

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

August 20, 2025

Call to Order:

Chair Andersen called the School Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Edward Andersen
Amanda Spears
Alysse Lizotte
Linda Tanner
Tiago Pereira

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent
Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator
Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal
Meagan Reed, SCES Principal
John Lellos, SCES Principal
Amanda Hughlock, Director of Student Services
Taylor Goodspeed, Student Representative - Absent

Pledge of Allegiance:

Edward Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2025 School Board Meeting as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the nonpublic minutes of the June 4, 2025 School Board Meeting as presented.

Linda Tanner seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Alysee Lizotte moved to approve the Policy Committee Meeting of August 13, 2025 as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

SCES Good News:

Principal Reed gave the Board the following report:

- She met with 49 staff members one on one to find out their views and opinions. Many stated they want more consistency.
- The staff worked on drafting norms for faculty meetings and recess protocols.
- Tomorrow there will be training for BCBA.
- Grade K-3 teachers met to work on assessment practices for ELA.
- The Principal Advisory Committee is working on Strategic Plan Goals and plans for reopening.
- Multi-tier supports met this summer. They had two days of professional development and one more will be held tomorrow.
- Back to School Night for preschool and kindergarten went great with high attendance. Tomorrow night is Back to School Night for grades 1-5.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- Introduced John Lellos as the new Assistant SMHS Principal and part-time Social Studies teacher.
- They have many new students this year.
- Staff has been working on strategic goals.
- **New Student Orientation was last night for incoming 6th graders. The 9th grade is large this year.**
- There is a teacher on a leave of absence this year and no substitute to fill the role. There is a letter going out today to parents on how this will be covered.

The Board and administration discussed class sizes and overall enrollment.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- Introduced and welcomed John Lellos as the new Assistant Principal of SMHS and John White as the new Facilities Director. He noted that Principal Reed is doing a fantastic job at SCES. There are also new custodians on staff.
- It's been a very busy summer for policy, including the new cellphone policy.
- He noted the District is seeing a price increase on items, especially on facilities and special education costs.
- The Town has stated it cannot plow even if the District pays them directly due to a lack of equipment and help. He stated it will cost the District \$25-\$50K to do this themselves.
- The District was informed the water will be shut off on Friday, which will affect all buildings.
- The District continues to attract tuition students. The bill proposed for open enrollment did not pass, but will be coming back next year. The elementary school is reaching captivity in some grades this year. SMHS does have room, but certain grades are filling as well. The Board and administration discussed tuition rates.
- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the renovated Newport Vocational Technical Center on Aug 26, 2025 at 2 p.m.
- The District had a guest speaker on other processes of psychology, which includes 12 strategies to keep a positive perspective. People really liked it and felt it was helpful.

Chair Anderson asked if the Town could sand for the District, since they cannot plow.

Superintendent Holden stated the Town is over budget and cannot help. Chair Anderson stated he is worried about the students getting to and from school, especially if there is an emergency.

School Board Topics:

Superintendent Holden stated that the Board should send him topics they want on the agenda. Alysee Lizotte would like to learn more about CRTS and VLACS credit. Superintendent Holden stated he would do that and ask the Student Council members to attend a meeting.

Policy Updates - Approve Rescinded Policies:

- IKAA, Achievement Assessment
- IMBC, Alternative Credit Options

Amanda Spears moved to approve the rescinded policies as presented.

Alyse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Policy Updates - Approve First/Final Reading of Policies:

- AB, NH Parental Bill of Rights
- IJ, Instructional Resources & Instructional Resources Plan

- IKFG, Career Exploration, Readiness, Pathways & Credentials
- JICJ, Unauthorized Communication Devices
- JLIA, Supervision of Students

Amanda Spears moved to approve the first and final readings of policies as presented.

Alyse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Policy Updates - Approve Reviewed Policies:

- BBAA, School Board Member Authority
- BEDG, Minutes
- EBB, School Safety
- EBBB, Accident Reports
- IHBH, Extended Learning Opportunities
- IHCA, Summer Activities
- IIB, Class Size Policy
- IK, Earning of Credit
- IKB, Homework Policy
- IMAH, Daily Physical Activity
- IMBA, Remote Learning
- IMBD, High School Credit for 7th/8th Grade Coursework
- JG, Assignment of Students to Classes & Grade Levels
- JIC, Student Conduct/Behavior & Discipline
- JLCF, Wellness
- JLCK, Special Physical Health Needs of Students

Amanda Spears moved to approve the reviewed policies as presented.

Alyse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Superintendent Hire of Spanish Teacher:

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the hiring of the proposed SMHS Spanish teacher for the 25-26 as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve 25-26 Appendix E Positions:

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the 25-26 appendix E positions as presented.

Linda Tanner seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Facility Update:

Superintendent Holden stated the third floor SCES windows have been replaced, painting was done in both buildings and the shop at SMHS has been rearranged. He thanked John Gosselin for his work on that project.

He noted that due to space issues, they have been consolidating furniture and files across the District to make room. There are also new security systems in both buildings.

Personnel Update:

Superintendent Holden noted the District is still hiring for one custodian and food service worker.

Strategic Action Plan Steps:

Superintendent Holden reviewed the work on the Strategic Plan with the Board.

Next Meeting Date:

The next School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6 p.m.

Manifest:

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the A/P and payroll manifests as presented.
Linda Tanner seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.

Agenda for September 3, 2025:

- Enrollment (Superintendent Holden noted October 1st is the date it is finalized).
- ABC meeting email will be sent and date will be noted.

Adjournment:

No non-public needed. Alysse Lizotte moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.
Amanda Spears seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary