



FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J
School Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL BOARD

May 18, 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 conference call only, as his Wi-Fi connection was unsatisfactory.

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 Elementary School student Jaxson Crow.

FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Item 3): Elmira Elementary School student Jaxson Crow 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 April 20, 2026 were presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the minutes from the work session and regular meeting on April 20, 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 Quanah Bennett reviewed the enrollment report as of May 1, 2026. Elmira Elementary has an average class size of 23.4 and Veneta Elementary is at 22.57. Total elementary enrollment is at 574. The middle school has 302 students enrolled. The high school has 353. Overall our in-district enrollment is down 49 below our budgeted number.

6. B. General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Report: Business Manager Quanah Bennett reviewed the general fund revenue and expenditure report as of April 30, 2026. The district has received 96% of our budgeted revenue which was 93% this time last year and spent 67% of our budgeted expenses, which was 68% at the same time last year.

Director McCann moved to approve the general fund and expenditure report for April 30, 2026, 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. Fern Ridge Middle School Presentation: Principal Olivia Johnson and Assistant Principal Eric Carman presented slides to highlight Fern Ridge Middle School's statistics, programs and initiatives.

7. B. Fern Ridge Education Association: Certified Union President, Jennifer Snider presented appreciations for each school building and their activities. Then DesiRae Wright-Rendon gave an overview of the NEA RA 2026 that will be July 3-7 in Denver, CO.

7. C. Student Representatives: Student representative Jake Van Damme gave updates on Spring Sports district and state contenders. Outdoor school is this week and Rylee Rice is a camp counselor. All board members are invited to attend. National Honor Society had to postpone their banquet to April 27th. Leadership had Wellness Awareness Week with a speaker from Lane ESD, Kona Ice and the NO Drama Llama and it went very well. Prom had great participation with no problems. Rylee arranged the speaker for the pre-Prom Safety Assembly and it was very moving and thought provoking. They are finishing up the docs for the Leadership advisor binder.

7. D. Director of K-12 Programs: Director Michelle Marshall presented the 6-12th grade Social Sciences curriculum summaries.

7. D.1. Director Marshall presented the Fern Ridge Middle School and Elmira High School Social Sciences curriculum for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the 26-27 Social Sciences curriculum, seconded by Director Grover. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

7. E. Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Carpenter gave thanks to both student representatives, Jake Van Damme and Rylee Rice.
- Both bond projects for the summer are under way. Trees are down at Veneta Elementary, and demo is ready to begin in the Middle School classrooms.
- There was a time of discussion about the city of Veneta leasing the property at the far East end of the field at Veneta Elementary. Questions about shortening the term of the lease and what does the liability look like under that agreement were discussed as well.
- There will be a K-2 / 3-5 reconfiguration zoom to answer questions and get feedback from the community tomorrow at 5:30pm right before the budget meeting at 6:30pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Agenda Item 8):

8. A. Alternative Education Programs: Presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the Alternative Education Programs for 26-27, seconded by Director Kirkpatrick. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

8. B. Second Reading of Proposed 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule: The 2026-2027 school board meeting schedule was presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to approve the 2026-2027 school board meeting schedule with all the work sessions removed, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

8. C. Resolution 25-26/11 – Transfer Students for 2026-2027: The Resolution 25-26/11 Transfer Students for 26-27 was presented for approval.

Director Pizzola moved to adopt the 25-26/11 Transfer Students for 26-27 , seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

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

JGE update-Expulsion

EFA G1 update-Local Wellness

Director Pizzola moved to adopt both policies as presented, seconded by Director McCann. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Directors Grover, Kirkpatrick, Pizzola, McCann and Gent voting yes. 5-0.

PERSONNEL (Agenda Item 9):

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

9. A.1. Hiring of Leah Mode, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Elmira Elementary School, effective August 26, 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 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. None at this time.

Other

1. None at this time.

Coaches

1. Resignation of Eric Carman, Head Cross Country Coach at Elmira High School, effective March 11, 2026.
2. Resignation of Rich Jones, Assistant Varsity Football Coach at Elmira High School, effective April 17, 2026.

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

- Director Kirkpatrick reported that he had heard from multiple students that there have been ants in the cereal in the cafeteria at the Middle School.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Agenda Item 11):

May 19: 6:30pm 2nd Budget Committee meeting
May 22: NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day
May 25: NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
May 26: 6:30pm 3rd Budget Committee meeting (if necessary)
June 10: Wednesday - Full day of School
June 11: Last Day of School - Early Release
June 12: NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day
June 15: 6:30pm Budget Public Hearing
June 19: Last Day for Elementary School Offices to be open.

Elmira Elementary:

May 19: 6pm PTA
May 27: PTA Bottle Drop
June 16: 6pm PTA

Veneta Elementary:

June 1: 5:30pm PALS

Fern Ridge Middle School:

May 20: 6-7pm 8th grade Fly-up Dinner

June 3: 6-7:30pm Spring Concert

June 8: 6:30-7:30pm 8th Grade Promotion

Elmira High School:

June 2: Last Day of school for Seniors

June 3: 6pm EHS Awards Night

June 5: 7pm EHS Graduation

8:13pm EXECUTIVE SESSION (Agenda Item 12): Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(k):
To consider matters relating to school safety or a plan that responds to safety.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Agenda Item 13): Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(b): To
consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a
public officer, employee, staff member or agent, unless he or she requests an open meeting.

8:55pm RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (Agenda Item 14):

ADJOURNMENT (Agenda Item 15): Board Chair Grover adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Attest: _____
School Board Representative

Gary E. Carpenter, Jr., Superintendent