

**Benton School District  
State of New Hampshire  
2026 School Meeting Notes**

The School Moderator Jeremy Elliott opened the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026, at 7:03PM. SAU 23 Superintendent Dolores Fox and SAU 23 Finance Director Kathryn Ducharme were in attendance.

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Alexandria Noble was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 2:** To choose a School District Clerk for the ensuing year.

Mike Stiebitz was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 3:** To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years to expire in 2029.

Amanda Bemis was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 4:** To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Penny Chicoine was nominated, seconded and elected with a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5:** To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote related thereto.

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

Motion to accept was made, seconded.

The article was then passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate Five Hundred Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$542,987) for the support of schools, the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and the payments of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. It was stated that the major factor in the decrease from last year's budget is due to fewer Benton students enrolled in the SAU.

Motion to accept was made, seconded.

The article was then passed with a majority voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the previously established Benton School District Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2026. No amount to be raised from taxation. (The School Board recommends this article.)

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article.

It was mentioned that the total amount needed will not be known until the end of the school year in June. This article will just make sure that whatever funds are left over in June will be captured in the Expendible Trust Fund for use in the future.

The article was then passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Benton School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 for the purpose of funding the estimated tuition of School District students who attend open enrollment schools/programs located outside the School District *and its tuition agreement schools* in accordance with RSA 194-D. (Majority vote required).

A motion was made to accept as written, seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any discussion on this article. Quite a few attendees were scratching their heads about this article. It was explained that this article is an effort to protect Benton from having to subsidize the attendance of any Benton student to any open enrollment school or program outside of our district. Since we have no school of our own, it may be a moot point, so this article just “covers all the bases” in case any subsequent legislation is enacted.

The article was then passed with a unanimous voice vote.

At this time, Benton School Board presented retiring School Board member Joe Boutin with a plaque commemorating his service to the Town. She also presented the Town with a plaque commemorating past School Board members. Lastly, Superintendent Fox announced the retirement of Kathrine Ducharme, SAU 23 Finance Director and wished her well. A large round of applause was had for both of the retirees.

The Moderator then asked for a motion to adjourn the School District Meeting. A motion

was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 7:18PM.

All newly elected officials were sworn in at the end of the Town Meeting.

A true copy,

Attest: Michael P. Stiebitz – Benton School District Clerk – 03/18/2026

*Michael P. Stiebitz*