

Kearsarge Regional School Board

7 May 2026

Open to Public

I. Call to Order	Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	The School Board led the pledge of allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<p><i>Present:</i> Art Bobruff, Nancy Glynn, Eric Gregoire, Jamie MacKenna, Patrick McGowan, Alison Mastin, and Kristen Schultz.</p> <p><i>Absent:</i> Matt Esenwine, David Keith</p> <p><i>Present:</i> KREA representative Catharine Hyson</p> <p><i>Present:</i> Leah Stone</p> <p><i>Absent:</i> Cooper Russell</p>
IV. Approval of Minutes	<p><i>The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from 16 April 2026.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna noted a minor typo, then made a motion to approve the minutes of 16 April 2026, as amended. Mr. McGowan seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained)</i></p>
V. 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"> • She highly encouraged all board members to attend graduation. <p>Superintendent John Fortney’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is officially done with his certificate in educational finance from Georgetown. • He will attend a superintendent conference in Orlando from June 7-9, 2026. • He needs approval to accept the resignations of Associate Director of Special Education Kailey Roukey and KRMS Special Education Teacher Sarah Dokham. • He needed approval to hire the following: Wendy Dyke, KRMS Lifeskills SpEd Teacher Jillian Hoffman, Bradford Elementary Teacher Bonnie Gill, NLES Elementary Teacher Katherine Cochran, KRMS FACS Teacher Serenedy Kelley, Bradford Teacher <p>Assistant Superintendent Michael Bessette’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 21, 2026 he testified about Senate HB 1184 regarding trespass. <p>Business Administrator Larry LeBoeuf’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district still sits at approximately \$4M favorable by the end-of-year. • The district’s food-service program was previously audited and had four findings, all of which have since been amended. • The district does not offer the summer food program, but regardless per USDA policy, it still has to notify the public on its website where such services can be found. <p>KREA Representative Catharine Hyson’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Knopf and Meg Gillman from the High School Science department were selected to participate in the Manchester Tech 4 Teachers program this summer, which will focus on biofabrication and regenerative medicines. This opportunity is typically reserved for Manchester teachers, but due to available space and their previous teaching experience, the program director invited Mr. Knopf and Ms. Gillman to join Summer Cohort 3.

- The two will spend the first two weeks of August 2026 at UNH Manchester developing co-curricular lessons they will implement in their classrooms. The program director will also visit our school during the academic year to observe and support the rollout of these new lessons.
- They will bring these innovative experiences back to their students and collaborate with each other on ways to enhance the HS science curriculum.
- Project CLIMB enjoyed a weekend at Lonesome Lake Hut with 30 high schoolers and 10 brave 8th graders in March. In April, high schoolers hiked to Carter Notch Hut and most summited Carter Dome, one of NH's 4,000 Footers. Their final trip is May 15th, and students will hike to Mizpah Hut before seeking to summit Mountains Pierce, Webster, and/or Jackson.
- At the high school, amidst finishing up cooking methods in Intro to culinary, Worldwide cuisine in Culinary arts and sourdoughs in Baking & pastry we are catering several end of year events. The Hot & Cold Plated dessert class will also pick an item off of their dessert menus they created and produce it in mini form to showcase at our end of the month faculty meeting.
- The Kearsarge Actors Guild is presenting their Evening of One Acts on Thurs. May 14th and Friday May 15th.
- There will be three One-Acts presented which includes the Senior Show. These shows kick off at 6:30 pm each night in the Kearsarge Regional High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5. This is officially Sandy Nelson's last show. They hope you come and enjoy.
- Simonds just completed their Read-a-Thon and One School/One Book all school read. Students read "Flora and Ulysses" and participated in some fun activities, such as creating their own superhero powers and watching a presentation from Wildlife Encounters that showed our students the superpowers of different animals, like an armadillo's ability to contract into a ball. Simonds students surpassed their reading goal of 26,000 minutes and earned over 2,500 dollars for our PTO. The events culminated with the sliming of the principal.
- On Thursday, April 23rd, KRES at Bradford had a whole school "Cougars Care: KRES at Bradford Community Service Day." They started the day at the old Bradford Center focusing on Earth Day and the aspects of the Portrait of a Learner: Curious, Caring, Conscientious. The students helped clean up around the old meeting house and one room school house. Four Buses then headed off in different directions to complete community service projects at our local state parks and Fishersfield Park in Newbury. The students did an amazing job of embodying the characteristics Kearsarge values.
- On Thursday, April 23rd, Bradford's 3rd graders proudly showcased their poetry skills at the 3rd Grade Poetry Night. Students shared two different poems centered on the same topic, presenting their work in front of family and friends. The event was a wonderful opportunity for them to practice and strengthen their public speaking skills while celebrating their creativity.
- Tuesday night, New London Elementary hosted an open house for families and students from Croydon! Four of our fifth graders, all members of the Student Leadership Team, prepared and delivered a tour of the school and then answered questions at a panel afterwards. The students were exceptional representatives of the school and made everyone feel so welcome in this community!
- Cougars Who Care is a group of 4th and 5th grade students from Kearsarge Regional Elementary School in New London. The club was started by Mr. Angus and Mr. Smith to give students an opportunity to turn their ideas about kindness into meaningful action - both within our school and in the greater community.
- Through these experiences, students have opportunities to develop what it means to be responsible and empathetic citizens. Students visited Woodcrest Village, where they connected with residents and played bingo together. They also visited the New London Food Pantry, which inspired a school-wide food drive, with each grade level contributing different items to support local families.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, students painted wooden moose for the Pine Hill Ski Club, supporting a nonprofit organization that helps provide outdoor opportunities for members of our community. • The KRMS Stem & Engineering Fair was a huge success! • Students, parents, teachers, and other members of the KRMS family gathered in the middle school gymnasium on April 22 to celebrate our students’ hard work. Engineering Fair is a student-centered, authentic learning experience focused on the engineering design process. Critical thinking and creativity are often cited as necessary 21st century workplace skills. • Students showed off their abilities to follow the engineering design process by building, testing, and rebuilding their choice of a bridge, pinewood derby car, or catapult. • Students had the option to pit their best designs against one another in a friendly competition run throughout the night. • The KRMS community is proud of our students and looks forward to even greater success! <p>Student Representative Leah Stone’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is testing season, with AP exams currently underway and finals upcoming. • Next week will be busy with senior project presentations, prom, and NHS inductions. <p>Student Representative Cooper Russell’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None (absent) <p><i>Actions taken by the Board:</i> Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the resignations of Associate Director of Special Education Kailey Roukey of NLES teacher Sarah Katsanos, with regret. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</p> <p>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the slate of new hires. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</p>
<p>VI. Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mag Francis of New London:</i> In preparation for the board’s upcoming strategic planning sessions, she urged the board to thoroughly examine the projected decline in enrollment numbers and to take into consideration how the loss of students in each of the respective feeder towns might affect the larger financial picture moving forward. <p>Ms. Schultz made a motion to exit public comment. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</p>
<p>VII. Presentation: AI Committee Update</p>	<p><i>Curriculum Director Andrea Castaldo and Technology Director Barbra Turner presented the following:</i></p> <p>A. AI Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two discussed how they plan to integrate AI into the classroom in an ethical manner and in accordance with the district’s values. • They sent out a survey to teachers, parents/caregivers, school-board members, etc. and are in the process of unpacking the answers. • The results are dichotomous: either the community shows apprehension about the use of AI in schools, or they think the district is behind the curve. • They are trying to get students to use AI to solve problems that have real-world applications. • They know that some of the hesitation about using AI is a fear that it will make the students not think for themselves, but in their experience the students are extremely engaged in learning the technology. • One of Ms. Castaldo’s concerns is the potential for FERPA violations alongside the use of AI. • Another concern is the notion that students are using AI to address the growing issue of loneliness.

VIII. New Business

- A. Purchase Recommendations -Curriculum Director Andrea Castaldo**
 - 1. **OGAP Training:** She sought approval for OGAP training. This is sole-sourced since it is a proprietary training. The total cost is \$15,300 from vendor NHLL.
 - 2. **iReady:** As previously approved she requested \$20,906.88 for iReady software from vendor Curriculum Associates.
 - 3. **Branching Minds:** She requested \$13,877.35 for Branching Minds, a data program to track the effectiveness of the district’s MTSS program. This is for a one-year contract so they can contemplate more integrated software programs in the future.
- B. Purchase Recommendations-Technology Director Barbbra Turner**
 - 1. **Frontline Technologies::** This is for a one-year renewal of the district’s evaluation management software. The total cost is \$19,674.51 and the vendor is Frontline.
 - 2. **PowerSchool:** PowerSchool is the district’s online registration system. This is for a one-year renewal for a total cost of \$11,440.44.
 - 3. **Lightspeed:** Lightspeed is the district’s classroom management software. This is for a one-year renewal for a total cost of \$17,778.84.
- C. Purchase Recommendations-Business Administrator Larry LeBoeuf**
 - Kit-Car Parts:** This was previously approved by finance and audit. It is for the kit-car parts from vendor Forte’s Parts Connection for a total of \$18,640.
- D. Food Service Price Changes for the 2026-2027 School Year – Business Administrator Larry LeBoeuf**
 - Food-Price Increases:** He presented the slight increases to the food prices for the upcoming school year in accordance with the Federal weighted average increase. Elementary prices will increase by \$.10/meal; middle, high school, and adult prices will increase by \$.15.
- E. Alex Gissler Scholarship:** Mr. LeBoeuf also made a motion to deposit \$500 into the Alex Gissler Scholarship fund, which is to be distributed in June.
- F. Assurances:** *Superintendent Fortney read the following:*
Let the minutes reflect the following regarding Assurances:

The New Hampshire Department of Education has developed the *2026-2027 General Assurances, Requirements and Definitions for Participation in the federal program*. General Assurances must be signed and initiated by the LEA school board chairperson to be considered fully executed.

Motion: I am asking the School Board to recognize me as the Senior Official with Authority to sign the General Assurances documents on behalf of the school district along with Alison Mastin as School Board Chair.
- G. Policies-Michael Bessette**
 - 1. **JFABA:** Alternative Enrollment Pathways for Courses and Co-Curricular Activities, *1st Reading*
 - 2. **BBA** Board Powers and Duties, *Revision*
 - 3. **BBAA** School Board Member Authority, *1st Reading*

Actions taken by the board:

Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the purchase recommendation for OGAP training, as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the purchase of iReady software, as presented. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the purchase of Branching Minds software, as presented. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the renewal for Frontline Technologies, as presented. Mr. Gregoire seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).

	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the renewal of PowerSchool, as presented. Mr. McGowan seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the renewal of Lightspeed, as presented. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the Kit-Car parts, as presented. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the food-price increases, as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the deposit into the Alex Gissler Scholarship fund, as presented. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to recognize Superintendent Fortney as the Senior Official with authority to sign the General Assurances documents on behalf of the school district along with Alison Mastin as School Board Chair. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>IX. Subcommittee Reports: Facilities B, Policy Communications, HR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilities B:</i> Mr. MacKenna reported the following: The Facilities B committee has since met twice more, on April 22, 2026 and April 23, 2026. The first meeting was here in the SAU. They had a good discussion regarding critical needs including window replacements, plumbing issues, air handler in the gym, etc. They have been urged to get a whole quote for the building, which is a shared space between administration and the elementary school. A potential in-kind replacement for the roof at the high school may be possible. That matter has been referred back to the Facilities A committee. They met again on April 23, 2026, to discuss potential cost savings and consolidation. They did get a quote for the foundation and structuring issues at Simonds for \$978,000. The total savings from not doing critical needs includes \$3,240,919 at Simonds, \$1,381,750 for Sutton, and \$2,625,296.17 in annual savings from facilities, supplies and staff. He wanted to make sure everyone knew that these numbers are just drafts for the committee to work with as a potential, not a full-fledged plan. Mr. McGowan said their report would be out by their next meeting. • <i>Policy:</i> See above under New Business. • <i>Communications:</i> Ms. Mastin said they talked about putting out the AI survey. • <i>HR:</i> They talked about posted positions including the current assistant principal position along with the quality of the various hiring pools.
<p>X. Non-Public (1 of 2)</p>	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to go into non-public for reputation. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board discussed out-of-district student placements. <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve out-of-district placements for the first case, as presented. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve out-of-district placements for the second case, as presented. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to seal the minutes for a period of 20 years. Mr. McGowan seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p>
<p>XI. Non-Public (2 of 2)</p>	<p><i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to go into non-public for reputation. Mr. McGowan seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i></p> <p>The superintendent, assistant superintendent, and board clerk were dismissed during this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board discussed x <p>Insert motions here</p>
<p>XII. Adjournment</p>	<p><i>Mr./Ms. x made a motion to adjourn. Mr./Ms. x seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained). The meeting adjourned at x p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Monroe,
KRSD Notetaker