

**Benton School Board Minutes**  
**April 15, 2026**

**Benton School Board:** Dwight Swauger, Brenda Finoia, Amanda Bemis

**Also Present:** Dolores Fox, SAU Superintendent, Kathryn Ducharme, SAU Business Administrator.

**Public:** None

*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 at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.*

Supt. Fox called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm.

Reorganization proceeded with Dwight Swauger nominated for school board chair, seconded by Member Finoia and passed unanimously. Chair Swauger nominated Member Bemis for vice chair, seconded by Member Finoia and passed unanimously. Member Bemis nominated Member Finoia for secretary, seconded by Chair Swauger and passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of our meeting on 2/12/26 made by Chair Swauger, passed by Chair as only member in attendance.

Manifest were signed, tuition agreement was signed by Chair Swauger.

No public input.

**K. Ducharme, Business Administrator:** Finance summary was discussed with an emphasis on unassigned fund balance available at year end 2026. Approximately \$105,000 to \$113,000 is estimated at this time with many factors still to be considered. Questions on open enrollment financing were explored and answered.

**Superintendents Report:** Legislation involving education and open enrollment were explained as to early versions that will not be enacted until 2027. Discussion involving open enrollment was met with many questions but will wait until implementation to clarify more clearly. Legislation to remove the states liability in funding to schools be reduced which raised concerns as to budgeting for next year.

**Kerri Reilly, Special Education Director:** No report submitted.

Policies DFA-R and Investment Policy were reviewed and passed unanimously as written.

Supt. Fox brought up the idea of having a small reception at town hall on June 10, 2026 before the regular school board meeting to recognize the graduating seniors from Benton with all town residents and students invited.

Chair Swauger made a motion to leave the regular meeting to go to non-public session at 6:48 pm, seconded by Member Bemis and passed unanimously.

Member Finoia made a motion to end the non-public session at 6:55 pm and seconded by Member Bemis and passed unanimously.

Next meeting date is June 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Member Finoia, seconded by Member Bemis and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Swauger, Chair



