DERRY COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Derry Municipal Center
August 11, 2026

- **Call to Order**: Vice-Chair Theroux called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call-Present: Jeremy Lamothe (Facilities); Carrie Sindoni (Assistant Superintendent); Jane Simard (Business Administrator); Michael Flynn (Superintendent); Brenda Willis; Jennifer Theroux (Vice-Chair); David Clapp; Jenna Paradise; Jamie Carreau; Karen Rand; Michael Thiele (Chair) absent.

Also in Attendance: Brian Chirichiello, Richard Tripp, Barbara Dupont, Audrey Allen, and Bobby Marcotte.

Consent Agenda

Jennifer Theroux presented the Consent Agenda, which included the Public Workshop, Public Meeting, and Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026, and the Manifest totaling $12,077,074.24 ($4,190,012.66 General Payroll; $7,887,061.58 General Expense).

Professional staff nominations were Brittany Bergstrom, Elementary School Teacher, Grinnell Elementary School; Emily Engler, Special Education Teacher, East Derry Memorial Elementary School; Cynthia Joyce, Art Teacher, East Derry Memorial Elementary School; Trisha Kent, Reading Specialist, East Derry Memorial Elementary School; Madison Roe, Teacher, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School; and Candace St. Onge, PACE Language Arts, West Running Brook Intermediate School. The retirement of Kristie Nolan, PACE Language Arts, West Running Brook Intermediate School, was also presented.

Jamie Carreau **Moved** to accept the Consent Agenda, the nominations of Brittany Bergstrom, Emily Engler, Cynthia Joyce, Trisha Kent, Madison Roe, and Candace St. Onge, and the resignation of Kristie Nolan. David Clapp seconded the Motion.

Vote: Yes - Unanimous (6/0)

Facilities Project Update

Jeremy Lamothe reported on summer projects. At **West Running Brook Intermediate School**, the gym floor was refinished with new lines and a logo, 16,000 sq. ft. of carpet was replaced, and courtyard paving was in progress. Guard rail replacement and stage folding wall installation are scheduled for September.

Flood repairs at **Gilbert H. Hood Middle School** were completed in two classrooms and the library. New carpeting was installed in the library, vinyl tile was installed in classrooms, and hallway flooring was completed. Bathroom and wall repairs are expected to be finished before students return. **Earnest P. Barka Elementary** School's bleacher seat replacement was completed, with tactile strips on ramps scheduled before school starts. At **East Derry Memorial Elementary School**, the roof replacement was completed and awaits manufacturer inspection; 8,600 sq. ft. of carpet tile was replaced, and hallways and remaining carpeted classrooms were converted to VCT.

SAU Staff is moving into SAU/Derry Village following conditional inspections. Mechanical work is complete, with final inspections scheduled for August 13, 2026. Grinnell Elementary School's library and music room flooring was completed, vinyl tile was installed in classrooms, and loading dock work is scheduled after school starts.

At **South Range Elementary School**, the brick facade was 90-95% complete on the second level, window installation was nearly finished, and new ceiling grid and lighting were being installed. The permanent roofing system was 85% complete, while boiler room demolition and installation continued and were expected to be ready for heating season. Asbestos and lead paint issues caused minor delays but were handled by licensed contractors in accordance with state standards. District-wide re-keying was completed, with keys scheduled for distribution beginning August 12, 2026. Superintendent Flynn commended Jeremy Lamothe for his communication and project management.

Public Comment

Brian Chirichiello (6 Rollings Street) asked about approximately $1 million in unspent budget funds. David Clapp said the matter is scheduled for the end-of-August agenda. Mr. Chirichiello recommended using the unreserved fund balance to offset next year's tax rate, noting a $10 million increase from schools in December. He also discussed upcoming town-wide property evaluations and estimated a $1,160 tax increase on a $580,000 home.

Richard Tripp (44 Windham Road) thanked Jeremy Lamothe for the facilities update and requested information about completed work, remaining projects, and expenditures. He noted that meeting videos were not available on the website, only the agenda, and mentioned a T-Mobile program offering schools awards ranging from $500 to $1 million, suggesting that the district contact Tim Powers at Pinkerton Academy about applying.

Transfer of Donor-Restricted Funds

Jane Simard explained that $75,423.88 was raised in October of 2022 for an outdoor learning classroom at West Running Brook Middle School in memory of two former students. Because of location, budget, and facility challenges, the project was not completed. Barbara Dupont and Audrey Allen requested that the funds be redirected to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, where both students were treated. The students' families and major donors approved the change. Bobby Marcotte requested coordination with St. Jude's representatives so the donation could be designated in the children's names.

Brenda Willis **Moved** to accept the motion to transfer $75, 423.88 and donated funds held by the district to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Jenna Paradise seconded the motion.
Vote: Yes - Unanimous (6/0)

Business Administrator's Update

Jane Simard reported that the first fiscal board finance committee meeting was held the previous week and that the district is transitioning from desktop financial software to a cloud-based system. A 57-page financial report covering July 1 - August 7, 2026, was provided. Salary expenses currently reflect only year-round staff because teachers have not yet been set up in the system. A finalized report from the prior year will be presented at the second August meeting.

Bond Update

Year-to-date expenditures total $7,404,000. Recent payments were made to Marc Jobin for project management, Eckman Construction for facade work, and Honeywell for roofing. The East Derry Memorial Elementary School roof was completed and paid in full, and projects completed under budget are being tracked for savings.

Food Service

Free and reduced-price meal applications are available online, with paper applications available when students return. Families approved last year must reapply by October or their status will revert to paid. Kristina Lubelczyk, Director of Child Nutrition, is available to assist families.

Audit

Auditors were on site August 5, 2026, and will return September 8, 2026, for a comprehensive audit covering student activities, the general fund, capital fund, food service, federal projects, payroll, and accounts payable. Most requested information has been uploaded to the online portal.

PDIP Account

David Clapp reported that the PDIP account held $740,000 in June and was earning approximately $60,000 per month in interest at 3.5%. Moving funds from Citizens to PDIP in November generated an additional $250,000 this year, or approximately $20,000 per month on idle funds.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Michael Flynn reported that new teachers will report August 19, 2026, staff will return August 20, 2026, and students will return August 25, 2026. The district is the most fully staffed it has been since pre-COVID, and a late retirement was successfully filled. A fall presentation will review salary restraint through strategic hiring.

Enrollment

Enrollment figures were reported as of August 11, 2026. A Kindergarten teacher was relocated from Grinnell Elementary School to East Derry Memorial Elementary School because of enrollment. West Running Brook Intermediate School reached its highest enrollment, with 675 students. A one-year nurse position was posted at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School because of high-need students and the DEEP program; the current ratio is one nurse to 600 students.

Five/Six Sports

Four sports will run in the fall: boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' field hockey, and cross country. Final details depend on enrollment and rosters. The district is working with Tri-County for fall and winter competition and will transition to NHIAA's five-eight model in the spring. It is also seeking local competition with schools such as Hampstead that use five/six models.

Special Education Survey

Dr. Carrie Sindoni and Laura Powers sent a survey to families of students with identified disabilities in late July. The district received 92 responses, with positive feedback. A full report will be presented to the Board.

Professional Development

On August 10, 2026, all 30 members of the administrative team completed an eight-hour legal training with Drummond Woodsum. Topics included collective bargaining, contracts, 504, IEP investigations, supervision, evaluation, and a new bullying policy.

Legislative Updates

House Bill 1300 is a statewide mandate involving a November ballot question on a local tax cap and requires a three-fifths majority vote. Details remain unclear; a legal seminar is scheduled for August 25, 2026, and some districts are considering a legal challenge. Bill 1331 is a Derry-specific, tax cap-related measure requiring voter petitions under RSA 39:3 or town council action. Bill 1610 is believed to have been vetoed by the governor. The Board will discuss the fund balance at the next meeting. A comprehensive packet on legislative impacts is planned for the first September meeting.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Finance Committee

Karen Rand reported that Jane Simard will provide targeted financial reports during the software transition, replacing lengthy general reports with more specific documents.

Facilities Committee

David Clapp suggested a facilities walkthrough at South Range Elementary School. Superintendent Flynn will coordinate with Chairman Thiele to schedule one publicly posted walkthrough, likely between 12-3 p.m.

SAU Update

Jane Simard moved out two weeks ago; the Special Education office is moving this week, and Curriculum is 80% moved. Dr. Carrie Sindoni's office will open August 12, 2026. The move is expected to be completed by August 26-27. The September meeting will address next steps for selling the current SAU property.

Member Updates

Jennifer Theroux reported that the district is actively seeking a school treasurer and that interested individuals should contact the SAU office. School Board Goals for 2026/2027 will be finalized at the next meeting, and a joint meeting with the town council is being scheduled for September to discuss legislative issues.

David Clapp requested that the joint meeting include actionable items and specific next steps.

Brenda Willis clarified that the students honored were Lauren Grella and Alanna Marcotte and that a planter at West Running Brook is named for Lauren. She also clarified that she did not oppose tactile pads at Barka Elementary School and requested an update on the strategic plan.

Superintendent Flynn explained that the strategic plan was implemented before his hire. Last year's work included a mentoring program, learning walks, and curb-to-classroom activities. This year, the district is working with consultants to tailor the plan, develop a curriculum strategic plan, and continue the mentoring program with Dr. Carrie Sindoni.

Jamie Carreau welcomed Dr. Carrie Sindoni back to the district as Assistant Superintendent.

Future Meetings

• **August 25, 2026:** Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Derry Municipal Center, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

• **September 8, 2026:** Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Derry Municipal Center, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Adjournment

Jennifer Theroux accepted a motion to Adjoun.

At 8:19 p.m., David Clapp made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Jenna Paradise seconded the Motion.
Vote: Unanimous (6/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie J. Napolitano

School Board Secretary