



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J

School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

September 21, 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 6:28 pm.

In attendance were Directors Lisa McCann, Kathleen Pizzola, WC Grover, Brian Kirkpatrick and Superintendent Gary Carpenter. Mark Gent attended 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.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 3): 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 (4) four 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.

Please state your name and if you are a resident of the district. If speaking for an organization, state the name of the organization. The Board reserves the right to refer the matter to the administration.

- Community member Jenn Gent commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Hayden Henneman commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Elizabeth Skenzick submitted a letter to be read into record in favor to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Mari Jones submitted a letter to be read into record in favor to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.

MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 4):

4. A. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the work session and regular school board meeting on August 17th, 2026 were presented for approval.

Director McCann moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 17th, 2026, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the work session minutes from August 17th, 2026, seconded by Director Pizzola. 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. Enrollment Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of September 11, 2026. The adopted budget was based on 1246 in district students, and the district is at 1161, which is 85 students below projections. Elmira and Veneta Elementary are 21 below combined. The Middle school is 12 below, and Elmira High school is the largest under budget with 64 below. Chair Grover asked if we would need to adjust the official budget. It was noted that in December it would be evaluated again if there is a need.

5. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of August 31, 2026. The district has received 18% of our budgeted revenue. The districts operating expenditures are at 6%, the same as last year at this time.

Director McCann moved to approve the genral fund revenue and expenditure report July 31, 2026; 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. Student Representatives to the School Board Report: Student representatives Kendall Moeller and Penny Cordon recited their oath of office to the school board. They both reported on the efforts and successes of cheer, football and volleyball. They both reported on National Honor

Society topics, Homecoming festivities, and Leadership challenges and accomplishments for the senior class budget.

6. B. Bond Wrap-up: Scott Rose summarized the bond projects that have been accomplished and the projects that are finishing up. He detailed the remaining funds and how they will move to the bond program contingency account. The approximate remaining amount will be around \$4 million. Scott proposed the approval of moving the remaining funds from individual project accounts to program contingency.

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

6. C. Director of K-12 Programs: Director Marshall presented the 25-26 Integrated Programs Annual Report.

6. C.1. Annual Report-Integrated Plan: The 25-26 Integrated Programs Annual Report was presented to the Board.

6. D. Superintendent's Report

- Gave thanks to the district and business office staff and all of the hard work that is put in at the beginning of the school year.
- Superintendent Carpenter presented the proposed allocation of remaining bond dollars. There was a time of discussion and clarifying questions around how those percentages were decided and what the "wish list" consists of. Director Kirkpatrick requested the summary of accounts and what major expenditures there will be in the next 4-8 years.
- Gave an update on the UPBEAT survey schedule for the upcoming year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 7):

7. A. K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration: The motion for the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration was presented. There was a time of discussion on the Structured Learning Center (SLC) plan for classrooms and teachers. Director Kirkpatrick expressed his reservations for the reconfiguration and made a motion to table this topic until the next superintendent takes the position.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to table the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration until the following school year, seconded by Director Gent. There was no discussion. The motion failed with Directors Gent and Kirkpatrick voting yes and Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting no. 2-3.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes and Directors Gent and Kirkpatrick voting no. 3-2.

7. B. Second Reading of Proposed Policy Updates: A second reading and approval was held on the following proposed administrative rule and policy updates:

KNA New – Immigration Enforcement on District Property

KNA-AR (1) New – Interactions with Immigration Enforcement

KNA-AR (2) New – Federal Immigration Enforcement Request Log

Director Gent moved to approve the second reading of the policy, seconded by Director Pizzola. There was a series of clarifying questions. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

7. C. Curriculum Change request - AP Computer Science: Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles for second year Computer Science students was presented by Principal Cydney Vandercar for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the AP Computer Science curriculum, seconded by Director McCann. There was a clarifying question. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

7. D. OSBA Annual Convention November 12-14: Requested confirmation from board members whether they are attending or not so reservations can be made.

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 8):

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

8. A.1 Retirement of Gary Carpenter, Fern Ridge School District Superintendent, effective June 30, 2027.

Hiring of Jake O'Connor, Physical Education Teacher at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 26, 2026.

Director Gent moved to accepted the retirement of Gary Carpenter, 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.

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

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

Resignations/Retirements

1. Resignation of Nana David, District wide Custodian, effective September 16, 2026.
2. Resignation of Kelli Krieschel, 6.0 Title Instructional Assistant at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 17, 2026.
3. Resignation of Regg Rodriguez, 3.75 Title Instructional Assistant at Elmira Elementary School, effective September 9, 2026.

New Hires/Transfers

1. Hiring of John Rhodes, Special Education Instructional Assistant at Fern Ridge Middle School, effective August 31, 2026.

2. Hiring of Odessa Bell, 3.0 Instructional Assistant at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 31, 2026.
3. Hiring of Melissa Burns, 6.0 Title Instructional Assistant at Veneta Elementary School, effective August 31, 2026.
4. Hiring of Regg Rodriguez, 3.75 Title Instructional Assistant at Elmira Elementary School, effective August 31, 2026.
5. Hiring of Regg Rodriguez, 6.0 Instructional Assistant at Elmira Elementary School, effective September 10, 2026.
6. Hiring of Randall Fox, 1.0 District wide Custodian, effective September 1, 2026.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Hiring of Jeannie Core, Assistant JV Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 17, 2026.
2. Hiring of John Rhodes, Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 17, 2026.
3. Hiring of Travis Lance, Head Softball Coach at Elmira High School, effective March 1, 2026.
4. Hiring of Michael Caley, Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 17, 2026.
5. Resignation of Brycen Bechtel, Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 24, 2026.
6. Resignation of David Querubin, Assistant Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective August 21, 2026.
7. Resignation of Conrad Davis, Head Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective September 14, 2026.

LATE ITEMS/CLOSING COMMENTS/BOARD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Agenda Item 9):

- None at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 10):

10. A. Upcoming Events

October 9: NO SCHOOL - State In-service Day

Elmira Elementary:

September 23: 6-7pm Open House

October 21: 6pm PTA

Veneta Elementary:

September 23: 6-7pm Open House

October 12: 5:30pm PALS

Fern Ridge Middle School:

September 24: 6:30-8pm Open House

October 15 & 16 : 4-8pm, 8am-12pm Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 16: NO SCHOOL

Elmira High School:

September 30: 5:45pm Open House

October 2:Homecoming Parade and football game

October 3:Homecoming Dance

October 15 & 16: Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 11): Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent