DERRY COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Derry Municipal Center
May 12, 2026

- **Call to Order**: Chairman Thiele called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. He invited the students from Gilbert H Hood Middle School to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

-**Roll Call**: Assistant Superintendent Joseph Crawford, Business Administrator Jane Simard, Superintendent Michael Flynn, Brenda Willis, Chair Michael Thiele, Vice-Chair Jennifer Theroux, School Board Secretary Jenna Paradise, Karen Rand, Jamie Carreau, David Clapp, and Pinkerton Academy Liaison Anthony Henry.

-**Also in Attendance:** Jeremy Lamothe, Brian Chirichiello, Patricia Dowling, and David Provencher.

- Chairman Thiele referred to the **Consent Agenda**: the Public Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026, the Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026, the Manifest in the amount of $6,020,699.01, of which $4,051,593.75 is General Payroll and $1,969,105.26 is General Expense.

The professional staff **nominations** of Erin DelloRusso, Language Arts Teacher, West Running Brook Intermediate School, Grace LeBlanc, English Language Arts Teacher, West Running Brook Intermediate School, James Mccabe, Social Studies Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, Kolbi Plante, Art Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, Jillian Rayno, Speech & Language Pathologist, District, Alison Rhodes, Spanish Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, Wendy Richardson, Special Education Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, Ashley Sanville, Art Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, nomination of Professional Staff for the 2026-2027 School Year - Katherine Smith, the professional staff **resignations** effective June 30, 2026 Rachel Benson, Occupational Therapist, District/East Derry Memorial Elementary School, Avelina Carbone Jarek, Special Education Teacher, Grinnell Elementary School, Suzanne Ciccarello, 2nd Grade Teacher, Barka Elementary School, Amy Fino, Special Education Teacher, Ernest P. Barka Elementary School, Melodee Hodges, Special Education Teacher, East Derry Memorial Elementary School, Mindi Holland, Art Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, Kerry-Lynn LaFlamme, Special Education Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, Madeleine McCallum, Special Education Teacher, West Running Brook Intermediate School, Alison Rice, Out-of-District Coordinator, District, and the post deadline, notice of intent to **retire** effective June 30, 2026, Sean Curran, English Language Arts Teacher, West Running Brook Intermediate School.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to accept the Consent Agenda, the nominations of Erin DelloRusso, Grace LeBlanc, James Mccabe, Kolbi Plante, Jillian Rayno, Alison Rhodes, Wendy Richardson, Ashley Sanville, nomination of Professional Staff for the 2026-2027 School Year - Katherine Smith, resignations effective June 30, 2026 Rachel Benson, Avelina Carbone Jarek, Suzanne Ciccarello, Amy Fino, Melodee Hodges, Mindi Holland, Kerry-Lynn LaFlamme, Madeleine McCallum, Alison Rice, effective June 30, 2026, and intent to retire effective June 30, 2026, Sean Curran. Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion.

Vote: Unanimous (7/0)

Appointment Presentations:

-Derry Early Education Program & Gilbert H. Hood Middle School presented together. Tanya Lebroda, DEEP Administration, National Jr. Honor Society Teacher, Russell Manchester, Math Teacher at GHHMS, and Melanie Curren, GHHMS Assistant Principal. Tanya Lebroda thanked Russell Manchester and the National Jr. Honor Society Students for helping with DEEP events. The DEEP students presented posters to the Jr. Honor Society students. They presented a slideshow that showed the collaboration between the two schools. They showed events like the PTA-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, and the end-of-year celebration. The National Jr. Honor Society students act as role models to the DEEP students.

-Chairman Thiele called for a 5-minute recess.

-**Delegations & Individuals**:

-Patricia Dowling (Derry, NH) talked about the Adult Education Program and her worries that these classes are going to be halted due to the rumors she has been hearing around town. She has taken many classes over the years, including crafts, finance, computers, and languages. These classes are paid for at a cost of $120 or $145. Students of all ages take these classes.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn explained that we had talked about the finances around this program and fewer enrollments at one of the past meetings. There has been no discussion to end this program.

-Chairman Thiele stated that the public comment area will stay open until 7:26 p.m.

- **Student Member Updates:**

-Pinkerton Academy:

-Anthony Henry updated for the last time about what he calls “Celebration Season”. He has spent three years and thanked everyone on the Board for his experiences. **Saturday, May 16, 2026**: Prom held in the Hackler Gym, **Tuesday, May 19th**, 6:00 P.M.: Underclass Awards, **Thursday, May 21st**: CTE Completers Night, for any student who earned certificates for Electrical (OSHA Cert), Cosmetology, or Automotive. **Friday, May 22nd**: J.R.O.T.C. Awards Night, **May 27th:** Spring Instrumental Concert, **June 1st**: Last day of classes for seniors, **June 2nd**: Final Exams start for seniors. **June 11th**: Underclass Exams, **June 4th**: Senior Banquet, **June 8th**: Senior Sunset, **June 9th**: Senior BBQ, **June 11th**: Senior Awards, 6:00 P.M., **June 12th:** Graduation, 6:00 P.M., Memorial Field.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn commended Anthony Henry for his time and commitment over the past three years. He asked when we hear about the next candidate for next year?

-Anthony Henry was not sure!

-**Deliberations:**

-2026-2027 School Board Meeting Schedule

-Superintendent Michael Flynn is supporting no July meetings for a break; they rotated one of the meetings instead of having one right after the deliberative session, and they gave a week in between. They added a second December meeting.

--Chairman Thiele accepts a motion to accept the School Board Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027.

Jamie Carreau **Moved** to accept the School Board Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion. **Vote**: Unanimous (7/0)

-Approval of South Range Elementary School Roof Project

-Superintendent Michael Flynn started by explaining that the bids came in, they had a facilities meeting on Monday, May 11th, to go over the bids, and they are ready to give their recommendation to the Board.

-Jeremy Lamothe updated that they went out to five different bidders through ARM Consulting, and two bidders came to the walkthrough. North Star Roofing came in as the low bidder at $334,000, less than Tech. Tech has been the lowest bidder in all of our other roof projects. North Star Roofing is highly recommended, and ARM Consulting is a qualified bidder as well. The original bond was $1.6 million for the new roof; over time, this has changed because the scope has changed. It has gotten bigger in some areas and smaller in others. Due to the structural integration, it became a little bit larger. Originally, when they were looking at the HVAC project, they were only concerned with the structural areas around the HVAC equipment to satisfy the code requirements. Now, because they are doing the new roof, it makes sense to attack the other structures' issues now while the roof is open, rather than do it again for potentially a lot more money. This increased the cost and timeline because there is asbestos in the roof, and because we are going to have roofers there for the whole project, it adds a lot to it. The roofers will have to temporarily close up the building every single day, rather than a normal roofing project where they would come in, install the roof, and go home. It is going to be a long summer. They anticipate this will have two phases, as opposed to the facade portion that will be done this summer and next summer. Because the facade project came in so much lower and the window project is part of that facade project, they were able to save $3.2 million.

-Discussion ensued with Board members.

--Chairman Thiele accepts a motion to accept the South Range Elementary School Roofing Project Contract with North Star Roofing for $2,776,750.

Jamie Carreau **Moved** to accept the South Range Elementary School Roofing Project with North Star Roofing for $2,776,750. David Clapp seconded the Motion. **Vote**: Unanimous (7/0)

- **Administration Reports:**

-Jane Simard, Business Administrator, updated that they are working with Jeremy Lamothe to get the contracts and purchase orders submitted, completed, and signed. They work with attorneys, Primex, to make sure the language is correct in order to issue those. They are going to be opening up their 2026/2027 portal in our financial software. Schools and departments can start placing and putting in their orders for the 2026/2027 school year. Currently, they are on desktop software; they are going to be migrating to the cloud. They will be doing training on this. Superintendent Michael Flynn has brought a lot of ideas on how to go paperless, so that is what we are transitioning to. They received one Free/Reduced lunch application that was approved. She talked about being a member of the Derry Rotary Club, which works with the food service and 68 Hours of Hunger. They do many projects with food collection, with Market Basket, and they recently did a district-wide food collection.

-**Superintendent's Report**

-Assistant Superintendent Joe Crawford updated Kindergarten Enrollment. They were projecting about the same number of Kindergartners this coming year. They did not change the number of positions or the locations of those positions. They have 17 Kindergarten classes this year, and that is what they have budgeted for next year. They met with the Principals of each school to discuss what we are looking at for the current enrollment trends. They noticed that East Derry Elementary School is already at overflow status, and we have a couple of other schools that have lots of spaces still. They moved one position from Grinnell Elementary School to East Derry Elementary School. East Derry Elementary School had kids in overflow schools this year; those few students went to Barka Elementary School. Kindergarten Orientation is on Friday, May 15th, and they wanted to make sure the decision was made so that the new Kindergarten students could be at the correct schools for orientation. Their goal is to have zero students in overflow. They will continue to watch the numbers as time goes on.

-Jenna Paradise asked if we had gone to daycares in the area to talk about Kindergarten.

-Assistant Superintendent Joe Crawford answered that he believes there have been flyers given out in the past and some social media posts. They will come back to the Board with an update as needed. Most seats are available at Grinnell Elementary School and South Range Elementary School.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn updated on Staff Appreciation Week. PTAs, the SAU, Rig A'Tony's, and Aroma Joe's stepped it up this year! He went to the National Jr. Honor Society Ceremony at Gilbert H Hood Middle School with Russ Manchester. Invitations will go out for the retirement ceremony.

This will be an evening to celebrate them. This will be on June 10, 2026. He started this in Hopkinton when he was there. It started off small at first, but then grew into a bigger celebration where family, friends, and past retirees can come and have a good evening.

-The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) that we have been working on with UMass Lowell was presented last week with their Capstone. Jeremy Lamothe now has the documents in place; they will put some of their touch on them, present this to the facilities committee, and then they will go live in June here in a Board meeting. They have projections out until 2033 with capital improvement projects in every building, dollar amounts, and anticipated timeline.

-He discussed the partnering of local authorities, police, fire, and EMS on Safety Maps for all the schools. This was brought up in the fall, and they were asked to pause at the time because the state as a whole was going to put out a higher statewide bid. They finally went out and chose a vendor. Now all of our buildings and facilities will be mapped out, and they will share when it is ready. They do not know timelines yet; this is grant-funded, and we do not have to spend any money.

-Friday, May 22, 2026, Dr. Sindoni is going to spend some time here in our district as we begin the transition. She is going to meet with Assistant Superintendent Joe Crawford and Danielle Paradis, Athletic Director, GHHMS, and they are going to start the five/six sports conversation that we mentioned as a concern at the last meeting.

-A lot of hiring on and off is going on in May, which is typical for this time of year. He wants to commend the buildings for getting ahead of these candidates when they are applying.

-Committee & Liaison Reports:

-Facilities Committee

-Mr. Clapp updated that Marc Jobin gave an update on where we stand on every project. He will work with Jane Simard. We are projecting to be under budget by about $2 million. They will discuss what they will do with the surplus of money according to what is acceptable under the rules of bonding.

Member Updates & Any Other Business:

-Chairman Thiele addressed one more nomination that did not make it into the consent agenda in time. He took a motion to accept the nomination of Habiba Freeman, Special Education Teacher, District.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept the nomination of Habiba Freeman, Special Education Teacher, District. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion. **Vote**: Unanimous (7/0)

-2026-2027 Fiscal Advisory Committee

-Chairman Thiele announced that the application for the fiscal advisory committee is now open. This committee is an advisory group of Derry residents that meets with the Board each year to provide input in the budget process. If anyone is interested in being involved with the School Board, this is a good place to get started. There will be at least two vacancies this year. Our Board policy BEDH requires vacancies to be announced each May, and appointments to be made by the end of June. The application will be on the website and can be submitted to the SAU office. The appointments will be made at the June 23rd meeting.

-As a Board, they are looking to set a date for the annual goal-setting session. Superintendent Michael Flynn suggested that they do this at 5:00 P.M., before one of the Board meetings scheduled in June, either the 9th or the 23rd.

-Update on HB 1331, which is the bill to enable the town council to incorporate the school district as a department. The Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee held a hearing on this bill on April 28th. It came out of committee with a recommendation of ought to pass. He would expect that this bill will continue moving along. If it becomes law, Charter Amendments could be put on the ballot as soon as next March, either by the Town Council or Citizen Petition. He has been discussing with Superintendent Michael Flynn the implications of this with the district counsel.

-Congratulations to the singers at Grinnell Elementary School and West Running Brook Intermediate School, who went to Concord to participate in the NHMEA's Elementary Honors Choir last month. It is also Spring Concert Season at all of our schools. Congratulations to the Barka Elementary School Chorus, who had theirs already, and to those who have their upcoming concerts.

-Congratulations to the Gilbert H Hood students who were inducted into the National Jr. Honor Society the previous week. The event is entirely run by students; there is a huge group!

-West Running Brook Intermediate School had an event to unveil the finished project last week. The artist was in attendance, and there was a huge turnout from all the families coming out to see their students' work!

-Jenna Paradise added that the Next Charter High School Graduation is June 11, 2026, at 4:00 P.M.

Future Meetings:

-**May 26, 2026:** Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.- Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room
-**June 9, 2026:** Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.- Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room

-There was no **Nonpublic Session.**

-Chairman Thiele accepts a motion to adjourn the meeting.

At 7:39 p.m., Jenna Paradise made a **MOTION** to close Public Session. Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion. **Vote:** 7/0 Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie J. Napolitano

School Board Secretary