

Plainfield School Board

Regular Meeting
Meriden, NH 03770
May 26, 2026

APPROVED MINUTES

Present Board Members: Jenny Ramsey, Norm Berman, Jennifer Rybek Houde, Sydney Johnstone, Jordy Green; Staff: Acting Superintendent Beth Bierwirth, Principal Audra Bucklin, Silas St. James, Cody Schoolcraft; Gordon Bristol; 2 public attendees. Recorded by R. Lohr

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair Jenny Ramsey.

2. Public Comments

There was a comment about how successful the Plainfield students have been at Lebanon High School.

3. Nominations and Resignations

It was announced that Angela Smith is resigning at the end of the school year.

A motion was made by Rybek Houde and seconded by Ramsey to accept with regret the resignation of Angela Smith. Discussion: The Board highlighted Angela's work with the theater program at the school. **The motion was approved.**

A motion was made by Rybek Houde and seconded by Ramsey to approve the nomination of Dr. David Baker as interim superintendent and Paige Jarvis as director of student services starting on July 1, 2026. Discussion: The Board highlighted Dr. Baker's and Ms. Jarvis' backgrounds. **The motion was approved.**

It was also stated that Josie Wolfinger will pick up .4 FTE as Library Media Specialist

4. Middle School Project Update

It was stated that the construction project at the Plainfield School will begin on June 15th. A walk-through of the project for the Board will be coordinated in July. There was a discussion about the decision to eliminate the discretionary new restrooms due to budget costs. At the end of the project if there are discretionary funds remaining, there will be discussions about possible additions.

5. Consent Agenda

Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Jordy Green and seconded by Jennifer Rybek Houde to approve the minutes of the Plainfield School Board meetings held on April 14, 2026 as submitted. The motion was approved.

6. Reports

6A. Business Administrator Report

Business Administrator Beth Bierwirth cited her written report with updates on the district financial status. The Annual School District Meeting had 275 attendees. The operating budget that passed was

\$8,861,000 that included additions to the trust funds. The revenue will be revised in August and the tax rate will be finalized by the DRA in mid-October.

Staff contracts have been issued and open enrollment for benefit elections has begun. There are minimal changes expected in benefits but one or two paybacks are possible. The final number of high school students was 72 at \$1,354,000 which will provide a \$94,000 surplus to be returned to taxpayers. The Federal grants for 2026-28 were cited.

Food service is on target and about \$6,000 will be needed to transfer to the budget, which is a lower amount than budgeted. The solar array produced 140,000 kWh at twelve cents per kWh unit which helped the entire cost of energy for the school land within the budget. The special education area was slightly higher for contracted services. Interest revenue has been higher than projected.

A wish list of items includes an accounting system for \$32,000, school radios for \$5,000, and improvements for landscape for \$15,000. The 2025 audit was completed and will be posted on the school website.

6B. Principal Report

Principal Bucklin cited her written report and reviewed the challenges for planning in the first grade with 22 students. It will be co-taught similar to last year. Math and reading interventions will be used. Kindergarten will have two groups for essential arts with extra time on reading aloud. More time is needed for co-teachers for planning.

The 3/4 looping structure will remain largely intact. This year, we will be providing grade-level specific instruction for math and reading. All other subjects will continue to be taught in mixed grade groupings. Science, Social studies and EAs lend themselves to interdisciplinary, cross-grade project-based units. These are well established in the 3/4 looping model at PES. This approach will allow us to retain the many social emotional learning benefits of a looping model while addressing specific academic needs in reading and math.

The middle school instructors will work collaboratively on project-based units that incorporate core curriculum. It was stated that there will be student lockers. The front office will have 1.6 FTE.

6C. Facility Report

The facilities report was submitted as written and the Plainfield School Facilities Cycle document was shared with the Board. This chart includes security, replacement, equipment, maintenance, long term physical plant, and grounds. Contracted services will be used for facility director responsibilities using the Facilities Cycle document. providing oversight, and heading the Facility Committee. There are 1.63 FTE for custodial services at the school.

6D. Coop Committee Report

The Coop Committee has appointed two co-chairs (Dana Scaduto and Nicole Saginor) who will meet with the interim superintendent to set the Committee schedule going forward.

6E. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Report

CIA Director Silas St. James summarized work on what students learn using curriculum with resources and materials. A document chart for competencies was reviewed showing how things worked for

resources, assessments, and instructional practices for ELA, math, science, social studies, essential arts and language. Each grade develops competency documents using priorities incorporating national standards and common core principles for each school year so the work is manageable and measurable.

The math program and “Ready Math” was discussed and other math programs are being explored. The test results were reviewed for proficiency levels at Plainfield School. Overall, the largest percentage of students is at the proficiency level. About one quarter of the students have improved on individual growth which means that they have improved more than expected in a year on tests for ELA and math. About half of the students have remained at the same level as the previous year, and one fifth of the students have declined on the tests. It was requested that the information be summarized and posted on the school website.

7. Items for Discussion or Action

7A. Portrait of a Learner

The in-person presentation for the Portrait of a Learner was lightly attended. The staff fully participated and ways to increase public participation will be considered.

7B. NHSBA Resources

NHSBA information and training are available for board members and it was suggested that board members who get this information report back to the board. The “School Board Reads” is also available from the NHSBA.

7C. Evaluation Platform

A demonstration of the platform software for evaluation for administrators is available for the Board to review.

7D. Job Description Update

The job descriptions for the administrative positions were amended to incorporate remote work and location. This was added because there is no SAU space at the Cornish Elementary School but the shared positions must dedicate weekly time to the school even though there is no space at the school.

A motion was made by Berman and seconded by Green to approve the job descriptions for the administrative positions shared by the Plainfield and Cornish school districts as presented and amended. The motion was approved.

7E. Policy JLCD: Medication Administration

The Board discussed the updated Policy JLCD: Medication Administration that involved over-the-counter medications.

A motion was made by Ramsey and seconded by Berman to approve the Policy JLCD: Medication Administration as presented and amended. The motion was approved.

7F. Retreat Date

The Board Retreat will be scheduled for the week of August 10th and the date will be finalized by Chair Ramsey. There is a regular Board meeting on August 11.

8. Public Comment

There were comments about the front office staff FTEs, the number of students, and absent teachers impact on students. There was a request to spell out acronyms in reports.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Rybek Houde and seconded by Johnstone to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. The motion was approved.

The next Plainfield School Board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM (earlier time).