

**BATH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2026**

The Annual Meeting of the Bath School Board was held on MARCH 12, 2026, at Bath Village School. Moderator Rick Walling called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Walling read Articles 1-4, then declared a recess, postponing action on the remaining Articles until 7:00 PM when voting would end.

The official ballot box was checked and declared empty, and the polls declared open as called for in Articles 1-4. Supervisors of the checklist Joyce Roy, Catherine Armstrong, and Sarah Rickey were present.

The polls were closed at 7:00 PM and the ballots were counted. At 7:14 PM, Moderator Walling called the meeting to order for discussion of Articles 5-10. Moderator Walling explained the procedures that would be followed through the meeting.

At 7:25, the ballots were totaled and the results of the ballot count were announced:

Article 1: To choose, by non-partisan ballot, a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Election Results: Rob Miles (17 votes)

Article 2: To choose, by non-partisan ballot, a School District Clerk for the ensuing year.

Election Results: Tara Roy (50 votes)

Article 3: To choose, by non-partisan ballot, a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Election Results: Cynthia Lang (65 votes)

Article 4: To choose, by non-partisan ballot, one School Board Member for a term of three years expiring in 2029.

Election Results: Cori Elliot (30 votes)

All officers were present, and were asked to stand and accept their newly appointed positions and be sworn in.

Article 5: To hear reports of the School Board, Superintendent, Committees, or Officers chosen, and pass any vote related thereto.

Moved by Rob Miles, seconded by Colleen Strout. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate three million, three hundred ninety-three thousand and nine hundred sixty-five dollars (\$3,393,965.00) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This article is inclusive of any other article on the warrant. (The school board recommends this article.)

Moved by Rob Miles, seconded by Colleen Strout. Ray Boulanger asked a question of the board regarding a tuition cap for choice school, whether or not this still will apply. Sara Lang reported that a tuition cap had been approved by the board at the last meeting. The new policy states that the high school tuition cap had been set at the higher of the two rates of either Lisbon or Haverhill in a given year, plus an additional 10%. Families have this amount of money to apply to their student's chosen school tuition cost, as long as the school is accredited. Students currently enrolled at St. Johnsbury Academy are grandfathered in, with no additional cost. Additional details regarding the policy can be found in the School Board minutes of the last meeting, the actual policy is in the process of review with legal. Willy Minot stood up and addressed the

board. Minot stated that the town did speak loudly last year regarding the cost of tuition for BVS elementary students. He stated that he was not so concerned with the fact that St. J Academy was costing \$5000 more in tuition, but that it cost \$48000.00 per year to educate an elementary student at BVS. Carl Shallberg stood to speak and thanked the School Board for their efforts and for creating the Task Force. Combining classrooms and the current tuition cap policies is a start, but Shallberg stressed that we need to continue to make efforts regarding the budget. We are still at about \$38000.00 per child for K-6 with 44 students and with the dropping enrollment (estimated 40 students next year) that puts us closer to \$43000.00 per student with the current budget. Mr. Shallberg urged the board to continue the work to bend the cost curve, as we are in the top 10% in this state for cost. He stressed that he is an advocate for the school and it would be a tragedy to lose it. Across New England, towns are seeing ballooning costs with dropping enrollment and as a rule school boards are not being proactive in bringing down costs. Shallberg recommended combining more classrooms and discussing the need for a full-time principal, which comes with a cost of \$185,000.00 with administrative staff - this would be the equivalent of 2 FT teachers (with benefits). He commended the board but asked them to double their efforts before the residents lose patience. Sara Lang acknowledged that the work was not yet done and that there are multiple steps in this process. She recognizes that all around us schools are experiencing the same situation and mentioned that Landaff school will be closing. In response, Lang mentioned that we signed a tuition agreement with Landaff, it will be choice. The Task Force also recognized the need for Pre-K and we will be starting that next year at BVS. If we do not meet our cap, we can bring in Pre-K students from outside our area. Overall, the budget is down 3.3%, despite loss of state and federal funding. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Article 7: To see if the district will raise and appropriate up to thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) to be added to the previously established Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2026. No amount should come from taxation. (The school board recommends this article.)
Moved by Rob Miles, seconded by Colleen Strout. The motion passed by majority.

Article 8: To see if the district will raise and appropriate up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to be added to the previously established Building Maintenance and Repairs Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2026. No amount should come from taxation. (The school board recommends this article.)
Moved by Rob Miles, seconded by Colleen Strout. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 9: To see if the district will raise and appropriate up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established Curriculum, Technology & Program Materials Expendable Trust Fund, such amount to be funded from the year-end unassigned fund balance available on June 30, 2026. No amount should come from taxation. (The school board recommends this article.)
Moved by Rob Miles, seconded by Colleen Strout. The motion passed by majority.

Article 10: To see if the Bath School District will vote to designate Bath Village School as an open enrollment school pursuant to RSA 194-D, to allow non-resident students from outside the Bath School District to attend school in the Bath School District in an amount not to exceed 5 students and to limit the percentage of students residing in the Bath School District who may attend open enrollment schools located outside the Bath School District to zero percent (0%). (Majority vote required.) No tax impact.

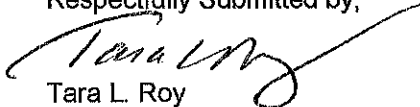
Moved by Rob Miles, seconded by Rachel Strout. Rachel Strout did request additional clarification on the Warrant Article, asking if this article meant that 5 students from other towns could come to BVS, but no Bath students could go elsewhere. Sara confirmed Rachel's understanding and then further explained that we are not the only district with this article on the warrant this year. The goal of this warrant is to protect the finances of our district because if open enrollment does pass, then any student from our town can go to any other school in any other town and take your tax dollars with them (the receiving district would be entitled to up to 80% of the cost per pupil as determined by the state). This article has not yet made it through legislation but there is a loophole, that if as a district we set the rate to 0%, protects us from getting into a situation similar to other districts and paying out a lot of funds to schools outside their districts.

Angie Bemis confirmed that this particular article only applies to the K-6 students only, not to 7-12 grade students that are already being tuitioned out. Carl Shallberg stood and asked for clarification on the 80% - per Sara Lang, the receiving school would receive 80% of the sending school's cost per pupil. Mr. Shallberg also questioned how the board came up with a 5-student max. Lang reported that we are accounting for about 1 new student per grade. Angie Bemis asked if the maximum of 5 students applied to Landaff students. Sara Lang responded that we would accept more than 5 students from the Landaff school due to the already created Tuition Agreement with the school. Tuition agreements would be honored first. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Sara Lang took a moment to thank Dan Woods for his service to the Board and town of Bath. Lang also thanked Kathy Ducharme for her time and energy as she leaves the SAU. The board chair thanked the BVS staff for all they do in providing a stand-up program, especially in the face of change. Colleen Strout added a thank you to Rick Walling for his years of service as Moderator. Rick Walling thanked the town for making his job easy as moderator over the last 7 years.

Rob Miles made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Colleen Strout. The meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Tara L. Roy
School District Clerk