

Benton School Board Minutes
June 12, 2024

Benton School Board: Dwight Swauger, chair, J.B. Boutin, vice chair

Also Present: Laurie Melanson, SAU Superintendent, Kathryn Ducharme, SAU Business Administrator, Janet Cole, SAU Special Education Director.

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.

Chair Swauger called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Member Boutin made a motion to leave the regular meeting for the Public Hearing, seconded by member Swauger and passed unanimously.

Motion made to open public hearing by member Boutin, seconded by member Swauger and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing was called to order by Chair Swauger at 6:05 pm.

Kathryn Ducharme gave her report on monies needed from the Benton Educational Trust to cover deficits from the 2023-2024 school year due to the influx of new students. The financial report shows the anticipated deficit at years end to be \$56,507 but could possibly be as high as \$116,091 due to unanticipated expenses. Discussion ensued and member Boutin made suggestion of setting amount at \$75,000.

Motion made by chair Swauger to allow up to \$75,000 available to SAU 23 upon written request to Chair of the Educational Trust, Laura Richardson and passed unanimously.

The motion to adjourn the public hearing was made by member Boutin and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to resume Benton School Board meeting by member Boutin and passed unanimously.

Minutes from April 17, 2024, read with discussion of Chair Swauger's name being misspelled, motion made by member Boutin to approve with correction and passed unanimously.

Manifest were signed and yearly documents signed as to approval of the SAU to conduct business on our behalf. Signed by Chair Swauger.

Superintendents Report: Laurie Melanson reported they have filled many positions to maintain their teaching standards and ability to retain them long term. The last day of school was June 12, 2024, and Ms. Melanson is retiring officially June 12, 2024, but will be mentoring the new Superintendent Delores Fox for the next year. Everyone expressed their pleasure with dealing with Laurie over the past 8 years.

K. Ducharme, Business Administrator: The total general fund budget for FY2024 is \$3,217,534. Total revenue received to date is \$2,475,764. I anticipate an additional \$463,267 in revenue for the year for a total of \$2,939,031. Expenditures to date are \$2,471,278 and current encumbrances are approximately \$487,087 for a total of \$2,958,365 in expenditures at year end. The current projection for the year-end includes a deficit of approximately \$19,000. Adding that to the existing unassigned fund balance, there will be approx. \$197,000 available. The FY2025 budget includes using \$75,000 of fund balance, leaving \$122,000 available for the start of next year. This projected amount is subject to change if unanticipated costs arise or tuition revenue changes.

Janet Cole Special Education Director: Ms. Cole stated that all the special education students are doing very well in both academic and social skills. She also stated she has enjoyed her short time here working with the Benton School Board and announced that June 18, 2024, will be her last day and looking forward to retirement. Assured the board that her replacement is a capable replacement.

Benton School District meetings for 2024-2025 have been tentatively scheduled for:

August 21, 2024

October 23, 2024

January 8, 2025 (Tentative budget hearing with select board)

March 11, 2025 (Town meeting)

April 16, 2025

June 11, 2025

All meetings start at 6:00 pm and are open to the public.

Next meeting date: August 21, 2024, 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by member Boutin and passed unanimously at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight Swauger, Chair

