

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

October 1, 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 - Absent

Others Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Edward Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 School Board Meeting as presented.

Linda Tanner seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

SMHS Student Council Presentation:

Haleigh Spears & Allison Garzia from SMHS gave the following report:

- The student council plans the fall and spring spirit weeks.
- The student council hosts events and fundraisers.
- They plan Homecoming, including the pep rally and bonfire.
- They plan dances throughout the year including the semi-formal. The dances are not fundraisers. The Council budgets for decorations and handmakes the signs for advertising.
- They also host the annual lock-in, which is their biggest event. Last year, 70 students attended.
- During the annual Field Day, the Student Council runs the BBQ.
- Student Council members meet with the principal regularly to discuss plans or concerns.
- The Council is not open to the student body, but members represent their class and these reps talk to their class as a whole.
- The Council works hard to keep tuition students included. Many tuition students carpool with each other to events.

SCES Good News:

Principal Reed gave the Board the following report:

- There have been two evacuation drills, which have gone extremely well, and one bus evacuation drill.
- The Staff Committee has been flushing out processes for better efficiency.
- The Student Resource Team is working to match needs with resources.
- The Principal Advisory Group has been helping orient her to traditions, giving suggestions and providing ideas on processes.
- The Playground Committee has reconvened. They will be reconnecting with the company to make further recommendations and ask for a re-design. Once the design is approved, the committee will work on getting grants.
- The Book Fair is tonight. The Halloween Costume Swap/Donations are also being held.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- Tonight we have the Student Representative alternate here tonight as part of the presentation for the Student Council. He stated that sports are in midseason and the pep rally is being held soon.
- Principal Moynihan stated they have had one evacuation drill, but it needs some work.
- Progress reports were sent out yesterday.
- An Open House was held last Thursday. He talked to a lot of new students at the event.

Alyssa Lizotte recognized Ms. Barton for her support of the math class via VLACS this semester due to the long-term absence.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- The budget is going to be expensive. Health insurance is increasing 10-26%. Water and sewer is increasing 7%. This is also the second year of the teacher's contract. They will be looking at the contingency account and the capital reserves to help offset the increases.
- They are getting ready for winter weather. They have received two bids for snow removal, but are looking for one more.
- The District has not received its second allocation of grant funds; only ⅓ of grant funds have been awarded.
- Legislative bills have been being submitted, including:
 - Limited speech in the classroom
 - Open enrollment
 - Book bans
 - EFAs
 - Audit and budgets
- The District has hired one custodian, but are still looking for one more.

School Board Topics:

Superintendent Holden stated that SCES will be presenting in November, a presentation in December on State testing, and in April, guidance and the adjustment counselor will present. He asked the Board members to email him with other topics of interest.

Tuition Rate 26-27:

Superintendent Holden recommended adjusting the tuition rate with an increase of \$500 for elementary and SMHS to \$16,000 and \$17,000 respectively for the 26-27 school year. 2027-2028 SCES \$16,500, SMHS \$17,500 (rates can be subject to change based on legislation)

The Board discussed the positives of using percentages versus a set amount. Superintendent Holden recommended using a set amount.

Alyssa Lizotte moved to approve the 26-27 tuition rate as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Appendix E Positions:

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

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Approve Proposed Budget Calendar for the 25-26SY:

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the budget calendar for the 25-26SY as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Chair Andersen noted he will be absent on November 5, 2025 and November 18, 2025.

October 1 Enrollment:

Superintendent Holden stated the District has increased by 46 students. This includes 36 new Sunapee students and 10 tuition students.

Rising Expenses:

Superintendent Holden noted that there are special education overages this year, and service contracts are increasing.

Manifest:

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

Linda Tanner seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for November 5, 2025:

- Budget Binders
- Elementary Presentation
- EEI - Controls

Nonpublic Session:

Chair Andersen moved to enter into a nonpublic session under **91-A:3 II (c)**.

Alyse Lizotte seconded the motion.

Roll call vote - Edward Andersen - yay, Alysse Lizotte - yay, Amanda Spears - yay, Linda Tanner - yay.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary