FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

October 19, 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 7:00 pm.

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

CITIZENSHIP AWARD (Agenda Item 2): The October Citizenship Award was presented to Fern Ridge Middle School student Nadalie Core.

FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3): Fern Ridge Middle School student Nadalie Core 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 (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 Hayden Henneman commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Caroline Henneman commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Jenn Gent commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Kailee VanCleve commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Britny Kaufman submitted a letter to be read into record in favor to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Cynthia Schact commented in opposition to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community member Haley Herbert submitted a letter to be read into record in favor to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.
- Community members Sarah and Brodie Davis submitted a letter to be read into record in favor to the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration.

MONTHLY ITEMS (Agenda Item 5):

5. A. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the September 17, 2026 work session planning meeting and regular school board meeting on September 21, 2026 were presented for approval.

Director McCann moved to approve both the work session planning meeting minutes from September 17th, 2026 and the regular meeting minutes from September 21st, 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 6):

6. A. Enrollment Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of October 1, 2026. The adopted budget was based on 1246 in district students, and the district is at 1156, which is 90 students below projections. Elmira was budgeted at 237 including the two Bridges classrooms and is currently at 241. Veneta Elementary was budgeted at 314 including the structured learning classroom and is currently at 291. The combined elementary enrollment is 19 students below. The Middle school was budgeted at 311 including the Bridges classroom and is currently at 298. At Elmira High school it was budgeted 384 and is currently at 325 with one home tutor student. This is a combined total of 71 below budget for the Middle and High schools. There was a clarifying question around whether the out of district placements were recent. It was explained that it changes from month to month pretty regularly.

6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett

reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of September 30, 2026. The district has received 24% of our budgeted revenue, the same as last year at this time. The districts operating expenditures are at 14%, which was 12% this time last year.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the general fund revenue and expenditure report for September 30, 2026; 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. Budget Adoption Calendar: Business Manager Quanah Bennett presented the 2027-2028 Budget Adoption Calendar.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the Budget Adoption Calendar for 27-28; 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 7):

7. A. Student Representatives to the School Board Report: Student representatives Kendall Moeller and Penny Cordon both reported on the efforts and successes of cheer, football, cross country and volleyball. They both reported on National Honor Society topics, and Leadership fundraisers.

7. B. Director of K-12 Programs: Director Marshall announced that the board goal presentations will be in December, April, and June. Director Marshall invited requests for new or different information during these presentations. She reported that the district attendance is up 10% from this time last year.

7. C. Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Carpenter reported that grass seeding is ready to start on the new fields behind Elmira Elementary.
- The cell tower project at the high school is on track. The fiber cable has been rerouted as it was too close to this location.
- Superintendent Carpenter invited nominations of possible sports hall of fame nomination inductions, due Nov 1.
- He attended the OSBA Roadshow at LESD last week. Topics to look for in the coming year are screen time limitations for K-1, OSAS policy around opting out, staff safety, instructional time, and statewide bargaining schedules.

7. C.1. Division 22 Standards Report 25-26: Superintendent Carpenter presented the Division 22 Standards report for 2025-2026 for approval.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the Division 22 standards report for 25-26; seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. Remaining Bond Dollar % Allocation: Superintendent Carpenter presented the balances,

and reserve account information to explain the allocation and then requested approval.

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

8.B. Fern Ridge School District/Crow School District Girls Wrestling Co-Op:
8.C. Fern Ridge School District/Crow School District Boys Wrestling Co-Op:
8.D. Fern Ridge School District/Marist School District Swim Co-Op:

The three athletic co-ops were presented for approval.

Director Kirkpatrick moved to approve the three sports co-ops as presented; seconded by Director Pizzola. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Gent, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting yes. 5-0.

8. E. Consideration of motion to rescind the previous board action on September 21, 2026 regarding the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration Plan: The motion to consider rescission of the motion to approve the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration was stated.

Director Gent moved to rescind the previous board action to approve the K-2 / 3-5 Reconfiguration, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick.

Director Gent read a list of reasons why he made the motion. Director Kirkpatrick made statements supporting this rescission.

The motion failed with Directors Gent and Kirkpatrick voting yes and Pizzola, Grover and McCann voting no. 2-3.

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):

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

9. A.1 Retirement of Shannon Hart, 1.0 FTE English Teacher at Elmira High School, effective November 1, 2026.

Director Gent moved to accept the retirement of Shannon Hart as of October 31, 2026, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick.

There was a time of discussion that Mr. Hart will finish the 26-27 school year and be rehired effective November 1, 2026.

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. None at this time.

New Hires/Transfers
1. Hiring of Brody Bothel, 1.0 District wide Custodian, effective September 28, 2026.

Other
1. None at this time.

Coaches
1. Resignation of Donald Harris, Head Volleyball Coach at Elmira High School, effective September 16, 2026.

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

- None at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 11):

11. A. Upcoming Events
November 5: End of First Quarter
November 6: NO SCHOOL-Teacher Work Day
November 11: NO SCHOOL-Veterans Day

Elmira Elementary:
October 21: 6pm PTA
October 30: 5-7pm Harvest Carnival

Veneta Elementary:
November 2: 6pm PALS

Fern Ridge Middle School:
October 23: Fall Dance

Elmira High School:
October 21: 6:30pm Booster Club Meeting
October 23: Senior Night-Football and Cheer

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Agenda Item 12): ORS 192.660(2)(b) - Discipline of Public Officers and Employees to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or agent.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (Agenda Item 13): Chair Grover

COMPLAINT TO BOARD (Agenda Item 14): There was a motion regarding the complaint to the school board.

Director McCann moved to further conduct a third-party investigation regarding the complaint to the school board; seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion

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

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 15): Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Attest: _____ _____
School Board Representative Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent