

Benton School Board Minutes

January 3, 2024

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.

Public: None

Administration: Katherine Ducharme, Finance Director

Chair Boutin called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Motion to approve minutes from 10/25/23 and Special Meeting notes from 10/25/23 by school board clerk Stiebitz made by Member Swauger, seconded by Chair Boutin. K. Ducharme made note of correction needed for protocol of adding Deputy Treasurer to the board. Minutes were to be edited and submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Manifests were signed.

Superintendent Report: Ms. Melanson was not present. Haverhill board approved five policies of which one is new and the others are revisions dealing with 1) Nursing mother's accommodations 2) Data governance and security 3) Background investigation and criminal history records check 4) Change of class or school or assignment best interests and manifest hardship 5) Use of restraints and seclusion. These policies will be uploaded to the SAU website. Jan Cole will be leading the search committee for a new special education director. We have some candidates and will be doing second round interviews. There are 2 board members on the committee.

Business Administrator: Kathy Ducharme reported second draft of Benton School District budget showing decrease of \$6,434 less than first draft due to SAU assessment of their final budget and tuition expenses for Benton adjusted to 3%. Adequacy grants have been released as of this meeting and was reduced by \$4,613. Increase in student population has caused a deficit to be determined how to finance \$82,000 (est.) from the education trust fund. Also proposed January 31, 2024 as a date for combined town and school board budget hearings with approval of the select board. Warrant articles for the town school warrant were updated.

Next meeting date: January 31 2024 @ 6:00 pm. (budget Hearing)

Town Meeting March 13, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

Next Benton School District meeting April 17, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Dwight Swauger, Co-chair