

Benton School Board Minutes

October 25, 2023

These draft minutes of the Town of Benton School Board are believed accurate and correct, but they are subject to additions, deletions, and corrections by the School Board at the next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. These minutes are made available currently to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.

Benton School Board: Joe Boutin, Chair; Dwight Swauger, Co-chair; Michael Stiebitz, Clerk; Penny Chicoine, Treasurer; Gilbert Richardson, Moderator.

Public: Laura Richardson, Daniel Finn

Administration: Katherine Ducharme, Finance Director, Janet Cole, Special Ed. Director.

Chair Boutin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Chair Boutin made a motion to adjourn School board meeting to address Special Town Meeting, seconded by Member Swauger and passed unanimously. Motion to adjourn town meeting was made by Member Swauger and seconded by Laura Richardson.

School board meeting opened by Chair Boutin at 6:03 pm.

Motion to approve minutes from 8/23/23 and 10/4/23 made by Member Swauger, seconded by Chair Boutin, and approved.

Manifests were signed.

Treasurer Chicoine brought forth a candidate to replace Roxanne Newton (deputy treasurer) since she moved away from Benton. She brought forth Daniel Finn IV to be her replacement. Motion made by Chair Boutin to appoint Daniel Finn IV as deputy Treasurer for the Benton School District, seconded by Member Swauger and passed by majority vote

Tuition agreement between Benton School Board and S.A.U. 23 for the ensuing year.

Kathy Ducharme reported first draft of Benton School District budget showing increases in tuition and expenses, raises for teachers and support employees and a 5 student increase in enrollment showing a possible 17.5 % increase over last year. Adequacy grants have not been released as of this meeting but will cause some small changes in the next budget draft. Increase in student population has caused a deficit to be determined how to finance \$82,000 (est.) from the education trust fund.

Janet Cole, Special Education Director-Increased size of facilities is progressing with students waiting to fill the seats. All areas of special education are moving forward with excellent results.

Special Town Meeting Warrant and minutes will be published on the town website at tobentonnh.org.

Next meeting date: January 3, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47

Dwight Swauger, Co-chair

edited for correction 1/5/24