

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

September 3, 2025

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Edward Andersen

Amanda Spears

Alyse Lizotte

Linda Tanner

Tiago Pereira

Others Present:

Russell Holden, Superintendent

Kelly Wessells, Business Administrator

Sean Moynihan, SMHS Principal

Meagan Reed, SCES Principal

John Lellos, SMHS Assistant Principal

Amanda Hughlock, Director of Student Services

Taylor Goodspeed, Student Representative - Absent

Pledge of Allegiance:

Edward Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025 School Board Meeting as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

Student Representative News:

Principal Moynihan explained that Taylor Goodspeed is at a volleyball game tonight. The Student Council will be meeting this month to vote for an alternative representative to the Board when the main representative is unavailable.

SCES Good News:

Principal Reed gave the Board the following report:

- Faculty and staff have been working on routines for students.
- The school held their first assembly for the year.
- SCES was recognized for being in the top five schools in the State for the Fisher Cats Reading Challenge and has received \$5,000.
- SOAR is a new recognition program at the school for students. Students can earn tickets. After earning so many they will get a choice of a prize.
- Mrs. Cruz has been holding class on the playground as the students are using the track around it for fitness development.
- The Playground Committee is reconvening to discuss progress and next steps.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- The new cellphone ban in schools has not been an issue for students or parents. It's been a great start to the school year.
- Due to needing a long-term substitute for math, and not being able to find one, they are using Khan Academy as a replacement. Students are navigating it well and the school has a physical point of contact if needed for assistance. The school is also uploading their grades into ALMA.
- Fall sports are in full swing.
- New desks were purchased for classrooms.
- Teachers are working on their goals for the year.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- A great start to the year. Staff is very committed to students and their achievement.

- There is a new school board chair in Unity. Unity is leaving SAU 6 starting next school year. Unity would like to discuss hiring Sunapee for SAU services. He wanted to make sure the Board was alright with going forward with that discussion, which they agreed.
- He noted that Sunapee is audited every year.

School Board Topics:

The Board had asked to discuss the 26-27 tuition rates.

Superintendent Holden stated that the bill to allow students to attend any school district of their choice did not pass, but it may still come back again.

The District wants to maintain a positive relationship with other Districts, so if the District charges too much it could hurt tuition numbers.

The Board should consider whether they want to become an open enrollment school. If adopted, an open enrollment district may charge a sending district up to 80% of the cost per pupil; Special Education costs would stay with the sending district.

With that being the case, if the Board stays with the current model, they should consider charging \$16,500-\$18,000 for tuition as that is around what you would receive as an open enrollment district based on sending schools cost per pupil.

He understands that some residents are complaining that SAU85 does not charge the full cost per pupil rate, but tuition students that access special education services and transportation are paid for by their district, which means it is costing the district less than a Sunapee student. He believes tuition students enhance the experience of the District and doesn't want to deter families from attending Sunapee.

Approve Appendix E Positions:

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the hiring of the appendix E positions for the 25-26SY as presented.

Linda Tanner seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Opening Day:

Superintendent Holden stated Opening Day was solid for the whole District.

Next Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Manifest:

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the A/P and payroll manifests as presented.

Linda Tanner seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for October 1, 2025:

- Enrollment
- Tuition
- Budget Calendar

Adjournment:

No non-public needed.

Alysse Lizotte moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kate O'Connor

School Board Secretary