

Sunapee School Board Meeting

SMHS Gymnasium

December 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

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, SMHS Assistant Principal - Absent

Amanda Hughlock, Director of Student Services

Taylor Goodspeed, Student Representative

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Andersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025 School Board Meeting as presented.

Amanda Spears seconded the motion.

It was noted that one of the motions stated Alysse Spears. It should be Amanda Spears. Superintendent Holden stated he will make the change.

Vote unanimous

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025 budget work session as presented.

Tiago Pereira seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025 ABC meeting as presented.

Tiago Pereira seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Alyse Lizotte moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 ABC meeting as presented.

Tiago Pereira seconded the motion.
Vote unanimous.

Agenda Review:

None

Public Forum:

None

Sunapee Assessment Test Results:

Superintendent Holden stated that students in grades three through eighth and the eleventh grade are given assessment tests by the State in English and math. Grades fifth, eighth and eleventh also test in science. All grades are tested using the NH SAS except for the eleventh grade, which is tested using the SAT.

Principal Moynihan and Principal Reed handed out the results for SMHS and SCES respectively.

Principal Moynihan gave the following report to the Board on SMHS:

- SMHS does well. He will review the State tests, the SATs and the AP results with the Board.
- NH is one of the highest achieving states in the nation for education testing. Sunapee's focus is on doing better than the State average and usually is double-digits higher than the average.
- The State average for math on the SAT is 431, while Sunapee is 532. 43% of our students are considered proficient in math.
- The State average for English on the SAT is 516, while Sunapee is 563. 71% of our students are considered proficient.
- Sunapee's average SAT score is 1068. Sunapee is the 8th best in the State on the SAT.
- SMHS NH SAS Science scores have a 24% differential and a 63% participation rate, which is high.

- SMHS scores are the top 10 in the State for the percentage of students taking the tests and the scores the students receive.
- Recent AP scores have been lower than normal, but are still higher than the State average. This is due to losing veteran teachers to retirement who taught AP courses. The new teachers are new at these courses and are getting into the swing of things.
- This is the second year SMHS has had high AP Physics scores.
- AP Biology is taught every other year and they will not be able to run AP US History.
- The sixth grade scored two points below the State average in science, but are above the State average in English and math.
- SCES prepares students well for middle school and this year's sixth grade is doing great.
- NWEA assessment testing is also conducted in grades 6th-10th grade. Teachers look for patterns to see where students need assistance.

Principal Reed gave the following report to the Board on SCES:

- She noted the first page she handed out has comparisons with the State -
 - Third grade - Reading 20 points higher than State average and math 9 points higher than State average.
 - Fourth grade - Reading 15 points higher than State average and math 29 points higher than State average.
 - Fifth grade - Reading 17 points higher than State average and math 22 points higher than State average. Science is 12 points higher than the State average.
- She noted a historical snapshot for a range of years.
- The Board and Principal Reed had a school readiness discussion regarding incoming kindergarten students.
- Staff gives out reading and math assessments to students that are like NWEA.
- The Board and Principal Reed discussed dyslexia testing.

Superintendent Holden noted that the proficiency rates are met or are surpassing the State averages.

The Board and administration discussed the meaning of proficiency.

Student Representative Report:

Taylor Goodspeed, student representative, gave the following report:

- Winter sports have started. The basketball season has its home opener this Friday, December 5, 2025.
- The Drama Club wrapped up three performances of "The Comic Book Artist".
- Report cards come out this Friday.

SMHS Good News:

Principal Moynihan gave the Board the following report:

- The Holiday Concert is coming up.
- Holiday workshops will be held the day before the holiday break starts.
- The Broadway trip needs two buses for all the participants and there is a waiting list. They will be going in April of 2026.
- The parking fee for students will be increasing to \$20 next year.

SCES Good News:

Principal Reed gave the Board the following report:

- The Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the Sherburne Gym.
- The annual Jingle Bell Blitz will be held on Friday, December 19, 2025.
- A video has been created on SCES with staff contribution for grades preschool through fifth.
- The Video Club is wrapping up after six weeks as an extra curricular activity for grades fourth and fifth. Students acted and created videos on how to act out this year values of SOAR on the playground for other students.
- Staff is working on building a common language around the curriculum with a focus on Understanding by Design or UBD during staff meetings.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Holden gave the Board the following report:

- He recently met with Colby Sawyer's new President, Dean McCurdy and Academic Vice President, Hilary Williams. They discussed the shared use of sports fields and students taking classes. This Friday, he, Principal Moynihan and Counselor Myles Cooney will be meeting with them to discuss a partnership. Sunapee currently has students taking classes through Dartmouth as well.
- He has written a SAFE grant to purchase an emergency alerting system for the District, which would alert staff during an emergency. The cost is \$150K and he is awaiting to hear from the State.
- Inclement weather has started and thanks to technology and communication we can predict better when a storm is going to be bad. By telling families the day before a storm is to hit, rather than the morning, it gives families more time to plan. A remote day was called during the last storm. This allows for a continuation of academics.
- He received a letter from the Newport Interim Superintendent with a formal request on a cooperative football team. He has given it to Principal Moynihan and AD Coverdale to contact the Newport Athletic Director.

- January 7, 2025 will be the Sunapee Budget Hearing.
- The new snowplowing arrangement is working well.

School Board Topics:

Superintendent Holden noted that the adjustment counselors will be giving a presentation in April and in June a strategic plan update will be given.

Approve Proposed SMHS Winter Coaches:

Alysse Lizotte moved to approve giving the SMHS 2025-2026 winter coaches as presented.

Tiago Pereira seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Manifest:

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

Tiago Pereira seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Agenda for January 7, 2026:

- Budget Hearing
- Policy Update

Nonpublic Session:

None

Adjournment:

Alysse Lizotte moved to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Tiago Pereira seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kate O'Connor
School Board Secretary