

## Kearsarge Regional School Board

12 March 2026  
Open to Public

<b>I. Call to Order</b>	Superintendent Fortney called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
<b>II. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Members of the KRHS Chamber Singers led the Pledge of Allegiance.  The Chamber Singers also performed for the School Board.
<b>III. Roll Call</b>	<i>Present:</i> Art Bobruff, Matt Esenwine, Nancy Glynn, Eric Gregoire, David Keith, Jamie MacKenna, Patrick McGowan, Alison Mastin, and Kristen Schultz. <i>Absent:</i> none  <i>Present:</i> KREA representative Catharine Hyson  <i>Present:</i> Student representatives Cooper Russell & Leah Stone
<b>IV. Organizational Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Election of Chair-<i>Superintendent Fortney</i></li> <li>B. Election of Vice-Chair-<i>Chair</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Board Actions:</b> <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to nominate Alison Mastin as Chair. Mr. Esenwine seconded.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to close the nominations and take a vote. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to nominate Ms. Schultz as Vice-Chair. Mr. McGowan seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<b>V. Board Appointments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. School-District Clerk-<i>Debra Breault</i></li> <li>B. School-District Deputy Clerk-<i>Doreen Salera</i></li> <li>C. Legal Counsel-<i>Soule, Leslie, Kidder &amp; Loughman</i></li> <li>D. Auditor-Roberge &amp; Company, PC</li> <li>E. Treasurer-<i>Nancy Barthol</i></li> <li>F. Deputy Treasurer-<i>Doreen Salera</i></li> <li>G. Approval of Banks for the District-<i>Bar Harbor Bank and New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool</i></li> <li>H. School-Board Calendar</li> <li>I. School-Board Subcommittees: <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Board Actions:</b> <i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Debra Breault as School-District Clerk. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Doreen Salera as School-District Deputy Clerk. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Soule, Leslie, Kidder &amp; Loughman as Legal Counsel. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Roberge &amp; Company, PC, as Auditor. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Nancy Barthol as Treasurer. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Doreen Salera as Deputy Treasurer. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>

	<p><i>Chair Mastin made a motion to appoint Bar Harbor Bank and New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool as banks for the District. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the tentative School-Board Calendar. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna moved from Transportation to Human Resources. Mr. Esenwine said he would fill the void and serve on the Transportation Committee in his stead.</i></p>
<p><b>VI. Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p><i>The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from 19 February 2026.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the minutes of 19 February 2026, as written. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 6-0-3 (Ms. Mastin, Mr. McGowan, and Ms. Schultz abstained).</i></p> <p><i>The board had to revisit the previously approved minutes from 5 February 2026, due to an error regarding the date.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of 5 February 2026, as amended. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of 19 February 2026, as written. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-3 (Ms. Mastin, Mr. McGowan, and Ms. Schultz abstained).</i></p> <p>Further regarding the 5 February 2026 meeting minutes, Mr. MacKenna wanted to clarify that at the Facilities A Subcommittee meeting, all of which are open to the public, they discussed at length with Facilities Director Brett Paré the need to replace the windows at Bradford since some were literally falling out due to rot.</p>
<p><b>VII. Reports of Administration</b></p>	<p><i>The following provided Administrative Reports:</i></p> <p><b>Chair Alison Mastin’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She welcomed Mr. Esenwine to the Board and welcomed back returning members Ms. Glynn, Mr. Gregoire, and Mr. Keith.</li> <li>• She emphasized that this year she wants the Board to “show their work” for transparency so that the public can see the thought processes that go into their decision making.</li> </ul> <p><b>Superintendent John Fortney’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He welcomed Matt Esenwine to the Board, the new representative for the town of Warner.</li> <li>• He thanked his team for stepping up recently while he’s had to take some personal time.</li> <li>• He got to go to Washington, DC for an educational finance class at Georgetown. It was a two-day in-person course with six more virtual classes to fulfill the requirements.</li> <li>• The course focused on data mining, returns on investment, and fiscal responsibility.</li> <li>• He demonstrated data tools used to help make comparisons across schools and districts, to gauge cost efficiency, and to assess the efficacy of certain programs, among other data points.</li> <li>• Mr. Esenwine wanted to note that the hiring of Choral Director William Lavoie was one of the better hires in recent years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assistant Superintendent Michael Bessette’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He reported that the state of New Hampshire ranks second nationally for the percentage of AP exams taken that score a 3 or higher.</li> <li>• Kearsarge District has the highest AP enrollment among comparable area schools.</li> <li>• Furthermore, the district has an 81% pass rate (3+) for AP tests, which is on par with or even better than many comparable schools.</li> </ul>

**Business Administrator Larry LeBoeuf's Report**

- The IRS noted a discrepancy in the timeliness of the Q3 2025 Federal Tax deposits. The district believes this is in error and is issuing a letter of abatement, but in the meantime, it needs to be paid, though it may eventually be reimbursed.

*Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve Compass Travel as the vendor for the upcoming band trip to Disney. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 5-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).*

**KREA Representative Catharine Hyson's Report**

- Mentors Allison Battis, Brandon Battis, and Chris Spooner report that the KRHS Drone Team has completed its third competition of its rookie year. During the first competition, Team A won the Team Mission Trophy. During the second competition both middle and high school drone teams took home 6 of the 10 possible trophies! Middle school took home 3 and the high school took home the other 3. These included the Airmanship Award, Team Mission Trophy and Skills Trophy (shared with the middle school). The third competition resulted in both KRHS teams winning the Teamwork Mission Championship, KRMS Teams won the All Around Champion and the Skills Mission trophy! Our students have been so successful that both High School teams and multiple Middle School teams have already been invited to the District Championship in West Virginia this May! We are so proud of how hard everyone is working!
- The KRHS Robotics team will be competing in their first of two competitions in Bedford this weekend. Their second competition will be in Burlington, VT, April 2-4. After several in-kind equipment donations, a fully funded Donors Choose wishlist, and a \$1000 travel grant, we are hoping for a fantastic year!
- At New London Elementary, Mrs. K's second grade class is publishing a book about ocean animals. They will use Pebblego to research our animals and go through the writing process complete with revisions and editing. This is the third year Mrs. K has done this with her classes. The students love it and she rolls out the red carpet when the books are published to celebrate!
- This week, thanks to the support of the Summer Music Associates and Kearsarge School District, all 5th grade students were able to take a field trip to Symphony Hall for a special student centered performance. I got to see students marveling at the comforts of a coach bus, exclaiming over the city buildings, and bouncing and conducting along during the musical performance.
- The Kearsarge Actors Guild had a successful weekend with the Winter Play "Noses Off". They are now currently working on their festival show which will be performed during the morning block at 9am on Saturday March 14th. Sandy Nelson
- Emily Anderson shared that Project CLIMB will be bringing 28 high school participants and ten 8th graders to Lonesome Lake Hut this weekend. This long-standing tradition provides 8th graders a foot in the door at the high school and an opportunity to experience a hut trip. We are excited for the weekend!
- Simonds was able to host their "Winter Carnival" last Friday. (It was postponed due to the snow day before break.) Students participated in Winter Olympic style events, including variations on curling, skeleton, biathlon and others. The day started with an opening ceremony with Olympic torch lighting and ended with a medal ceremony. I think a fun day was had by all!

**Student Representative Leah Stone's Report**

- The National Honor Society will host a blood drive on March 17, 2026 from 10 a.m-3 p.m. Students and staff as well as members of the public are welcome to donate. There are approximately 20 vacant spots left.
- Scholarship information is being distributed to students who are attending college after high school.
- The Spain/Portugal trip over spring break was very successful.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Carnival was also very successful.</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Representative Cooper Russell’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Math Team is headed to the Statewide Math Meet on Monday, March 16th (snow day is the 17<sup>th</sup>).</li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. McGowan made a motion to put the “show your work” slogan on the agendas for the coming year. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to hire Chris Ryan as a Social-Studies teacher at KRHS. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to hire Cole Simon as a Social-Studies teacher at KRHS. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to accept the resignations of KRMS English Teacher Melinda Robertson and KRMS Special-Education teacher Emily Corcoran, with regret. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Keith made a motion to accept the retirement of KRES at Bradford Elementary Teacher Marcie Stockwell, with regret. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to accept the retirement of Sutton Central Title I Teacher Sara Scheuch, with regret. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Bobruff made a motion to approve the payment to the IRS in the amount of \$25,124.42. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>VIII. Public Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cathy Robjett of New London:</i> She wanted to know if the cost-per-student data provided by Superintendent Fortney included transportation. He will email her with the response since public comment is not intended to be a back-and-forth question-and-answer session. She also noted that the way the numbers were presented was condensed differently from slide-to-slide, so it skewed the data in her opinion.</li> <li>• <i>Mag Francis of New London:</i> She thanked Mr. Fortney for bringing data to the table and applauded this as the district moves forward toward the strategy sessions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to exit public comment. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>IX. New Business</b></p>	<p><i>KRHS Principal Charles Langille presented the following:</i></p> <p><b>A. Robotics Overnight Field Trip-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a late request because it is an invitation-only event based on performance.</li> <li>• The event is April 2-4<sup>th</sup> in Burlington.</li> <li>• This does not incur District costs because it’s funded by grants.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Drone-Team Overnight Field Trip</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both the A and B teams have been invited to West Virginia for the national competition.</li> <li>• Transportation is provided by parents.</li> </ul> <p><b>C. NEASC Collaborative Visit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This organization provides accreditation in the schools.</li> <li>• Kearsarge is doing many things well but has room for growth so while the high school is still accredited, NEASC will return in December to finalize their assessment.</li> <li>• Areas of strength include student-centeredness and commitment.</li> <li>• Areas for growth include inclusivity, parent involvement, and service-learning opportunities.</li> <li>• Mr. Langille will come back to update the Board on the school’s progress.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the overnight robotics overnight field trip. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>

	<p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the overnight drone-team overnight field trip. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>X. Old Business</b></p>	<p><i>Superintendent Fortney revisited the following from the previous meeting.</i></p> <p><b>A. Capturing Kids’ Hearts</b>          The Board again discussed at length the possible implementation of the Capturing Kids’ Hearts program. The price tag is about \$360,000 for three years and would incur ongoing costs beyond that. While the Board as a whole agreed the District could bring a program into the district that focuses on culture and climate, they want to do more investigation so they can be transparent to taxpayers about the way the district is funding outside programs.</p> <p><b>B. Strategic Plan</b>          Ms. Mastin emphasized that they need to start this process so they can get goals in place. She wants to get a strategic-plan committee started and urged board members to email her if they are interested in joining.</p> <p><i>Actions taken by the board:</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to consider option 3 at this time, which would incorporate the program into the 2026-2027 budget cycle. Mr. Esenwine seconded. The motion carried 6-2-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>XI. School-board Sub Committees: Facilities B, Policy</b></p>	<p><b>A. Facilities B:</b> The committee met at Simonds Elementary on March 4, 2026. A portion of this building dates back to the 1800s so that, coupled with site constraints, make for unique challenges in this school including its sprinkler system due to the lack of pump and its lower-than-usual Energy-Star rating. It also has some of the same issues other schools in the district face such as the need for upgraded boilers, a new HVAC system, a new electrical systems, a new roof, etc. The next tour will be held April 1, 2026 at Bradford Elementary at 5:30 p.m. and a meeting afterward at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>B. Policy:</b> They spent the majority of their last meeting discussing Policy JH regarding open-enrollment with the expectation of potentially having 30 new incoming students per the vote at the deliberative session.</p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the following:          The Board approves and supports the submission of a building-aid application for the Kearsarge Regional Middle School, and in addition, the minutes of this meeting will reflect the following: The Middle School Project application is described with the following: air conditioning, controls, roof (main bldg., chip plant, pump station), Domestic HW heating, CPVC (at least a placeholder value, and other project costs such as contract OH&amp;P, engineering fees, commissioning fees, etc. The total estimated project cost listed in the building-aid application is \$13,901,823.60.          The Board also confirms, if the project is selected for building aid, the project shall be put forth for voter consideration subject to receiving building aid.          Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the following:          The Board approves and supports the submission of a building-aid application for the Kearsarge Regional High School, and in addition, the minutes of this meeting will reflect the following: The Board desires to have the project remain on the prioritized list, with the project as described in the building-aid application. The scope of addition &amp; renovation ha been adjusted to match program needs. The project addition size has been reduced to approximately 5,000 SF of new entry, administration, and cafeteria space. There will be heavy renovation in under-utilized parts of the existing building focused on increasing STEAM program areas. The project will also include heavy renovation in existing parts of the building to address accessibility issues in toilet rooms &amp; locker rooms, as well as addressing significant mechanical, exterior building envelope, site circulation, and other identified issues. The total estimated project cost listed on page 3 of this form is \$42,321,560.          The Board also confirms, if the project is selected for building aid, the project shall be put forth for voter consideration subject to receiving building aid.          Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>

<p><b>XII. Non-public Session</b></p>	<p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to go into non-public session. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board discussed a curriculum issue.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to exit non-public. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p><b>XIII. Adjourn</b></p>	<p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to seal the non-public minutes for a period of 30 years. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained)</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Amy Monroe, KRSD Notetaker