

Kearsarge Regional School Board

2 April 2026
Open to Public

I. Call to Order	<p>Superintendent Fortney called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>He also noted that Zoom was unavailable because a member of the virtual audience was posting inappropriate content during the meeting.</p>
II. Pledge of Allegiance	<p>Members of the KRMS Chorus led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>The Chorus Singers also performed for the School Board.</p>
III. Roll Call	<p><i>Present:</i> Art Bobruff, Matt Esenwine, Eric Gregoire, David Keith, Jamie MacKenna, Patrick McGowan*, Alison Mastin, and Kristen Schultz.</p> <p><i>Absent:</i> Nancy Glynn</p> <p>*Mr. McGowan arrived at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>Absent:</i> KREA representative Catharine Hyson</p> <p><i>Absent:</i> Student representatives Cooper Russell & Leah Stone</p>
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p><i>The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from 12 March 2026.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of 12 March 2026, as written. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the sealed non-public minutes of 12 March 2026, as written. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
V. Hearing	<p>As required per NH RSA 198:20-b, III, The Kearsarge Regional School Board will conduct a public hearing regarding unanticipated revenue awarded to the Kearsarge Regional School District for the amount of \$59,645.44 regarding E-rate funds, as advertised in the <i>Intertown Record</i> of March 10, 2026.</p> <p><i>Mr. Gregoire made a motion to accept and expend unanticipated e-rate revenue funds for the amount of \$59,645.44. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
VI. Reports of Administration	<p><i>The following provided Administrative Reports:</i></p> <p>Chair Alison Mastin’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No official report <p>Superintendent John Fortney’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district is currently favorable at \$3.7M for the year-end general fund. • The district has hired Debra Breault to replace Doreen Salera. • He also had a slate of resignations for the following (effective 6/30/2026): Jamie Malhoit, Special Education Associate Director Robin Young, KRMS Hannah Duvall, Bradford Elementary School Jackie Tassinari, KRMS Molly Giles, NL Elementary School Jessica Turner, Simonds Elementary School Makayla Gosselin, KRHS <p>The following resignation is in effect as of 6/12/2026: Steve Barrie, Tech Department</p>

	<p>Assistant Superintendent Michael Bessette’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He continues to work with Colby Sawyer College regarding a partnership to create pipeline opportunities for KRHS students. These discussions have full support from the leadership at both Colby Sawyer and the high school. • He is working to try to amend some legislation that deals with trespassing on school grounds, an issue that has plagued the district in the past. <p>Business Administrator Larry LeBoeuf’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had a purchase recommendation for Cengage for math textbooks at KRMS that better aligns with the district’s curriculum and goals. The total amount is \$11,868. <p>KREA Representative Catharine Hyson’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None (absent) <p>Student Representative Leah Stone’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None (absent) <p>Student Representative Cooper Russell’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None (absent) <p><i>Actions taken by the Board:</i> <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve Debbie Breault as deputy treasurer. Mr. Keith seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the slate of resignations effective June 30, 2026, with regret. Mr. Esenwine seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the resignation of Steve Barrie, effective June 12, 2026, with regret. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to accept vendor Cengage for math textbooks at the middle school. Dr. Bobruff seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VII. Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mag Francis of New London:</i> She noted the cost differential per pupil between a student at NLES and Sutton being more than \$10,000/student at the former, but with similar outcomes. She encouraged the school board to closely examine these numbers when considering school consolidation. • <i>Larry Kloth of New London:</i> He wanted to know the future of STEM in the district exclusive of the arts. He also inquired about how the district would handle the cost differential between a potential incoming student who might need costly special service given that they cannot discriminate on who comes into the district. <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to exit public comment. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>VIII. Presentation: Curriculum Initiative Update</p>	<p><i>Curriculum Director Andrea Castaldo presented the following:</i></p> <p>A. iReady</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After polling teachers and receiving 100 responses to their survey, they opted for iReady, an educational tool that provides adaptive assessments. • It will come with some cost implications, but they are offset in part by canceled subscriptions that are redundant. • She provided documentation that links iReady to SAS results. <p>B. Second Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new RSA requires districts to have a more science-based approach in terms of its literacy curriculum by the start of the fall 2027 school year, so she and her staff are looking into options.

IX. New Business

- A. International Field Trip 2028-KRHS Teacher Theo Selby**
The high school is aiming to get 35 students to northern Italy and France in the coming year for its annual trip to Europe. This is a first-come, first-serve opportunity and there are financial assistance options available. The school has many fundraising opportunities so he is not looking for funding currently, only permission to move forward with planning.
- B. Youth Government Field Trip, KRHS**
This is to go to the state house to witness a session with other high school students from throughout New Hampshire. This is a short-notice request because new faculty have taken over and weren't familiar with the process.
- C. ~~Drone Field Trip, KRMS~~**
- D. KRMS Culture & Climate-Principal Steve Patterson**
KRMS Principal Steve Patterson discussed at length with the board the racially motivated, xenophobic, and generally unkind commentary that pervades his school. He is looking at having a larger community-wide conversation to help address the issue.
- E. Purchase Recommendations**
Facilities Director Brett Paré presented the following:
 - 1. **Abatement Services:** This is to get rid of known asbestos as part of their asbestos abatement plan. The vendor is the Lawson Group and the total cost is \$14,160.
 - 2. **Replace wall/stage pads KRMS:** Vendor Hussey Advantage provides the padding for the gym. The current pads are aging, worn, at the wrong height, and falling off. The total cost is \$21,900.*Curriculum Director Andrea Castaldo presented the following:*
 - 3. **Lexia Learning Systems:** This is a sole-sourced item for Lexia Aspire Professional Learning since they are the only providers of this particular program. The total cost is \$18,000 coming out of the Federal Title IIA Grant Balance.
 - 4. ~~Chromebooks~~ (tabled)
 - 5. ~~PowerSchool~~ (tabled)
 - 6. ~~District Website~~ (tabled)
- F. Staff Nominations:** Superintendent Fortney presented a list of staff eligible for tenure and recommended approving them as a slate.
- G. Food Service Agreement:** Business Administrator Larry LeBoeuf made a purchase recommendation to keep Fresh Picks Café as the district vendor for food services at a cost of \$604,120.
- H. School Board Retreat:** Chair Mastin will send out an email offering optional dates for the retreat and emphasized how important it is because it is where the board's goals are set. She also encouraged all school-board members to attend the April 16th meeting because the people who train school-board members will be coming to that meeting.
- I. Strategic Plan:** Ms. Mastin wants to start working on the strategic plan in April. It has been several years since it has been redone so it is necessary to do so given the many legislative changes happening across the state. These are workshops and not board meetings.
Assistant Superintendent Bessette provided updates to the following outdated policies for review, some dating back as far as 1985:
- J. Policies:**
 - 1. JICK Bullying Prevention-Pupil Safety & Violence Prevention, Revision
 - 2. JICI Safe Schools Zone-Weapons on School Property, First Reading
 - 3. EHLB Subpeonas Involving District Students, Officials, Employees and/or Records, First Reading
 - 4. DAF Consolidated Policy fir Administration of Federal Grant Funds, Revised
The policy committee will seek to ask the Board for a revision to DAF (1-13) to adjust the micro purchase threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the Simplified Acquisition Threhold from \$250,000 to \$350,000 in compliance with Federal law changes.
 - 5. DJE Building Requirements, Revision
 - 6. BDE Board Officers, Revision

	<p>7. BEDD Rules of Order, Revision 8. BEDC Quorum of the Board, Revision 9. BCD Board Member Conflict of Interest, Revision</p> <p><i>Actions taken by the board:</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Keith made a motion to approve the trip to Italy and France, as presented. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the government field trip. Mr. Esenwine seconded. The motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to accept asbestos abatement purchase recommendation, as presented. Mr. Esenwine seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained and Mr. McGowan was not present at the time of the vote).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Esenwine made a motion to accept the wall and stage-pad purchase recommendation, as presented. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 5-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained, and Mr. McGowan and Mr. Keith were not present at the time of the vote).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Esenwine made a motion to accept the purchase recommendation for Lexia Aspire Professional Learning as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained, and Mr. McGowan was not present at the time of the vote).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the slate of staff nominations for tenure as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a recommendation to keep Fresh Picks Cafés the vendor for food services. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>X. School-board Sub Committees: Communications, HR, Facilities, Facilities B</p>	<p>A. HR 3/26: The HR committee discussed the success of filling many essential vacancies, faster hiring timelines, and specific job descriptions.</p> <p>B. Communications 3/26: The Communications Committee discussed developing a story/PR campaign for the district, its social-media strategy, and the redesign of district website.</p> <p>C. Facilities 4/2: The Facilities Committee discussed with Brett potentially using solar power with Sun-up Solar for energy-cost savings, continuing with Siemens as their mechanical contract renewal comes up, and putting out a bid for new siding/windows/doors for the facilities office.</p> <p>D. Facilities B Committee 4/1: They met at Bradford on April 1 to go over critical needs and determined the septic system and mechanical systems (HVAC, generator, etc.), among other items, all need to be replaced.</p> <p>Two more meetings will be held, both at the SAU: April 6, 2026, and April 22, 2026, both at 5:30 to discuss the potential savings from consolidation and to resolve any outstanding issues.</p> <p>Both Mr. McGowan and Mr. MacKenna emphasized that the work on this committee has been extensive, and while they are happy to answer any further questions and will bring numbers to the table, there will not be producing a 20-page report detailing the findings of the many tours/meetings held. The time will soon come wherein critical decision-making in regards to the district facilities restructuring needs to start happening.</p>
<p>XI. Adjourn</p>	<p><i>Mr. Keith made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 7-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,
 Amy Monroe, KRSD Notetaker