DERRY COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Derry Municipal Center
April 14, 2026

- **Call to Order**: Chairman Thiele called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He invited the students from East Derry Memorial Elementary School to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

-**Roll Call**: 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. Assistant Superintendent Joseph Crawford absent.

-**Also in Attendance:** Derick Anderson, Brian Chirichiello, Richard Tripp, and David Provencher.

- Chairman Thiele referred to the **Consent Agenda**: the Public Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2026, the Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2026, the Manifest in the amount of $13,661,415.80, of which $4,207,691.15 is General Payroll and $9,453,724.65 is General Expense. The professional staff nomination of Eric Cobelens a special education teacher at Gilbert H Hood Middle School, the professional staff resignations effective June 30, 2026 Erin Boyko, special education teacher South Range Elementary School, Jillian Godbout, elementary classroom teacher, Grinnell Elementary School, Miranda Littleton, art teacher, East Derry Memorial Elementary School, Olivia Taplin, math teacher at Gilbert H Hood Middle School, and the post deadline, notice of intent to retire effective June 30, 2026, Cathy Strople, reading specialist East Derry Memorial Elementary School. The nomination of Kathy Kennedy for the position of School District Deputy Treasurer and the election of professional staff for the 2026/2027 school year were brought forward by Superintendent Michael Flynn. RSA 189:39 calls for the Superintendent to nominate and for School Boards to elect all teachers employed by the schools in our SAU. These are all returning teachers verified to hold a valid, appropriate credential moving forward from tonight. New hires for next year will be considered individually.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn thanked the staff for hanging in there with him through the eleven months as we begin to adjust to certain norms and routines. He is excited to offer these contracts forward to the Board.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to accept the Consent Agenda, the nomination of Eric Cobelens, resignations of Erin Boyko, Jillian Godbout, Miranda Littleton, Olivia Taplin, intent to retire Cathy Strople, and Kathy Kennedy for the position of School District Deputy Treasurer, and the election of professional staff for the 2026/2027 school year. Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous (7/0)

Appointment Presentations:

-Principal Mary Hill, Katie Bicchieri, Kelly Cogan, and Stacy Campbell from East Derry Memorial Elementary School presented the Student Council on how the students became members, what they have been doing, and what they plan on doing. The students created their own slideshow and shared the highlights!

Discussion ensued.

-Chairman Thiele called for a 5-minute recess.

-**Delegations & Individuals**:

-Derick Anderson: (50 Stark Road). He advocated for the creation of a sports program at West Running Brook Intermediate School. He explained that a recent cross-sectional study of 28,000 children, including fifth and sixth graders, showed a positive effect on academic performance when they were in sports. Systematic reviews have shown that school sports result in better academic results by increasing motivation and investment in school. We are already seeing that we can not field some sports in our middle school, which is interesting because we thought that once we combined the seventh and eighth graders for the whole town, we would not run into that problem anymore. But right now, we do not have the younger grades to support that system. By developing a hybrid intramural interest scholastic model, we can utilize a no-cut system, limited practice volume, and emphasis on skill development. A developmental feeder system for our middle school funds already exists as part of the CBA's Appendix A. If, by chance, we do not use all the Hood funding, we could use that as a feeding system to start the program. We could also do a fund drive if we needed any additional equipment, which we probably would not need to start. He wants to request the School Board to create a committee to develop a hybrid five- to six-grade sports program. The committee makeup could be the AD at Hood, a couple of coaches from Hood, a couple of interested WRBIS faculty that might want to be coaches, some parents, some School Board members, and Administration.

-Brian Chirichiello: (6 Rollings Street). He made an observation and constructive criticism by talking about the scores for English, reading, and math, which we already know the proficiency scores. He noticed that on the SAU website, there are ten goals, but when he goes to the website, he does not necessarily see goals or goal-setting. He sees mission statements of what we want to achieve, but he does not see, for instance, that we have a proficiency score of 48 in reading; maybe a goal we strive for would be 50/51. He does not know if we have discussed this on the curriculum side of things, but he thinks it is important to set these goals and to strive to get those numbers.

-Richard Tripp: (44 Windham Road). He continued with the topic of proficiency. He said that people do not really understand what it means. The New Hampshire ED website talks about four groups in proficiency: below proficiency, extremely below proficiency, at proficiency, and extremely above proficiency. When people use numbers like 48% proficiency, this does not really describe where the child is in a proficiency rating. He would suggest that at one of the Board meetings, someone should give a presentation on what proficiency really means.

-David Provencher: (26 Miltimore Road). He spoke out against the idea of trying to hit specific numerical goals. There is this concept in statistics where when a measure becomes a goal, it stops being a good measure. If you want to get to a certain percentage and you want to be above the proficiency threshold, people may fudge their numbers to try to hit that goal. It is not going to be good at measuring what you are trying to measure.

-Chairman Thiele stated that the public comment area will stay open until 7:23 p.m.

- **Student Member Updates:**

-Pinkerton Academy:

-Anthony Henry shared the Top 10 academic students for the senior class, including the Valedictorian for this year. He knows many of these students well because he has been in the class office with them for all four years. This has been the best experience of high school, helping to plan events like prom and organize events like the Veteran's Day breakfast, which Richard Tripp attends every year! Fundraising updates included: Day of Giving is April 22, 2026. This is hosted every year, and the community is encouraged to give, whether they are alumni, parents, students, or families of prospective students. All the benefits go to the Pinkerton Fund to fund things such as clubs and sports. They typically do well at this event, and the information will be on the website soon. Lastly, Astrothon, hosted by the Student Council every year, is when students stay up all night at Pinkerton and play games to raise money for Boston Children's Hospital. This year, they raised $39,319.47.

-**Deliberations:**

-Last Day of School for Students

-Superintendent Michael Flynn updated that earlier this year, we revised the policy to allow us to shift to instructional hours rather than the total number of school days. Our principals did a great job of doing the equation that the state of New Hampshire provides us regarding calculating actual instructional hours. What counts, what does not count. Passing time does not count, lunch does not count at certain ages, advisory counts, and recess actually counts at the elementary level. The numbers in the packet show that we clearly meet the minimum standard hours. He would recommend that the last day of school be Wednesday, June 17, 2026, which will be a half day. We will meet all instructional requirements by the state of New Hampshire. He is still working with the adults, who are contracted for a number of days. He is working with the DEA on finalizing the plan with them for the remainder of the school year.

-Chairman Thiele understands the argument for why Superintendent Michael Flynn wants the Board to vote on changing the last day of school. The state statutes do require the Board to provide standard schools for a set number of hours, and the schedule that we set at the beginning of the year is tentative. This is essentially a vote to finalize that last day on that tentative calendar that we approved at the beginning of the year.

-Chairman Thiele accepts a motion to set the last day of school for students as Wednesday, June 17th, 2026.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept the last day of school for students as Wednesday, June 17th, 2026. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion. **Vote**: Unanimous (7/0)

-School Start Times:

-Superintendent Michael Flynn included an executive summary. The committee started back in November, with four meetings held. They had 1400 respondents to the survey, which has been the most responded to survey in quite some time. No change is easy for everyone, specifically on the family side. They are presenting an adjustment of 15 minutes at the elementary level and 40 minutes at the five through eight levels. Some of the core logistics that will help: we will be able to run three different bus routes with the same fleet of buses. One is dedicated to elementary, one is dedicated to West, and one is dedicated to Hood. Then they will wrap back around and dedicate it to Pinkerton. This will help our efficiency; we will not have kids hanging out at Pinkerton anymore for a long period of time. We will not have our students arriving super early at other schools for athletics because the other schools are not even out at that time. In the morning, kids will get extra sleep, which is always a benefit when they are coming into school. There are lots of positives! There was some discussion around the challenges that may happen more specifically with the memberships we work with, including the DEA and AFSCME, but once we reach a threshold of a certain number of minutes, you have to discuss impact bargaining. We will get to that next. They have been a pleasure to work with.

-**Elementary School:** 8:35 a.m.-2:55 p.m. **adjusted to 8:50 a.m.-3:10 p.m. (shifted 15 mins. later)**

-**Intermediate School:** 7:20 a.m.-1:55 p.m. **adjusted to 8:00 a.m.-2:35 p.m. (shifted 40 mins. later)**

-Middle School: 7:15 a.m.-1:50 p.m. **adjusted to 7:55 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (shifted 40 mins. later)**

-Jennifer Theroux updated from the committee level that stakeholders started meeting in November. They met over a series of four or five meetings, and Dr. Dancy and Dr. Crawford led those meetings. There was a lot of thoughtful discussion covering the areas Superintendent Michael Flynn highlighted. She thinks that there will be people who have challenges, but she feels that this is in the best interest of certainly instructional time at West Running Brook. It was a major concern of Mr. Fox, the principal there, and hers. 15 minutes a day added up to four school days, essentially something along the lines of over 180 days. Every minute counts in our profession! During another part of the analysis, they discovered that we have a shorter school day in comparison to local areas; most other towns have 15 to almost 30 more minutes, longer a day.

-David Clapp noticed that the committee was split on whether they wanted to recommend this policy. Outside of the life event challenges, he asked if there were any other things they brought up that they had concerns about.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn explained that there were some people who recused themselves from the vote as well. The vote was anonymous, so he does not know where some of those fell. He did not run the committee; Dr. Joe Crawford and Dr. Clif Dancy did.

-Jennifer Theroux explained that they felt that if it is not broken, do not fix it sort of thing. She would argue that it is broken and that is why we need to fix it. Specifically, at West Running Brook with instructional time, and the busing issue at Pinkerton.

-Jenna Paradise added that there were two School Board members, elementary, middle school, high school, and intermediate school, who all had a seat at the table. This was all volunteer. There was interest in childcare, getting out to work on time, which is part of the bargain agreement that is coming in for the other teachers. Everything did come to the table, but at the end of the day, when we had to weigh things out, it was what was in the best interest of the students and the best interest that was going to meet both the bussing and the time needs.

-David Clapp added that this is a great idea, anything we can do that does not hurt student achievement or can help student achievement, we need to look at clearly. When we talk about test scores and student achievement, this is a collaborative effort between our district and our families. This is the type of move that will have a positive impact on adults and kids; it might not make everyone happy, but there is a significant number of people who are thankful for this.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn continued that if we go back to the core of where we started, it is instructional time specifically at West Running Brook Intermediate School, and this is going to solve some of our scheduling conflicts that arise throughout the day.

-Chairman Thiele thanked everyone who was involved in putting the proposal together, the months of work, everyone who submitted survey responses, everyone who served on the task force, and the administrators who put together the final proposal. He opened the floor for a motion to change the student day beginning the 2026/2027 school year to 7:55 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the middle school level, 8:00 to 2:35 p.m. at the intermediate school level, and 8:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. at the elementary level.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to change the student day beginning the 2026/2027 school year to 7:55 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the middle school level, 8:00 to 2:35 p.m. at the intermediate school level, and 8:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. at the elementary level. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion.
Vote: 6, Yes
1, Abstained

-Chairman Thiele explained that as a result of this proposal, the administration has been engaged in impact bargaining with our two unions over the past several weeks.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn explained that once you reach a certain threshold and you change the actual working time as the employer, we have to enter into something called an impact bargaining. It is not negotiation, but because of what we are doing, how it will impact the faculty and the staff. Both the DEA and AFSCME were first-class and came to the table with all the ideas. They were forthcoming, and we worked together to try to support them in this transition. He has reviewed this with the Board a couple of meetings ago and during this meeting. He is asking for a recommendation to accept the MOUs as presented.

-Chairman Thiele explained that they will take two votes. First to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Derry Education Association as presented.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Derry Education Association as presented. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous (7/0)

-Next, Chairman Thiele said that we have already discussed the AFSCME MOU, so we can move straight to the vote. He asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and AFSCME, Council 93, local 1801, as presented.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and AFSCME Council 93, local 1801, as presented. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous (7/0)

-Superintendent Michael Flynn said that they will be sending out communication both from his office as well as building offices from principals so that they continue to repeat the message for the remainder of this year. People will see it several times, so no one is caught off guard. As the new bus schedules are developed, those will be communicated out.

-Policy Committee:

i) Policy EBBB, *Accident Reports*, Second Reading

--Superintendent Michael Flynn presented this policy a couple of Board meetings ago. They made a few changes regarding accident reports on who it is reported to and the seriousness of the injury. Rather than death, we changed it to serious. He asked the Board to adopt EBBB as presented.

-Chairman Thiele accepted a motion to approve policy EBBB, *Accident Reports,* as presented.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept a motion to approve policy EBBB, *Accident Reports,* as presented.
Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous (7/0)

-Board Committee Nominations:

-Chairman Thiele said at the last meeting he would be gathering interest in committees and bringing forward nominations tonight. The Board policy BDB sets the appointment of committees, subject to approval of the Board as a duty of the chair. He has presented to the Board a list of committees and liaison positions that will be formed for the 2026/2027 school year.

-They will form five standing committees with three Board members, each one serving as co-chair with a member of the administration. These will be the Communications Committee, the Curriculum and Assessment Committee, the Facilities Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Policy Review Committee. These committees will coordinate with the administration members appointed by Superintendent Michael Flynn to set a schedule of monthly meetings for the year ahead.

-In addition to the standing committees, they will have a Transportation Appeal Committee of three Board members that will meet with the transportation coordinator as needed to hear appeals under Board policy EEA. They will have an Ad Hoc Committee formed to negotiate a new agreement with AFSCME, the union representing educational assistants. Their current agreement is up at the end of the 2026/2027 school year.

-The Board also assigns liaisons to a handful of external organizations. Board policy BCEA sets appointments to these liaison positions. After discussion with the Board, as a duty of the chair, we have a voting member and a non-voting member sitting on The Next Charter Board of Directors, two members sitting on the Executive Board of the 21st Century Learning Community Corporation Board, and three members sitting on The Town's Legislative Task Force.

-Chairman Thiele made a motion to accept the list of committees and appointments that were provided in their packets, and then they can discuss them before the vote. He accepted a motion to approve the Board committees' appointments to those committees and appointments to the external liaison positions for the 2026/2027 Board year as presented.

-Karen Rand asked if the 21st Century had been changed?

-Superintendent Michael Flynn answered that it was updated in the folder.

-Brenda Willis asked why he removed committees? Those committees were set by the Board, and he does not have the power to remove them without talking to the Board about it.

-Chairman Thiele answered that he is asking tonight to approve forming these committees for the upcoming year.

-Brenda Willis thinks they should add the Pinkerton Committee back, the Special Education Committee, and the Building and Grounds Committee back in.

-Jamie Carreau asked if the Building and Grounds Committee would fall under Facilities?

-Brenda Willis said that it was completely different; they would tour the schools and see what was needed or what we could talk to Jeremy Lamothe about.

-Jenna Paradise asked if the Facilities Committee could incorporate and combine what Grounds covered?

-Chairman Thiele believes that Facilities, and Buildings/Grounds were merged three years ago into one committee. He believed the Special Education Committee was formed around a study that was done in 2018, and it was supposed to move forward with looking at the recommendations of that study. He does not want to go back to the days when they had 15-plus standing committees.

-Brenda Willis asked if he was making this decision or if they were making it as a group?

-Chairman Thiele answered that the Board was approving the list of committees that he put forth. If someone wants to make a motion to add an additional committee, they can make that motion.

-Jamie Carreau asked what happened to the Special Education Committee and how often they met. Was it a very intensive, demanding committee?

-Brenda Willis explained that the original Special Education Committee was very demanding. They did a lot of work around programs and repaired a lot of bad feelings. They had parents, teachers, School Board members, and administrators on the committee. It was an excellent committee that made a lot of change. They made a lot of positive changes; they brought in new programs, eliminated programs that were not beneficial, and built bridges between parents and families. It ended during COVID.

-Jamie Carreau said it sounded more like a task force, because it was not just Board members.

-Brenda Willis continued that there were parents who were going to start their own Special Education group if the Board did not support them in a committee. It made more sense for the Board to have a committee to understand why people were upset or not upset, what people liked, what they did not like, and bring those things forward.

-Jenna Paradise asked who this committee consisted of? How many parents?

-Brenda Willis answered, teachers, administrators, the Special Education Director, and the School Board.

-Jenna Paradise asked if she was to make a motion to bring back the Special Education Committee, would she chair the committee, reach out to everybody, and make it?

-Brenda Willis answered that she absolutely would.

-Chairman Thiele said it sounds like this would be more of a task force or a temporary ad hoc committee.

-Brenda Willis does not see this as a temporary committee. We have a high special education population in our district, so we need to have a connection for families to understand. We used to have workshops for parents on what you need to look for in an IEP.

-Chairman Thiele said we do not want to tread into areas where we are micromanaging the superintendent and the administration, and getting into his ability to lead the day-to-day operations of the district. Whether or not we have a standing committee of Board members does not prevent the Board from providing oversight in the area. If there is an area of concern, a task force or focus group with parents should look into where the concern is.

-Jenna Paradise thinks that if Brenda Willis sees a need to have this committee, and it was beneficial in the past, she is willing to chair it and take the lead on it, then it should not be an issue to have this committee.

-Jennifer Theroux agrees with Chairman Thiele that we really need to define clear lines between the Board's job and the superintendent's job. The superintendent runs the day-to-day operations of the district; it is his job to make sure that the special education department is clearly communicating what the purpose of an IEP is and how to advocate for a child who may need more services for their IEP. She does not see that as a Board member's job. We need to be very clear about the lanes when we create committees and the purpose of them, the tasks that we hope to complete when we have these committees working. We need to be mindful of the School Board members' time; this is a volunteer job.

-Chairman Thiele reminded that the Board will meet for goal setting within the next few months, and they are going to lay out our goals for the coming year. If a goal is agreed upon that necessitates forming a committee, then that can be done.

-Discussion continued about committees.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to approve the Board committees' appointments to those committees and appointments to the external liaison positions for the 2026/2027 Board year as presented. Jennifer Theroux seconded the Motion. **Vote**: Yes, 6 No, 1

- **Administration Reports:**

-Jane Simard, Business Administrator, updated her executive summary with a reminder that the timing is always going to be off with the financial report and the administrative update because of the timing and when we issue checks. When she wrote this report, we had received Pinkerton Academy's bill, which was the final bill of the year. It included general tuition, Resource, and all of their specialized programming. She also showed the comparisons of what we budgeted and what the actual student enrollments were. She included in the Board packet a spreadsheet that she has worked on for the last several years, so we can see those comparisons. We started out the beginning of the year having 40 students more than budgeted, and we ended the year having about nine students more than we budgeted for general tuition. The historical information is included in the packet. She included some of the special education costs that we have been following each month. This is also the time of year that they are looking at all open purchase orders. Also included the interest on both the general checking account, which is the Citizens Bank account, and the PDIP for the general account. As of the time of the report, we earned $139,000. The PDIP account for the bond project has earned $584,000. In the Board vote 2026/2027, they voted to be able to retain $700,000 of the interest earned on the bond. The projections are that we will definitely meet that goal by the end of the fiscal year. She included some of the expenses for bond projects that were paid out in the month of March. Kristina Lubelczyk continues to send out notices to families that are struggling with their accounts to make sure she gets them to apply for Free and Reduced.

-Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, is included in the packet.

-Also included is the 2024-2025 Single Audit Report, which was focused on IDEA (Special Education Program Grant) as well as the ESSER Program Grant because there was more than $700,000 in that program.

-There was one other representation letter included in the packet. She thanked the Finance Department for all the work they did.

-Brenda Willis asked if there was a closing date for Free and Reduced applications? She also asked if we knew what happened to the 31 Pinkerton students?

-Superintendent's Report

-Enrollment Update

-Superintendent Michael Flynn referenced the packet and the trend they shared at Finance regarding enrollment at Pinkerton. Jane Simard has kept track internally over the years. If you go back to 2018/2019, we were overbudgeted by 86 students. Last year, it went down to a 20-student difference. This year, they underbudgeted by 42 students at the beginning of the year, but now we are only at 9 students difference. These differences are due to students who may not fulfill all their requirements for graduation, some may have dropped out and gone to HiSET, some may have relocated, moved, or switched to homeschooling. He thinks next year will bring a new trend when people have access to the EFAs or go to charter K to eight, and then drop into Pinkerton as a freshman.

-Chairman Thiele noted that students who have dropped since the first billing are in 10th & 11th grade, most likely due to relocation.

-Jamie Carreau asked if we paid for these students already? Do we get a partial reimbursement?

-Superintendent Michael Flynn answered that they bill us for the days that they attend. We did not pay for the year upfront for them. This is the reduction of those numbers.

-David Clapp explained that the good news is that we budgeted 1374 to start next year, and we are at 1354 now. We are starting at a good number for next year. He thanked Jane Simard for the good level of reports. He said it shows that we are about $1,000,000 to the good, if everything ended today.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn recognized that he appreciated Derick Anderson for bringing up the five to six sports. This is new on his radar. He has learned new Tri-County rules that impact some of the decisions. He also learned that moving the goals to move away from Tri-County into NHIAA rules will bring a lot more flexibility, as Derick Anderson mentioned. In regards to those accounts, we have overspent on clubs and activities. They have been fulfilling anything that comes forward, whatever club it may be, they are paying for it and figuring out where to locate the funds to transfer over.

-He commends all the people trying to go above and beyond trying to create new activities for the students, especially at WRBIS. They have a new field hockey club that is in motion. Some of the challenges are low numbers in the seventh and eighth grades.

-Data is interesting and always a challenging part we face in this profession. The state data is what we typically get reported out on, and more specifically, it is on the ballot now. There is no running from it, and we are not trying to. They are trying to find the right points of the year with the Board to report on some type of data. We have our own internal data, we do our own assessments, and our own assessments are far higher than the state assessments because we are targeting what we are educating or what we are teaching. It is really scaled to what we are doing. He does not want to ever get too far away from what we are creating. Data is one thing, but as we saw this evening when we brought the fourth graders in, we are developing leadership skills and skills in confidence. The internal goals that we have through the curriculum department are to raise the standard, and he will keep saying that we are working on raising the bar, and we are going to expect big things.

-Chairman Thiele revisited the sports topic. During the restructuring, there were discussions on creating an alliance with the other districts that have five/six schools (Windham, Bedford, Hooksett, Merrimack). They would travel with the middle school teams to the schools and play. It would be interesting to look into this and continue the discussions with other districts.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn agrees. He wants kids engaged and busy; nothing good happens from sitting around. Now that he knows this is on the radar, he will dig deeper into what we can do differently. Going to NHIA allows a lot of flexibility within the districts and the schools. We are going to run into new challenges, such as how to get kids from one building to the next. They are working on these challenges.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn updated about the Kindergarten enrollment that is in the School Board packet. This year, we changed our practice, not opening enrollment until after February break. He thinks this was a benefit; we got a lot more people who were paying attention. Rather than a trickle-in effect, we had a hard hit quickly. They are going to discuss it as a Board in May. The number of enrollees at Barka is at its highest ever right now, at 90. East Derry at nearly 70. When we talk about overflow, it has been Barka for the last couple of years. It is not going to be Barka this year. If we look at the other schools, those numbers are lower. We are going to have discussions on what we will do with the overflow. Will we add a teacher or move a teacher? We want to find a balance with Kindergarten. He feels it is weird to have the overflow. He wants to try to make sure that the kids are going to where they are going to be. It is hard to send someone for one year and then move them back the next year. They are trying to find that line of what we can accommodate and what we can succeed in.

-Committee & Liaison Reports:

-Curriculum & Assessment Committee:

-Jennifer Theroux updated that the last meeting was Thursday, March 26, 2026 with two topics of conversation during the meeting. First, the discussion of the public-facing guides and second, the three-year rolling curriculum review. Both of these topics address the School Board Goals for this year. Once approved, these guides will be available on the district website, and they will cover K to eight and all content areas. The committee decided to make this a two-tier process rather than having them all completed at once and then published. There will be a process by which the first-tier overview is provided, and then a second, deeper dive tier would be added after they are completed.

-The bulk of their conversations was about the three-year, three-phase rolling curriculum review process. This directly relates to one of the School Board's goals in curriculum. The draft articulates the purpose of the review, the steps involved in each phase of the process, the stakeholders involved in the process, and the evaluation criteria for the curriculum review. She thanked Kim Conant for the work on this protocol. She was pleased with the progress that had been made in developing this review process. The district as a whole and the curriculum department in particular are striving to be more data-driven, evidence-based, and forward-thinking in their decision-making. This development of a three-phase rolling curriculum review is a positive step forward in ensuring that we are heading in that direction. She is pleased to see that teachers will play an active role in this process because she believes that they know the curriculum needs of our students the best. We must have teacher buy-in when we are investing in new curriculum programming and resources within the district. She also wants to highlight, like Superintendent Michael Flynn, that this rolling curriculum review does not directly relate to assessment scores or provide a data point for assessment scores. When a process like this is followed with fidelity, the result is an investment in quality curriculum programming and resources that teachers support, that they are excited to use and to teach within the classroom. Jenna Paradise will take over the Curriculum chair.

-Finance Committee

-Jenna Paradise updated on the same details as Jane Simard. They talked about the full and single audit being completed, the Pinkerton numbers, and the nine student difference. Also mentioned was that we were down in Special Education numbers. We were at 241, and now we are at 222.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn mentioned at the meeting that we are going to start discussing the end-of-year projects such as the intercom system that is hopefully going to be put into the schools.

-Superintendent Michael Flynn updated that there are still people evaluating and bids coming in. In May, he will come to the Board with a list called "hanging chads". Things that have been hanging out there repeatedly, and we will come with more of a balance. Karen Rand will be taking over for the Finance Committee.

-Next Charter School Board of Directors Liaison

-Jenna Paradise updated that the leak that Hood had, the flood really did a number on downstairs. Next Charter School is in the basement, and they had a lot of damage in some of the back rooms. The piping hot water came down and dissolved their ceiling tiles and went directly into their ceramics room. All the projects were ruined, but thankfully, because it was on the weekend, no children were hurt. There is a lot of drywall that needs to be replaced; their projects are all going, and they are missing ceiling tiles. At least it did not touch any of the new side that was just completed. A highlight was that they have a new program there that a bunch of sewing machines have been donated to the program, and somebody is coming in to volunteer and is teaching kids how to do quilting. They are donating them to a hospital program. They are going to make some lap blankets for senior citizens. They have a graduation coming up with 11 students graduating this year. They are extending the invitation out to the School Board and to the administration.

Member Updates & Any Other Business:

-Chairman Thiele updated that the New Hampshire School Boards Association issued its call for resolutions that would be considered at the next delegate assembly in October. As a member of the board, they can submit proposed new resolutions or amendments to current resolutions. In the past, our Derry Board has proposed a resolution relating to school meals that was adopted at the assembly. If anyone on the Board would like to suggest a proposed or amended resolution to submit, they should let him know.

-A couple of pieces of significant legislation to keep an eye on in Concord are: SB 101, relative to open enrollment, and HP 1563, relative to special education funding. Those continue to wind their way through the State House. He would advise everyone to keep an eye on those two bills and advocate as they see fit.

-Karen Rand went to Hood School, where they had an author come in, and everybody read the book Because of Mr. Taro by Rob Bowie, a local author from North Andover. He was phenomenal, and she thanked Kim Conant for bringing this book forward. It was uplifting and right there where the kids are.

-David Clapp added in regards to watching different legislation, we have a member of the audience who comes to every meeting. He would encourage Mr. Tripp to give updates, thoughts, and what we can do as a community to support efforts to our local School Board.

-Mr. Tripp came to the podium and asked for an opportunity to respond, and Chairman Thiele agreed that it was okay. He said that, unfortunately, he does not sit on Finance; he sits on the Judiciary. If he has any intimate knowledge of any bills, it is something that comes to the Judiciary. They can have up to 100 bills in one day. He spends time on Judiciary bills, and he tries to look at the reports that the committees submit, but he is not up to speed on all the bills.

Future Meetings:

-**May 12, 2026:** Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.-Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room
-**May 26, 2026:** Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.-Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room

-The Board moved into **Nonpublic Session.**

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

At 8:04 p.m., Jennifer Theroux made a **MOTION** to move into Nonpublic Session per RSA 91-A: 3 II (l). Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:	David Clapp-Yes
	Jamie Carreau-Yes
	Jenna Paradise-Yes
	Jennifer Theroux-Yes
	Karen Rand-Yes
	Chair Michael Thiele-Yes
	Brenda Willis-Yes
	Vote: Unanimous (7/0)

At 9:25 p.m., Jenna Paradise made a **MOTION** to close Public Session. Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie J. Napolitano

School Board Secretary