DERRY COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Derry Municipal Center
August 25, 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; Jenna Paradise; Jamie Carreau; Karen Rand; and David Clapp.

Also in Attendance: Brian Chirichiello, David Provencher, Tracey Zysk, Matthew Glavin, Kristine Trow, and Francoise Ullrich.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the Public Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2026; Manifest in the amount of $2,968,882.79; $1,305,516.25 General Payroll; $1,663,366.54 General Expense; and the professional staff nominations of Kamryn Dubray, one-year Science Teacher, Gilbert H Hood Middle School; Angelina Fichera, Elementary School Teacher, Barka Elementary School; and Kristine Thomas, School Nurse, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to accept the Consent Agenda and the nominations of Kamryn Dubray, Angelina Fichera, and Kristine Thomas. Jamie Carreau seconded the Motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Appointment Presentations

None.

Delegations & Individuals

Tracey Zysk (5 Silver Street): Ms. Zysk praised the South Range Elementary Project crews for their extensive work, professionalism, safety efforts, and respectful treatment of neighborhood children and residents. She asked when the SAU building will be listed for sale, whether it will be sold as commercial or mixed-use property, whether it must be grandfathered, and whether the economic director has begun exploring potential buyers. The Board granted additional time.

Brian Chirichiello (6 Rollings Street): Mr. Chirichiello recommended that the town and school district jointly engage an outside group to review health insurance costs and identify ways to contain increasing expenses.

Matthew Glavin (31 Berry Road): Mr. Glavin supported retaining the surplus as a rainy day fund. He cited Bedford's unexpected million-dollar retirement-cost increase and noted that reserves could help address emergencies while protecting taxpayers from higher future costs.

Kristine Trow (15 Lawrence Street): Ms. Trow supported retaining the surplus for unexpected school expenses rather than returning a relatively small amount to individual homeowners. She asked what returning the approximate surplus would save the average Derry taxpayer so residents could compare immediate savings with long-term financial protection.

David Provencher (26 Miltimore Road): Mr. Provencher agreed with Mr. Glavin and Ms. Trow. He also honored Dolly Parton, who passed away at the age of 80, for founding The Imagination Library and promoting children's literacy.

Francoise Ullrich (37 Kristen Drive): Ms. Ullrich asked the Board to review her daughter's bus stop on Kristen Drive, where four students walk approximately half a mile along a road without sidewalks or street lighting. She described conflicting information about responsibility for assigning stops and requested clarification, a safety review, and consideration

of a safer location. Chairman Thiele stated that bus stops are reviewed through the transportation coordinator and that the Superintendent's office would ensure her concern was addressed.

Chairman Thiele stated that the public comment area would remain open until 7:02 p.m.

Student Member Updates

Pinkerton Academy: None.

Deliberations: 2026-2027 School Board Goals

Chairman Thiele explained that the Board provides oversight while Superintendent Michael Flynn and his team implement the Board's goals and manage day-to-day operations.

Goal 1: Contract Negotiations

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent and the Administration's Negotiating Team, will negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME, the Union representing educational assistants, and bring that agreement for voter approval at the 2027 School District Annual Meeting.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept Goal 1: Contract Negotiations as presented. Jenna Paradise seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 2: Policy Review

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent, will aim to review and bring at least four new or revised policies for the Board to review each month.

The original goal of three policies per month was revised to four, recognizing the district's policy workload and the need to address legal and legislative changes.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to accept Goal 2: Policy Review as revised. Jamie Carreau seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 3: Finance

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent and Finance Department, will continue to refine the Fiscal Advisory Committee process and to define the role of the Committee members, and will aim to produce a FY28 budget at no more than an X%.

The X% will remain until September/October, when the Board has additional information for establishing a budget target. The Board also discussed clear expectations, orientation, and training for Fiscal Advisory Committee volunteers.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept Goal 3: Finance as revised. Jamie Carreau seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 4: Finance

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent and Finance Department, will explore and establish trust funds as part of the district's long-term financial management strategy to responsibly fund future capital improvements, mitigate the financial impact of large unforeseen expenditures, and promote greater stability and predictability for taxpayers.

The Board discussed the existing facilities trust and the need to explore additional long-term financial protections.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept Goal 4: Finance as presented. Jenna Paradise seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 5: State Legislature

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent, will develop a position and communications plan to approach a possible tax gap vote in November 2026 as a result of HB1300 and a possible vote to consolidate the District as a Department under the Town as a result of HB1331.

The Board discussed preparing for the possible tax gap vote and possible district reorganization, including legal review and a district communications plan.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept Goal 5: State Legislation as presented. David Clapp seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 6: Facilities

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent and Facilities Department, will develop a prioritized list of facilities projects to utilize bond proceeds and interest income prior to the established deadline for expending funds.

The Board will determine how remaining bond proceeds and interest income should be used before the established deadline.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to accept Goal 6: Facilities as presented. Jennifer Theroux seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 7: Curriculum & Assessment

Possible Language: The School Board, with the Superintendent and Curriculum Department, will establish a procedure for the presentation of proposed changes to curriculum to the Board for review and assent and for the presentation of the results of these changes, including assessments, at periodic intervals.

The goal will clarify the Board's curriculum oversight role, procedures for reviewing changes, and communication with families and the community.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept Goal 7: Curriculum & Assessment as presented. Jenna Paradise seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Goal 8: Communications

Possible Language: The School Board will direct the Administration to develop strategies for increasing meaningful family engagement, seeking regular parent feedback on programs and policies through the use of periodic surveys, and further developing a parent education program.

The district will expand family engagement, parent feedback, and targeted information or workshop opportunities.

Jennifer Theroux **Moved** to accept Goal 8: Communications as presented. Jamie Carreau seconded the motion. **Vote**: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Superintendent Michael Flynn reported that district work continues to align with the strategic plan and that future goal updates will demonstrate this connection.

FY26 Fund Balance

Jane Simard reported that the estimated year-end balance was a little over $4.4 million. After subtracting $500,000 for warrant article number three, $700,000 for warrant article number four, and $1.5 million used as a budgeting placeholder for unspent or unreserved funds, $1.7 million was available to move to the contingency fund or return to offset taxes.

Superintendent Michael Flynn explained that unspent funds provide appropriate municipal budgeting flexibility and help the district address unexpected expenses without returning to taxpayers for additional funds.

Contingency Y/E Balance$1,783,811/Options To Consider w/Tax Impact

Retain $500,000 for contingency fund	→	Reduce tax rate: $.23
Retain $1,000,000 for contingency fund	→	Reduce tax rate: $.14
Retain $1,500,000 for contingency fund	→	Reduce tax rate: $.05
Retain $1,783,811 for contingency fund	→	Reduce tax rate: $.00

A motion was made by David Clapp to retain $1,250,000. A second by Brenda Willis.	
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)

For the record, this means $533,811 will be returned to the taxpayers.

Policy Review Committee

Policy JICK, Student Safety and Violence Prevention-Bullying—First Reading

The Board waived the second reading limitation because of the urgency of revisions required by HB 131, effective August 1, 2026. Key changes include same-day staff reporting, notification of victim rights, updated perpetrator/victim terminology, cyberbullying revisions, plain-language behavioral expectations, and a mandatory conference with the perpetrator and the perpetrator's family.

Brenda Willis **Moved** to accept the motion to waive the second reading limitation and approve the amended policy JICK as presented. Karen Rand seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Administration Reports

Business Administrator's Update: Jane Simard

- The district has two capital reserve accounts: approximately $60,000 for roofing and approximately over a hundred thousand for general facilities projects.
- Budget work is beginning, and Health Trust rates are expected on October 10.
- The DOE 25 report is due September 1.
- The audit is in progress.
- Food service applications included three approved for reduced meals, five denied, four approved for free meals, and five sent for direct certified.

Superintendent's Report: Michael Flynn

- The South Range Elementary School project was completed successfully, with strong support from staff and contractors.
- The teacher opening meeting at Pinkerton Academy was reduced to 45 minutes.
- The first day had high bus ridership, and transportation adjustments were underway.
- Grades 5-8 sports had nearly 200 signups.
- The SAU move to Derry Village at 28 South Main Street was complete.
- The next step for the SAU building sale is an RFQ for a qualified commercial real estate agent.
- A facilities tour is being planned.

Committee & Liaison Reports

Curriculum and Assessment Committee: Jenna Paradise

- A family curriculum hub and K-8 curriculum dashboard are in development.
- The Writing Rope framework is being implemented.
- Math instruction is being standardized around a warm-up, focused instruction, and meaningful practice.
- ELA Open Up advancement is continuing.
- Open Science will be implemented for grades 6-8.
- SAM Labs will be used for K-6 STEM.
- Book contracts will be implemented for students receiving physical books.

Member Updates & Any Other Business

Chairman Thiele thanked Jennifer Theroux for chairing the August 11, 2026 meeting. The district is seeking a school district treasurer; applicants must be a resident of Derry and a registered voter.

Jenna Paradise **Moved** to accept the motion to change the September 8, 2026 meeting to September 9, 2026. Jamie Carreau seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (7/0)

Future Meetings:

-**September 9, 2026:** Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.- Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room
-**September 22, 2026**: School Board/Town Council Joint Workshop -5:30 p.m.-Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room
-**September 22, 2026**: Regular Meeting-6:30 p.m.- Derry Municipal Center-3rd Floor Meeting Room

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

At 8:09 p.m., Jamie Carreau made a **MOTION** to move into Nonpublic Session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). 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)

The Board returned from Nonpublic Session.

At 8:31 p.m., David Clapp made a **MOTION** to seal the Nonpublic Minutes. Karen Rand seconded the Motion.
Vote: Roll Call: Jennifer Theroux-Yes
Jenna Paradise-Yes
Jamie Carreau-Yes
Karen Rand-Yes
David Clapp-Yes
Michael Thiele-Yes
Brenda Willis - Yes
Yes Vote: 7-0

At 8:32 p.m., Jamie Carreau made a **MOTION** to close Public Session. Karen Rand seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie J. Napolitano

School Board Secretary