

Bath School Board Meeting
***DRAFT* Minutes for May 18, 2026**

Board Members Present: Matt Smith, Sara Lang, Cori Elliott

Administration Present: SAU 23 Superintendent Dolores Fox, Principal Megan Jones, Kathryn Ducharme

Staff Present: None

Public Present: Steve Rood

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Matt called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
2. **Sign Manifest:** Done
3. **Agenda Review/Adjustments:** Items added to Dolores's report on Board work session and tuition cap policy decision.
4. **Approval of Minutes of APRIL 13, 2026:** Motion by Sara, seconded by Matt, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.
5. **Public Input:** Steve asked about this year's end-of-year audit – Kathryn responded that it was uploaded as of 5/18/26.
6. **Administrator Reports: All Submitted**

James Marshall - Technology Director: No questions from the Board.

Steve Emerson, Facilities Maintenance Manager: Steve provided copies of the one bid and references that were submitted by Houseal for constructing the preschool bathroom. Board discussed the bid and made contract suggestions. Motion by Sara, seconded by Cori, to accept the bid to build the preschool bathroom for an amount up to \$50,000 and funding for a washer and dryer to be drawn from the FY26 Fund Balance. All were in favor.

Steve also reported that the State Fire Marshal's list of recommendations for improving fire safety are being addressed.

Steve also reported that Central Asphalt provided a quote of \$27,800 to cover the parking lot and driving area and a quote of \$51,720 to reclaim and repave that same area; fixing the drain was not included. Board discussed asking the town if they could cover that area to have it last for another year before deciding how to fund the reclaiming, repaving, and fixing the drain option in next year's budget. Board also discussed placing stay mat material out back and along the cemetery fence line to expand parking options. Steve has placed flags on the edge of the playground to indicate where the boulders from the town garage will be placed to prevent vehicles from driving onto the playground; Board will review that placement.

Kerri Reilly, SPED Director: No questions from the Board.

Megan Jones, Principal: Megan reported that one IA position has been advertised and we have received an application. The school is working with resource professionals to relocate a family of foxes that have a den near the school. NH SAS testing is wrapping up. Spring concert is May 21st and Forest Expo is June 2nd; sessions are scheduled from 9:30 – 10:30 am and 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Landaff students have been invited. June 10th is the 6th grade graduation; Cori will speak at it. We had a successful Run/Walkathon on May 2nd, raising \$1500 to be used partly for playground equipment and wellness activities.

Screening and registration for incoming Preschool (8 students, 3 from Bath and 5 from out of town) and Kindergarten (7 students) have been completed. Staff is working hard to design the program and to obtain age-appropriate curriculum materials and playground equipment. Board needs to develop an agreement for preschool parents to sign so the payment fee schedule is clear. Preference for preschool slots considers Bath residents first, tuition agreement students second, and other towns third.

Kathryn Ducharme, Business Administrator: Kathryn discussed the Bath School District General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report as of May 6th. Board discussed projected fund balance amounts and whether to use for current projects, to retain for emergencies, or to use to reduce next year's tax burden. Funds need to be committed by June 30th.

Dolores Fox, Superintendent: Dolores reported on legislative updates for current bills being proposed. Open Enrollment was tabled, but a Committee of Conference may still take it up. HB1268 and 1817 will allow resident students receiving EFA's to participate in courses, co-curriculars, and sports without charge; the district will not receive any adequacy aid for these students. When home education students participate in courses, the district receives adequacy aid equivalent to the percentage of their attendance. There are currently 6 residents participating in EFA's. HB1300 would set a cap tax rate for a district. Dolores noted that every district with an annual meeting voted down tax rates and budget caps in 2025. This bill would also cap the SAU budget; Dolores is researching the impact of this on SAU 23. HB1374 would allow 20 or more voters to submit a petition which would require a school board to hold a special meeting to close a school. If a majority of voters at that meeting elected to do so, the school would be disbanded.

Title 1 grant funding has dropped \$26,000, and we use that fund to pay for the Title 1 coordinator. Motion by Sara, seconded by Matt, to pay a portion of the salary for the Title 1 Coordinator using money from the General Funds to cover the reduction in Title 1 grant money. All were in favor.

Board and Dolores will coordinate scheduling a date and time for the Board to have a work session separate from a Board meeting to discuss topics such as teacher salary rates designed to recruit and retain quality staff, Capital Improvement Plan, and long-term health insurance planning.

The tuition policy came back from legal. Motion by Matt, seconded by Cori, to accept the Tuition Policy as a 1st read. All were in favor.

7. **Policy Revision:**
 - BID-R (Add “Ballot Clerks/Supervisors of the Checklist”. Motion by Sara, seconded by Cori, to add “Ballot Clerks/Supervisors of the Checklist” to Policy BID-R. All were in favor.
8. **Action Item:** Retained Fund Balance for FY 2026. Motion by Matt, seconded by Sara, to retain \$127,077 (5% of the net assessment) as a fund balance for this year. All were in favor.
9. **Action Item:** Federal Grant General Assurances for FY 2027. As required, Matt signed every page of the document.
10. **Lunch Balance Updates:** There is a negative balance of \$930 from 18 families. Board will revisit in August to decide what action to take.
11. **Resignations, New Hires, and Open Positions:** None
12. **Public Input:** Steve Rood asked questions about the Tuition Policy and how EFA money is spent. Dolores responded that this is not information provided to the public, and the SAU office will work to ensure there is no double dipping from EFA funds and adequacy funds for tuition. Steve commented that it is encouraging to see the preschool numbers and that Landaff is sending students to BVS. He also offered his electrical expertise to help address some of the Fire Marshall concerns about outlets, etc.
13. **Next Meeting Dates: June 15, 2026, @ 6:00 pm.** Bath High School graduates will be invited to a reception before the meeting.
14. **Non-Public Session per RSA 91.A:3 (as needed):** Motion by Matt, seconded by Sara, to enter into Non-Public session at 7:53 pm. All were in favor.

Vote to end non-public. Motion at 8:14 pm, by S Lang; seconded by M. Smith. All were in favor.

Public session resumed at 8:14 pm.

The school board toured the grounds to discuss placement of boulders to serve as bollards for playground safety.
15. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by S. Lang, seconded by M. Smith. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tumosa, Secretary, Bath School Board