DERRY COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Derry Municipal Center
September 9, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman Thiele called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Carrie Sindoni, Assistant Superintendent; Jane Simard, Business Administrator; Michael Flynn, Superintendent; Brenda Willis; Chairman Michael Thiele; Jennifer Theroux, Vice-Chair; Jamie Carreau; and Karen Rand. Jenna Paradise and David Clapp absent.

Also in Attendance: Richard Tripp, Tom Cardon, Melissa Lantz, Mary Hill, David Brown, Michelle Cremone, Bill Fox, and Lisa Long.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the Public Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2026; the Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2026; a Manifest in the amount of $4,797,499.02; $3,578,509.90 General Payroll; and $1,218,989.12 General Expense.

Jamie Carreau **Moved** to accept the Consent Agenda and Karen Rand seconded the Motion. **Vote**: Yes - Unanimous (5/0)

Jenna Paradise arrived at 6:35 PM.

Appointment Presentations-Principal Reports

Gilbert H. Hood Middle School-Lisa Long reported on summer work, facility improvements, custodial preparation, and new flooring. The school welcomed 16 new staff members, including 9 classroom teachers, 6 support staff members, and 1 new nurse. The school's goals emphasize a strong academic foundation and positive community through the action strategies Connect, Support, and Celebrate, supported by the CARES competencies: Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control.

West Running Brook Intermediate School-Bill Fox reported a strong start with 657 students enrolled and the school fully staffed. Instructional blocks were restructured to provide 96 minutes for ELA, Social Studies, and Writing and 96 minutes for Math and Science. Fall athletics included 59 students registered for soccer, field hockey, and cross country; students also participated in team-building activities and field trips, and the school continued its SNHU partnership.

Grinnell Elementary School-Melissa Lantz highlighted spring NWEA MAP results showing that students in every grade level reached the high-growth, high-achievement quadrant in math, and all but one grade level did so in reading. Grinnell staff presented at the NWEA Fusion National Conference for the second year in a row. Summer improvements included new tiles in six classrooms, new carpeting in the music room and library, and ongoing collaboration among curriculum task forces and school leadership. The school welcomed six new staff members and continued to seek paraprofessionals.

South Range Elementary School-Michelle Cremone reported that construction projects were a major focus of the summer. Staff, families, the facilities department, Barka colleagues, and SAU leadership worked together to prepare the school for reopening. A well-attended meet-and-greet took place on August 24, 2026, and the opening weeks focused on establishing routines, building relationships, and setting expectations.

East Derry Memorial Elementary School-Mary Hill reported that the school received a new roof and that three classrooms received improvements, including removal of cubby units and rugs and installation of tile. The administration focused on scheduling, planning, class assignments, registration reviews, and follow-up work. The school continued to seek Special Education paraeducators and a school secretary.

Barka Elementary School-David Brown reported that students and staff began the year by building community, establishing expectations, learning names, and developing routines. Summer programming included the Extended School Year (ESY), ISLE, NECC, and the Title I Summer Program, organized through Student Services and the Curriculum Department.

Delegations & Individuals

Richard Tripp (44 Windham Road) raised concerns about the accessibility of meeting materials and presentations, including the School Board Goal Presentation not being displayed on the big screen at the prior meeting. He asked about the acronym ESS (Effective School Solutions), recommended training and advance materials for Fiscal Advisory Committee members to improve budget transparency, and asked about the Kindergarten Readiness assessment used by the schools.

Jamie Carreau **Moved** to grant Richard Tripp additional time. Karen Rand seconded the Motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (6/0)

Tom Cardon (2 Cunningham Drive) praised the principal presentations and discussed HB 1331, which would allow the Derry Town Council to incorporate the Derry School District as a town department through a Charter Amendment. He raised questions about the future of the SAU, the role of the Superintendent and School Board, the relationship with Pinkerton, and the potential effect of a tax cap. He recommended forming a charter commission to provide residents with information and opportunities for input.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to grant Tom Cardon additional time. Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (6/0)

Chairman Thiele stated that the public comment period would remain open until 7:33 p.m.

Student Member Updates

Pinkerton Academy: None.

Deliberations:

RFQ for Sale of SAU Building (18 South Main Street)

The Board discussed issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for commercial real estate brokerage services related to the former SAU property at 18 South Main Street. The RFQ would identify qualified individuals or firms with appropriate commercial real estate experience and establish a process and timeline for selecting a broker, subject to legal review. The Board also discussed outreach, advertising, interested parties, and the charter school right of first refusal requirement.

Brenda Willis **Moved** for the School Board to approve the proposed request for qualifications process for commercial real estate brokerage services related to the former SAU property at 18 South Main Street and authorized the Superintendent to finalize and issue the RFQ subject to legal review.
Karen Rand seconded the Motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (6/0)

School District Treasurer Appointment

The Board reviewed the appointment of Deputy Treasurer Kathy Kennedy, who had been serving as interim treasurer following the resignation of Jason MacLeod. No other applications had been received. The Board appointed Kathy Kennedy as School District Treasurer for a term through June 30, 2029, at an annual salary of $2,000.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to appoint Kathy Kennedy as School District Treasurer for a term through June 30, 2029, at an annual salary of $2,000. Jennifer Theroux seconded the Motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (6/0)

Administration Reports

Business Administrator Update — Jane Simard reported that district auditors were onsite Tuesday and Wednesday and would continue working all day Thursday, September 10, 2026. The district was completing DOE 25, the full financial reflection of the prior school year, and MS 24, the revenue report submitted to the Department of Revenue for tax rate setting. She also reported that a bond project update would be presented at the next meeting and that the updated financial report would be provided at the next September meeting.

Superintendent's Report — Michael Flynn reported on continuing athletic busing challenges for grades five and six, including driver shortages, route adjustments, increased ridership, and shuttle testing between the Boys and Girls Club. The district continued evaluating stops and communicating changes to families.

The district had begun the budget planning process with Jane Simard, Jeremy Lamothe, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carrie Sindoni, and building principals. The process emphasizes restraint, accurate budgeting, predictable annual costs, and clear communication with the Fiscal Advisory Committee. The capital improvement plan was being updated and would be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Assistant principals were preparing for training on the new bullying law adopted by the Board two weeks before this meeting. Legal counsel would provide in-depth training and assist with updating district forms and procedures.

The Board discussed HB 1300 and concerns regarding a proposed statewide tax cap, including differing interpretations of the financial impact and ongoing legal action regarding ballot language. A statewide superintendents meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 11, 2026, and relevant information would be shared with the Board.

Fiscal Advisory Committee meetings were scheduled for:

2027-2028 Budget Meetings

Dates:	**Purpose:**
Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 5:30 PM	Training – SAU Office, 28 South Main Street
Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 5:30 PM	Budget Workshop - SAU Office, 28 South Main Street
Thursday, November 5, 2026, 5:30 PM	Budget Workshop - SAU Office, 28 South Main Street
Thursday, December 3, 2026, 5:30 PM	Budget Workshop - SAU Office, 28 South Main Street
Thursday, December 17, 2026, 5:30 PM	Budget Workshop - SAU Office, 28 South Main Street
Tuesday, January 12, 2027, 6:00 PM	Public Hearing - SAU Office, 28 South Main Street
Saturday, February 6, 2027, 10:00 AM	Deliberative Session – West Running Brook School
Tuesday, March 9, 2027	Voting - **Pinkerton Academy**

Meetings will be held at the Professional Learning Center at the SAU. The November 5 meeting was scheduled after the election to review the possible impact of HB 1300, and the December 3 meeting was scheduled after the Pinkerton numbers were expected to be available.

Other Business

Town Council Joint Workshop Planning

The Board discussed a joint workshop scheduled two weeks out at 5:30 PM before the regular Board meeting. The primary topic will be the proposed charter amendment to consolidate the schools as a town department. Discussion will include the potential roles of the Superintendent and School Board, management responsibilities, and possible efficiencies between the town and school district.

Committee & Liaison Reports

Finance Committee-Karen Rand reported that retained funds remained well under the $400,000 taken for capital expenses when the SAU was switched. The district received $4,000 related to that transition, and SNHU donated a significant amount of furniture for the SAU. The Board had voted to return $533,811 to taxpayers and had another $1.5 million budgeted as a placeholder. In total, taxpayers would receive over $2 million.

Facilities Committee Chairman Thiele reported that 40% of the South Range Elementary School roof work was completed during the summer and remained under budget. Planning began for phase two, which will address the remaining 60% next summer. The district was also planning district-wide door replacements and window replacements for the fifties section at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School.

The committee continued updating the capital improvement plan and reviewing how interest income could be reallocated toward additional bond projects. Jeremy Lamothe and his team had processed over 300 maintenance tickets submitted by staff.

Member Updates & Any Other Business:

- A facilities tour will be held as a public meeting on September 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM, beginning at South Range Elementary School. Community members may attend.
- The New Hampshire School Board Association's Delegate Assembly will be held on October 17th, 2026. At the September 22nd meeting, the Board will vote on a voting delegate, an alternate, and positions on proposed resolutions and bylaw changes.

Future Meetings

- **September 22, 2026:** School Board/Town Council Joint Workshop, 5:30 PM, Derry Municipal Center
- **September 22, 2026:** Regular Meeting, 6:30 PM, Derry Municipal Center
- **October 13, 2026:** Regular Meeting, 6:30 PM, Derry Municipal Center

Chairman Thiele accepts a motion to move into Nonpublic Session according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a).

At 8:17 p.m., Jamie Carreau made a **MOTION** to move into Nonpublic Session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Karen Rand seconded the Motion.
Roll Call Vote:

Jamie Carreau-Yes
Jenna Paradise-Yes
Jennifer Theroux-Yes
Karen Rand-Yes
Chair Michael Thiele-Yes
Brenda Willis-Yes
Vote: Unanimous (6/0)

At 8:36 p.m., Jennifer Theroux made a **MOTION** to close Public Session. Karen Rand seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie J. Napolitano

School Board Secretary