

Benton School Board Minutes
August 21, 2024

Benton School Board: Dwight Swauger, chair, J.B. Boutin, vice chair, Brenda Finoia. **Also Present:** Delores Fox, SAU Superintendent, Kathryn Ducharme, SAU Business Administrator.
Public: Joe Finoia.

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.

Chair Swauger called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Member Boutin made a motion to approve the minutes from 6/12/24. Seconded by Member Swauger and passed unanimously.

Manifests were signed and MS-25, Financial Report to DRA and Audit agreement signed by Chair Swauger.

Superintendents Report: Delores Fox reported the transition to superintendent has been going well. She reported an introductory video was uploaded to YouTube and she had a radio interview on August 9, 2024. They have been conducting meetings with staff concerning the upcoming year. Staffing is almost complete with trying to locate a Homeless Coordinator. Shared 50 new bills passed in the New Hampshire legislature pertaining to education. Title IX regulations went into effect 8/1/24. Discussion ensued about policy review and the need for a committee to handle these revisions. Chair Swauger volunteered to be part of this function. The first SAU joint board meeting is September 18, 2024, at Haverhill Middle School at 6:30 pm.

K. Ducharme, Business Administrator: The total general fund FY2024 is \$617,451. Revenue was \$654,444 with expenditures of \$719,588 which resulted in a deficit of approximately \$53,000. At year end totals required to satisfy deficit was \$28,553 due to final revenues and expenditures calculated into the deficit was covered by the Benton School Trust Fund. Detailed financial report was discussed for the 2024-2025 budget year.

Kerri Reilly, Special Education Director: Director Reilly was unable to attend, Supt. Fox would relay questions to her. DOE observed SAU 23 for policies, procedures, personnel, forms and grant spending. It outlined areas for development to be addressed with the DOE later. Benton School District will have 10 students out of 22 in Special Education on active IEP's, supported by various case managers and instructional assistants. Member Boutin expressed concern as to why almost 50% of Benton students are classified as special education students. Discussion ensued and Ms. Fox would get answers from the director.

Next meeting date: October 23, 2024, 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by member Boutin and passed unanimously at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dwight
Swauger, Chair

