

Kearsarge Regional School Board

23 July 2026

Open to Public

I. Call to Order	Chair Mastin called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Ms. Schultz led the pledge of allegiance.
III. Roll Call	<i>Present:</i> Art Bobruff, Nancy Glynn, Eric Gregoire**, Jamie MacKenna, Patrick McGowan*, Alison Mastin, and Kristen Schultz. <i>Absent:</i> David Keith *Arrived at 5:22 p.m. *Arrived at 6:09 p.m. <i>Absent:</i> KREA representative Catharine Hyson [due to summer break] <i>Absent:</i> Cooper Russell [due to summer break]
IV. Approval of Minutes	<i>The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from 7 July 2026.</i> <i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of 7 July 2026, as written.</i> <i>Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 3-0-2 (Ms. Mastin & Ms. Schultz abstained).</i>
V. Public Comment	<i>The Chair read the following disclaimer prior to opening public comment:</i> In accordance with Policy BEDH, copies of prepared statements must be provided to the Board, participation in public comment is restricted to residents of the seven towns served by the Kearsarge Regional School District or by those preapproved by the board as having a legitimate interest in the district. <i>Mag Francis of New London:</i> She presented the Board with a chart of the pipeline for the schools, which demonstrated a stark decline in student population, alongside a graphic that indicates a steep decrease in births in this region. The town populations that feed into the schools are getting older, as the unaffordable housing and limited economic opportunities do not attract many young families with school-aged children, so she encouraged the Board to take the declining enrollment into consideration when making its ultimate decision. She also said it's time for the Board to start living up to the motto of showing its work because she has heard a lot of discussion at this point, but has not seen the data to back it up. <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to exit public comment. Ms. Glynn seconded.</i> <i>The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>

VI. New Business	A. Recording School-Board Meetings - The Communications committee recommended that the Board begin recording meetings to ensure the public has as much access to the goings on as possible, but the Board needs approval to do so. The recordings will be stored as a YouTube Channel and will be accessible via the school website. B. Budget Transfer-Interim Superintendent Michael Bessette CTE: In order to cover tuition at the Career Technical Education (CTE) coursework, he needs approval to transfer a total of \$105,237.47 from the Special Ed Salary Line to the Voc Ed Tuition Line. <i>Actions taken by the board:</i> <i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to record meetings starting at the 30 July 2026 meeting. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the transfer of funds to cover CTE coursework. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>
VII. Old Business	A. Facilities A Report: The meeting included discussions on the following talking points: preliminary discussion about funding options for the facilities restructuring plan, shifting priorities given the potential for HB 1374 to expedite school closures, energy-enhancing options offered through Building Aid, and public comment. Facilities Director Brett Paré alongside the estimator also did a presentation on the facilities project including issues and options for Simonds Elementary. B. Facilities Discussion: Interim Superintendent Michael Bessette spoke at length about possibilities and roadblocks in terms of space constraints at various schools. He presented several charts outlining the facilities planning timeline, alongside data showing student enrollment and staffing at the schools across the district. One possible change includes moving 5th-graders to the middle school. The Board's discussion largely focused on equitable outcomes. No decisions were made this evening, but the goal is that between the July 30 and August 6 meeting, the Board will explore options and work toward an emergency contingency plan in case petitions are filed to close Simonds and Sutton Elementary by August 2027. C. Strategic Plan: No update other than this Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. is the last meeting. Mr. MacKenna and Mr. McGowan will not be in attendance. D. HR Actions: Mr. Bessette needed two HR approvals: <i>Resignation:</i> Jacob Palmer; Simonds Physical Education/Health Teacher <i>New Hire:</i> Chelsey Johnson, NLES Grade 1 Teacher <i>Actions taken by the board:</i> <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to adopt the documentation provided as the framework for the facilities decision-making process. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.</i> <i>Mr. McGowan made a motion to approve the resignation of Jacob Palmer. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> <i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to approve the hiring of Chelsey Johnson. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>
VIII. Non-Public Session (1 of 2)	<i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A3 (c) for reputation. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> The Board discussed a money transfer in connection with an HR issue. <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to exit non-public session. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>

	<i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to transfer \$18,500 for the sole-source bid discussed in non-public. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> <i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to approve the sole-source bid for First-Educational Resources. Mr. MacKenna seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>
IX. Non-Public Session (2 of 2)	<i>Ms. Schultz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A3 II (c) for personnel/reputation. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> • The Board discussed a personnel matter. <i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to exit non-public session. Ms. Glynn seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i>
IX. Adjournment	<i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to seal the first non-public session's minutes for a period of 30 years. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> <i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to seal the second non-public session's minutes for a period of 3 years. Mr. McGowan seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> <i>Mr. MacKenna made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Schultz seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 (Ms. Mastin abstained).</i> <i>The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Monroe,
KRSD Notetaker