Veneta Elementary: The City of Veneta is hiring a surveyor to complete this transaction. This will push this process out many months. There was a time of discussion about changing the terms.

8. B. K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration Update: The community input survey results were presented. The schedule for the remaining steps to prepare to vote was presented.

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

EEACC G1 update- Discipline Procedures for District Approved Student Transportation,

EEACC R G1 delete- Discipline Procedures for District Approved Student Transportation,

EEACC R G1 replace- Discipline Procedures for District Approved Student Transportation,

JGDA G1 update- Discipline of Students with Disabilities, and

JGDA R G1 update- Discipline of Students with Disabilities.

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):

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

9. A.1. Hiring of Lyndsey Neal, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 26, 2026.

Retirement of Reine' Peirce, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Veneta Elementary School, effective June 12, 2026.

Hiring of Mari Jones, 0.75 FTE One-Year Temporary/Retiree Contract, effective August 31, 2025.

Hiring of Jon Guldager, 1.0 FTE One-Year Temporary/Retiree Contract effective August 31, 2025.

Director McCann 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 Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Jennifer Gent, Assistant 3.5 Secretary I at Veneta Elementary School, effective June 11, 2026.

New Hires/Transfers

1. Hiring of Shaina Brown, Assistant 3.5 Secretary I at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 31, 2026.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Hiring of Pete Frazee, Head Cross Country Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 17, 2026.
2. Resignation of Aaron Garcia, JV 2 Boys Basketball Coach at Elmira High School, effective May 4, 2026.
3. Resignation of Jeannie Core, JV Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective January 29, 2026.
4. Resignation of Nick Anderson, JV Girls Basketball Coach at Elmira High School, effective April 20, 2026.

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

- Director Kirkpatrick requested an update on the irrigation projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 11):

June 19: School offices are closed for the summer.
August 18, 19, 20: Returning Student Registration
August 31-September 2: Inservice Week

Elmira Elementary:

August 12 : 7am-7pm Kinder and New Student Registration

Veneta Elementary:

August 12 : 7am-7pm Kinder and New Student Registration

Fern Ridge Middle School:

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

Elmira High School:

August 12 : 9am-7pm New Student Registration
August 19, 20: Registration and Picture Day

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 12): Board Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent