Benton School Board Minutes
November 18, 2026

Benton School Board: Dwight Swauger, Chair, Amanda Bemis, Co-chair, Brenda Finoia.
Administration Present: Dolores Fox, SAU Superintendent, Taryn Noonan-Johnson, 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.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.
Motion to approve the minutes of our meeting on October 21, 2026 made by Member Bemis, second by Member Swauger and passed unanimously.
Manifest were signed.
No public input.
Business Administrator: Most recent financial summary the general fund balance for FY 2027 is $535,552 with this being an early version of budget numbers. State Department of education released the Adequacy Grants amounts which reflected a decrease from $120,296 for 2026 to $82,595 for 2027 or a 68.8% loss of grant from the state of NH. State tax grant increased by $2,282. Tuition increases plus transportation increase along with less reimbursement from Medicare is potentially causing a $97,000 deficit at year end June 30, 2027. Unassigned fund balance of $120,688 was sent to the Trustee of the Trust for Education

Kerri Reilly, Special Education Director: Written explanation of why Benton School District shows in the eyes of the state department of education says we do not have any programs in place for special education but our special education needs are provided through the schools in the Haverhill school district.

Superintendents Report: After the election 3 districts voted in the budget cap from HB 1300 and the necessary votes were obtained to pass the cap on the SAU. Figures presently available shows no changes to our local budget but we are receiving guidance from the Education, Department of Revenue Administration and the Attorney Generals offices. More to come as this complex system is being worked out by the powers in Concord.

Discussion ensued as to our options for the deficit at years end would be handled by either paying out from the Trust for Education or to raise taxes to offset to be determined at the Town Meeting In March. FY 2028 budget was discussed with the board deciding to have another meeting on January 6, 2027.

Next meeting date is January 6, 2027 at 6:00 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dwight Swauger, Chair