

**BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37**

Monday, September 14, 2026

6:30 p.m.

1. Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Mayor Ruais called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ruais welcomed Principal Watson and students from Bakersville Elementary School to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Committee Members Potter, Garrity and Smith introduced the students:

Bakersville Elementary School – Principal Bryan Watson

Jailah Santiago – Grade 4
Jayden Ward – Grade 4

Emilio Betancur D’Amore – Grade 2
Mia Garcia – Grade 2

3. A moment of silence was observed.
4. The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Committee Members Turner, Parr, Want, Taylor, Bergeron, Stewart, O’Connell, Potter, St. John, Garrity, Hamer, O’Neil-Wong, Smith and Mayor Ruais.

Absent: Committee Members Georges and Bergeron.

5. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions this evening.

PUBLIC FORUM

6. The purpose of the public forum is to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three (3) minutes to do so, and any comments must be directed to the chair. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Speakers may offer comments on school operations and programs that concern them. In public session, however, the Board shall not hear personal complaints of school personnel or complaints against any person connected with the District. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving school district employees, which should be referred to the Superintendent. Speakers are requested to refrain from providing confidential information during this comment period. Any comments that are given regarding personnel matters, will not be responded to by the Board or Administration during the public meeting, as these items should be discussed in non-public session.

There was no one present wishing to give public comment.

7. Response to Public Comment

As no comments were given, there were no responses.

8. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

9. ACTION AGENDA

There were no items on the action agenda this evening.

10. CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 10 – 17)

- a.** Mayor Ruais advises if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, only one motion will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

No items were removed from the Consent agenda for discussion.

The approved consent agenda was as follows:

- b.** Approval of minutes from the Board of School Committee meetings on: August 24, 2026.
- c.** Report(s) of the Committee on Policy, if available.
- d.** Report(s) of the Committee of Teaching and Learning, if available.

- 1.** Tango Flight Curriculum Funds

2. Manchester School District 2026-2027 Assessment Calendar
- e. Report(s) of the Committee of Finance and Facilities, if available.
 1. Treasurer's Report
 2. Grants, Gifts & Donations Report (\$122,962.62)
 3. City Service Invoices (\$438,731.76)
 4. Manifest of Authorized Expenditures – September 2026 (\$32,767,444.28)
 5. Indemnification Contract Language
 6. Vestibules at Smyth, Gossler, and Jewett
 7. Cookson Communications Contract
 8. Financial Reports
- f. Report(s) of the Committee of Student Conduct, if available.
- g. Report(s) of the Committee on Education Legislation, if available.
 1. Legislative Advocacy Priorities
- h. Report(s) of the Joint School Buildings Committee (City Committee).
- i. Special Committees, if applicable:
 - o Report from the Special Committee on Athletics, if available.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Turner**, it was moved to approve the balance of the consent agenda. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

COMMUNICATIONS

11. Superintendent's Communications.

a) Superintendent Updates:

Dr. Chmiel and administrative team provided updates regarding enrollment, transfer requests, class sizes, assessment results, personnel, transportation, athletics, and upcoming District events.

Enrollment

The Administration reported total District enrollment of 11,830 students, including preschool and CTE students. K–12 enrollment, excluding preschool and out-of-district MST CTE students, increased by 107 students from June, from 11,053 to 11,160 students.

In-District Transfers

The District had received approximately 221 in-district transfer requests, with 148 approved.

By level:

- Elementary: 99 requests; 53 approved
- Middle School: 48 requests; 39 approved
- High School: 74 requests; 56 approved

Administration continued attempting to maintain two available spaces at each school whenever possible to accommodate students moving within the District.

Class Sizes

Administration reviewed the District's class-size policy, which establishes maximums of:

- 20 students in grades K–4;
- 25 students in grades 5–12; and
- 24 students in laboratory courses.

Administration acknowledged that a number of classes exceeded those limits as a result of budgetary constraints but stated that it would not recommend changing the policy.

Elementary

Elementary enrollment decreased slightly from 4,444 students in June to 4,401 students.

Administration explained that the primary issue was not overall enrollment but changes in where students were attending. Green Acres increased from 367 to 388 students, while Weston increased from 334 to 348 students. Class-size concerns were concentrated at Gosler, Green Acres, Highland, Jewett, Smith, and Weston. Most classes exceeding the policy maximum contained 21 or 22 students, with a small number at 23.

Middle Schools

Middle school enrollment decreased from 3,363 students at the end of the prior school year to 3,305 students. Hillside Middle School had two classes above 25 students. McLaughlin Middle School had 33 classes above 25 students, with most containing 26 or 27 students. Parkside Middle School had three classes above the policy maximum. Southside Middle School had 14 classes above 25 students, all in eighth grade. Administration stated that the majority of middle school classes remained at or below the policy maximum.

High Schools

High school enrollment increased by 206 students, from 3,246 in June to 3,452 students. Central increased by 86 students, MST by 78, West by 33, and Memorial by nine. Administration reported classes exceeding established maximums at all four high schools and stated that principals were working to rebalance schedules where possible.

The Administration noted that high school scheduling is particularly complex because moving a student from one course can affect several other courses, lunch schedules, electives, or graduation requirements.

Vacancies were also being reviewed to determine whether filling positions could allow additional sections or student redistribution.

State Assessment Results

Ms. Doherty reported improvement in reading and writing, mathematics, and science. Positive results included gains in reading and writing in grades three through five, improvement in elementary mathematics, and significant improvement in grade five science. Some individual grade levels within schools increased reading and writing proficiency by more than 20 percentage points in one year, while some mathematics results improved by more than 15 percentage points. A more comprehensive assessment presentation was scheduled for the September 22 Teaching and Learning Committee meeting.

Ms. Doherty emphasized that state assessment results represent only one measure of student success and should be considered alongside local assessment data, attendance, graduation, and college and career readiness data.

Personnel

Ms. Evans clarified that 41 positions had been reduced through attrition at the end of June 2026. From May through late August, the District hired 168 replacement employees, including 75 teachers, 26 paraprofessionals, and 55 employees in other positions. As of September 14, the District reported 22 open teacher positions, including 10 special education positions, and 14 paraprofessional vacancies. Human Resources continued targeted recruitment efforts for difficult-to-fill positions.

Home-to-School Transportation

Dr. Espinola reported that thousands of students were being transported daily while the District continued addressing driver vacancies, route adjustments, capacity concerns, and communication issues. Approximately 14 bus runs were open each day and required coverage. Five drivers had recently resigned from driver positions, although two had accepted internal promotions and continued driving routes when necessary.

She has continued moving toward centralized neighborhood bus stops when safe and appropriate and consistently applying the District's 1.5-mile transportation guideline. Actual ridership information was being used to adjust routes and capacity.

Dr. Espinola stated that transportation conditions had improved since the first day of school but that additional work remained.

Specialized Transportation

Mr. Roth reported that at the end of the previous school year, approximately 909 students were receiving specialized transportation. At the time of the meeting, 844 students were actively receiving service. Approximately 356 students completed the required process before the June 17 deadline. Since then, staff had worked to complete or update transportation information for approximately 488 additional students.

He identified inconsistent student information among District systems as one of the most significant challenges. The specialized transportation team consisted of three staff members supporting approximately 1,000 students, 87 daily buses and vans, 87 drivers, and more than 40 monitors. Administration reported that the number of immediate transportation concerns was beginning to decline as routes stabilized.

Athletics

Dr. Espinola welcomed student athletes back for the fall season and recognized the work of athletic directors, coaches, trainers, administrators, and other staff supporting District athletics.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Chmiel announced:

- McLaughlin Middle School ribbon cutting — September 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- City Year Opening Day at Hillside Middle School — October 1 at 9:00 a.m.
- State of the District — October 1 at 3:30 p.m. at the Welcome Center

Board questions and comments included:

1. Committee Member Potter discussed specialized transportation enrollment and costs and emphasized the importance of reviewing transportation provisions in IEPs when appropriate. Mr. Roth noted that the goal is also to increase student independence when appropriate while ensuring necessary supports remain in place.
2. Committee Member Turner recognized the positive assessment results and discussed transportation, high school transfers, paraprofessional vacancies, and specialized transportation processes.
3. Committee Member Turner requested that paraprofessional vacancies again be included on the Board's job-opening report.
4. Committee Member Turner also requested a closer review of specialized transportation systems to determine whether additional preparation could occur during the summer. The Administration explained that incomplete information received after the June deadline creates significant backlogs and stated that transportation restructuring and staffing needs were being reviewed.

5. Dr. Chmiel indicated that transportation staffing would again be included in the District's needs budget.
6. Committee Member Parr asked about driver staffing, laboratory class sizes, under-enrolled high school courses, middle school Unified Arts and mathematics class sizes, and elementary students unable to attend their neighborhood schools because of capacity.
7. The Administration reported 31 drivers operating District buses each day with 16 positions available to be filled.
8. The Administration agreed to provide additional information regarding high school laboratory classes and elementary students unable to attend their neighborhood school because of capacity.
9. Committee Member Parr also suggested reviewing the developing needs budget prior to the spring budget process. Dr. Chmiel agreed to resend the previous needs budget to Board members as a starting point.
10. Committee Member Stewart asked how teacher vacancies compared with the previous year. The Administration reported that vacancy numbers were considerably lower and attributed some of the improvement to teacher contract changes that strengthened recruitment and retention.
11. Special education remained a significant shortage area. The Administration explained that vacancies were being addressed through mitigation plans, including additional teaching periods, prep-mod coverage, long-term substitutes, and contracted services.
12. Discussion also occurred regarding the impact of the delayed budget process on hiring. Administration explained that candidates are more likely to accept confirmed positions than anticipated positions.
13. The Board discussed students who had not reported to school at the beginning of the year. The Administration explained that schools conduct outreach and attempt to locate students through District records, communication with families, and contact with other school districts when appropriate. Attendance outreach begins after three days, followed by more formal communication at 10, 15, and 20 days. Counselors and social workers are involved in contacting and supporting families.
14. Vice Chair O'Connell asked whether the District was considering replacing or modernizing Aspen. Dr. Chmiel reported that the IT Department would review Aspen's current

functionality and the impact of District modifications before determining whether an RFP should be pursued.

15. Vice Chair O'Connell discussed the need for a more modern student information system capable of better integrating academics, special education, multilingual learner information, transportation, and family outreach. The Administration cautioned that some Aspen limitations may reflect historical underinvestment in training and customization rather than limitations inherent in the system itself.
16. Vice Chair O'Connell requested that administration investigate technology that could allow families to view real-time bus locations. He also suggested examining real-time video capability on school buses.
17. Vice Chair O'Connell recognized the Administration and District staff for improvements in transportation, enrollment growth, and academic achievement.

12. Board of School Committee Members' Communications.

- a. Job Openings List

There were no questions or comments on this item.

- b. Board Goals 2026/2027 School Year - by Vice Chair O'Connell

Vice Chair O'Connell moved approval of the three Board goals previously developed.

Committee Member Want thanked the Board Clerk for accurately capturing and organizing the Board's prior discussion into three clear goals.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Turner**, it was moved to approve the Board Goals as submitted. All present were in favor and the motion passed.*

- c. Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee Assignment – by Vice Chair O'Connell

Vice Chair O'Connell announced appointments to the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee.

Committee Member Want was designated Chair. Committee Members Parr, Hamer, Stewart, and Vice Chair O'Connell were also appointed.

Vice Chair O'Connell emphasized that the committee should establish its goals, complete its assigned work, make recommendations to the full Board, and then conclude its work as an ad hoc committee.

13. Personnel Report.

On motion of Committee Member O'Connell, duly seconded by Committee Member Potter, it was moved to approve the personnel report and supplemental report as submitted.

During discussion, Vice Chair O'Connell requested that the Policy Committee review the District's minimum-wage policy, noting that the \$15-per-hour minimum established several years earlier may no longer be competitive for lower-paid positions.

All present were in favor and the motion passed.

The approved report was as follows:

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Gregory Parker	Social Studies Teacher	Memorial	\$79,945.00
Heather Martineau	SAP Counselor	Parkside	\$89,960.00
Danielle Schulz	School Psychologist 60% FTE	Gossler Park	\$35,743.80

NOMINATIONS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Mark Magoon	5th Grade Math/Science Teacher	Hillside	\$54,142.00
Rosa Valente	7th Grade ELA/Social Studies Teacher	Southside	\$47,741.00
Andrea Smith	Kindergarten Teacher	Green Acres	\$47,741.00
Nicholas Skiba	CTE Criminal Justice Teacher 60% FTE	MST	\$46,407.00
Kristy Lynch	School Psychologist	Northwest & Green Acres	\$66,821.00
Danielle Schulz	School Psychologist 60% FTE	Gossler Park	\$35,743.80
Tara-Lee Lynch	Special Education Teacher	West	\$77,345.00
Kaitlyn Clogston	Special Education Teacher	Central	\$47,741.00
David Lindof	CTE Autobody & Collision Repair Teacher	MST-CTE	\$84,182.00
Amy MacDonald	English/Language Arts Teacher	Southside	\$94,777.00

NOMINATIONS: MEA NON-CERTIFIED STAFF (EA)

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Marissa Sweeney	5th Grade ELA/Social Studies Teacher	Parkside	\$47,741.00
Anthony Bernabel	Music Teacher	Jewett	\$62,843.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Grace Rivard	Paraeducator I	Highland GF	\$17.51
Mariam Amiri	Paraeducator II	Beech	\$18.03
Andrea Smith	Paraeducator II	Green Acres	\$18.04
Sarah Mitchell	Crossing Guard	Parker Varney	\$20.00
Angela Cubillos	Paraeducator I	McDonough	\$18.04
Rafielys Tavera Germosen	Paraeducator I	Northwest	\$18.04
Claire Robertson	Paraeducator II	McDonough	\$18.03
Hilda Velez	Food Service Worker	Northwest	\$17.86
Lucas Daugherty	Paraeducator I	Parkside	\$18.04
Kristyann Tardif	Licensed Practical Nurse	District	\$30,265.00
Jocelyn Thomas	Paraeducator I	Highland GF	\$18.04
Aaron Bruton	Paraeducator I	McLaughlin	\$18.04
Crystal Skinner	Paraeducator I	McLaughlin	\$18.04
Jashline Valentin	Paraeducator I	Parker Varney	\$18.04
Desiree Robb	Paraeducator I	Southside	18.04
Ann Mwaliasha	Paraeducator I	West	\$18.04
Rachel Morris	Speech Language Pathologist Assistant	Smyth	\$34.37
Leanne Morin	Paraeducator I	Northwest	\$18.04
Janina Aubrey	School Bus Operator	District	\$28.00
Taylor Bennett	Registered Behavior Technician	Parker Varney	\$31.83
Sara Biondo	Paraeducator I	Highland GF	\$18.04
Kishon Chapman	Paraeducator I	McLaughlin	\$18.04
Carlos Santiago	Paraeducator II	Southside	\$19.03
Abdoul Sy	Paraeducator I	Central	\$18.04
Joshua Hanna	IT Support Staff	District Office	\$67,620.80
Nicholas Dobe	Paraeducator II	Hillside	\$18.57
Roberta Rozamus	Paraeducator II	Memorial	\$22.72

NOMINATIONS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Location	Salary
Timothy Howe	JV Volleyball Coach	Central	\$2,462.90
Eleny Arias	Paraeducator I	Northwest	\$18.04
Sara Biondo	Paraeducator I	Highland GF	\$18.04
Bryauna Hansen	Paraeducator I	Highland GF	\$18.04
Kishon Chapman	Paraeducator I	McLaughlin	\$18.04
Lakisha Mwano	Paraeducator II	Hillside	\$18.57
Davanie Venkatasami	Paraeducator II	Southside	\$18.57
Ann Mwaliasha	Licensed Nursing Assistant	West	\$34,049.00
Justin Tevepaugh	Paraeducator I	Beech	\$18.04
Elizabeth Louis	Paraeducator I	Green Acres	\$18.04
Mya Joseph	Paraeducator I	Green Acres	\$18.04
Salma Kwizera	Paraeducator I	McDonough	\$18.04
Michael Boucher	Paraeducator I	McDonough	\$18.04
Cindy Greyling	Paraeducator I	Northwest	\$18.04
Bethany Ste. Marie	Paraeducator I	Parkside	\$18.04
Callahan Goulet	Paraeducator II	Green Acres	\$18.57
Alyssa Long	Registered Behavior Technician	Parker Varney	\$31.83
Denise Lawrence	School Food Service Worker	Beech	\$15.00
Karina Rivera	School Food Service Worker	Memorial	\$15.00
Anthony Annese	School Bus Operator I	District	\$28.00
Nicole Peverada	Paraeducator I	Parker Varney	\$18.04

Ashley Moulton	Licensed Practical Nurse	District	\$39,157.00
Alycia Torre	School Nurse	District	\$55,541.00
Jenelle Desrosiers	HR Benefits Specialist	District	\$68,500.00
Debra MacDonald	Food Service Worker	Parkside	\$15.00
Lejla Bicie	School Food Service Worker	Northwest	\$15.00
Haley Gardner	Paraeducator II	Weston	\$18.57
Collin Nee	Paraeducator II	MST	\$18.57
Megan McMahon	Paraeducator I	Southside	\$18.04
Samantha Selimovic	Paraeducator I	Highland GF	\$18.04

TRANSFERS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Current Assignment	Current School	Effective Date
Caroline Glennon	Social Worker	Bishop O'Neil Center & MST	08/27/26
Tara Hudson	Social Worker	Jewett	08/27/26

TRANSFERS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Current Assignment	Current School	Effective Date
April Mandeville	Paraeducator II	Parkside	09/02/26
Rachel Cote	Paraeducator II	Green Acres	09/02/26

14. TABLED ITEMS

(A motion would be in order to remove any item from the table.)

There were no tabled items this evening.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT- 7:33 P.M.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

15. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member Turner –

1. Central High School Security Fence

Committee Member Turner requested an update regarding the previously discussed security fence at Central High School. The Administration agreed to follow up with Facilities.

Vice Chair O'Connell noted that the proposal had previously been reviewed by the Finance Committee and was no longer active because of cost, feasibility, appearance, and questions regarding whether it would accomplish its intended purpose.

Upon further review, it was determined that this was not reported to the committee and will need to be looked into.

Committee Member Stewart –

2. Opening of School

Committee Member Stewart thanked principals and staff for creating a positive opening to the school year and recognized the District's social media coverage highlighting students and schools.

Committee Member Hamer –

1. Teacher Supply Drive

Committee Member Hamer recognized a community effort organized through Manchester Ink Link to collect classroom supplies for District teachers. A community registry had been established for frequently requested classroom items, and donations could also be delivered to the Ink Link offices. A community event was scheduled for September 24 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. to distribute supplies and recognize teachers.

Vice Chair O'Connell

1. Stebbins Boys and Girls Club

Vice Chair O'Connell recognized the opening of the Stebbins Boys and Girls Club on Kimball Street and highlighted the investment being made in young people and the West Side community.

2. McLaughlin Middle School ribbon cutting

He also recognized the upcoming McLaughlin Middle School ribbon cutting as another important investment in Manchester's school facilities.

Committee Member Potter

1. Resignation

Committee Member Potter announced that he would be moving out of Manchester in mid-October and would therefore resign from the Board following the second September meeting. He reflected on his service to Manchester, beginning with his arrival in the city through City Year, and expressed pride in the Board's work involving school facilities, student supports, class sizes, and other District

initiatives. He stated that it had been an honor to serve and expressed confidence in the Board's continued commitment to Manchester students.

Vice Chair O'Connell thanked Committee Member Potter for his service and indicated that Board members would have an additional opportunity to recognize him at his final meeting.

16. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

7:46 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member Turner**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Parr**, it was moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting; (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions; (j) Consideration of confidential, commercial, or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RSA 541 or RSA 541-A; (k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A and RSA 91-A:2, I (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; and, (b) consultation with legal counsel.*

Roll Call: Committee Members Turner, Parr, Want, Taylor, Stewart, O'Connell, Potter, St. John, Garrity, Hamer, O'Neil-Wong, Smith and Mayor Ruais voted yes. Committee Members Georges Bergeron were absent. Motion passed.

Present: Administration: Attorney Matt Upton, Karen DeFrancis, Ryan Roth, Dr. Espinola, Michelle Evans and McKenna Gladysz (Mayor's Office).

Items discussed include:

1. *There was discussion on a student matter, exempt from public disclosure under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.*
2. *There was discussion on negotiations, exempt from public disclosure under the provisions of RSA 91-A:2:I (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining*
3. *There was discussion on items which were exempt from public disclosure under the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, I; and, (b) consultation with legal counsel.*
4. *There was a discussion on a student matter, which fell under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, II (k) Consideration by a school board of entering into a student or pupil tuition contract authorized by RSA 194 or RSA 195-A There was discussion on a legal matter, exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:2, I (b) consultation with legal counsel.*
5. *There was discussion on personnel matters, which fell under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.*

17. A motion is in order to call the meeting back to order.

8:04 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member Turner**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Parr**, it was moved to call the meeting back to order. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

18. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.

*On motion of **Committee Member Turner**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Parr**, it was moved to adjourn. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.*

True Copy. Attest.
Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela McLaughlin".

Clerk of Committee



MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

NH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 37
20 HECKER STREET, MANCHESTER, NH 03102
TELEPHONE: 603-624-6300 | FAX: 603-624-6337

Jennifer Chmiel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Manchester Schools

To: Board of School Committee
From: Dr. Jennifer Chmiel
Date: Monday, September 14, 2026
Subject: BOSC Memo

Good afternoon-

The purpose of this memo is to provide the BOSC and the public the data we will share at the BOSC meeting tonight (9/14/26).

Students

- K-12 enrollment Total including preschool and CTE is 11,830
 - June 2026: 11,053
 - Today: 11,160 (not including preschool or out-of-district CTE students)
 - An increase of 107 students compared to June 2026.
- In-district transfer requests continue to come in. Per policy, we have maintained two spaces at each school where possible..
 - Today: approximately 221 requests with 148 approvals
 - 8/10: approximately 177 requests with 108 approvals
 - Today: elementary: 99 requests, 53 approvals
 - 8/10: elementary: 86 requests, 40 approvals
 - Today: middle: 48 requests, 39 approvals
 - 8/10: middle: 37 requests, 37 approvals
 - Today: high: 74 requests, 56 approvals
 - 8/10: high: 64 requests, 50 approvals

Class size Updates

Elementary

Please see the attached chart for a breakdown of the numbers.

As a reminder, our class size policy at the elementary level is 20 students.

While overall elementary enrollment remains relatively stable, shifts between schools can create class size challenges. Larger class sizes are concentrated in a handful of schools and grade levels, including Gossler Park and Green Acres. We are also monitoring some grade levels at

Highland, Jewett, Smyth and Weston.

Middle

Please see the attached chart for a breakdown of the numbers.

- Today: 3,305 5-8 students
 - This includes 116 students attending through out-of-district arrangements
- June 2026: 3,363 5-8 students

Overall, grade level distribution remains relatively balanced across the middle school population.

Enrollment by school is as follows:

- Hillside: 976 students
 - 8th grade advanced art and algebra are above 25 students
- McLaughlin: 827 students
 - 33 classes are above 25 students, with the largest concentration in unified arts and health
- Parkside: 754 students
 - Pre-algebra, PE and art are above 25 students
- Southside: 748 students
 - 14 classes are above 25 students, all 8th grade including ELA, social studies, math, science and PE

High

The following chart breaks down the current class size breakdown at all four high schools:

	Memorial	West	Central	MST
1 Student Over	16	1	7	13
2+ Students Over	7	5	4	13
Total Classes Identified	23	6	11	26

Status	Monitoring & rebalancing	Rebalancing	Monitoring & rebalancing	Priority review
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- Currently, we are working with principals to rebalance classes wherever we reasonably can.
- We are also prioritizing the larger overages and looking closely at our current vacancies. Principals are working with Human Resources to hire the most qualified candidates for our open positions.

State Assessment Results

Since our last meeting, we've released our 2026 NH Statewide Assessment results.

- Overall, we saw movement in the right direction in reading & writing, math and science.
- While proficiency levels are not yet where we want them to be, seeing improvement across all three areas is encouraging.
 - Reading & writing: We saw some individual grade levels within schools that increased proficiency by more than 20 percentage points in one year
 - Work will begin to understand what is happening in these classrooms to learn from those successes
 - We understand there are grade levels, content areas and student groups where we need to accelerate our progress, while closing gaps with the state.
- Nicole Doherty & Leslie Whitney will provide a deeper look at the results at the September 22 Teaching & Learning meeting.

While this is an important measure, it is not the entire picture. We will receive additional accountability data in November.

Staff

- Tonight's personnel report highlights several key positions, including 1 **new** kindergarten classroom section added at Green Acres Elementary School. This classroom contains students from both Weston and GA.
- We want to draw a distinction between the "New" and "Replacement" language. MSD eliminated 41 positions **by attrition** as of the end of June 2026. MSD hired **replacement staff** for any resignation/retirement position that was not eliminated in the 41 from June. All of those new hires are listed on the Personnel Reports from the BOSC Meetings.
- Total replacement staff hired since May 2026 through late August 2026 for 2026-27 school year: 125
 - This includes 75 teachers and 26 paraprofessionals
 - New hires brought on since late August 2026: 43.

- Total new hires for SY 26/27 as of 9/14/2026: 168 (including 87 teachers and 47 paraprofessionals).
- Vacancies as of 9/14: 25 teacher positions (including 10 special ed positions) and 15 paraprofessional

Systems

Despite some very real challenges, we are transporting thousands of Manchester students to and from school each day. We had hoped to begin moving toward more centralized, hub-like bus stops where it is safe and appropriate to do so, rather than attempting to provide individual or near door-to-door stops for students.

- One of our biggest challenges continues to be staffing.
 - Each day, we are beginning with approximately 14 open runs
 - We have also seen higher-than-anticipated ridership on *some* runs
 - We have also had situations where students were not rostered correctly, routes needed to be rebuilt, or information did not move between Transportation, schools, and families as quickly as it needed to.
- Specialized transportation: 844 students are actively receiving specialized transportation, compared to 909 students in June 2026.
 - The beginning of any school year comes with a number of variables including new drivers, new families and new schedules
 - There are still a number of students who need to complete registration and/or have their transportation deliberation updated before transportation can be finalized.
 - One significant challenge has been inconsistent student information across systems. Once we have accurate information and clarity regarding a student's transportation needs, our turnaround time with vendors is generally quick
 - A reminder, our specialized transportation team is a department of THREE (3) people supporting approximately 1,000 students with diverse transportation needs.

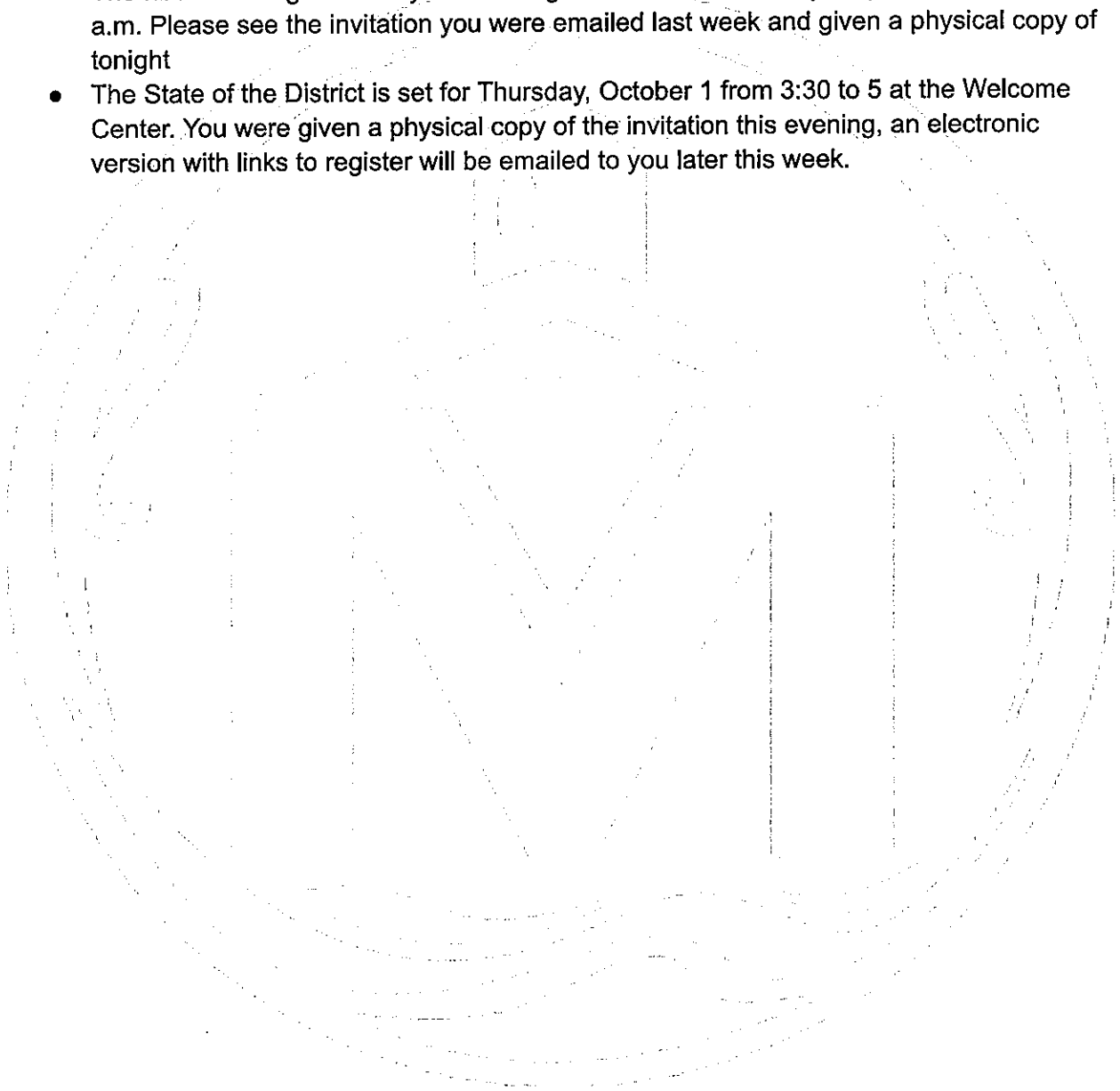
Athletics

- Athletics is off to a strong start! Our fall athletic season is officially underway, and it has been great to see our student-athletes back on the fields, courts, and courses representing Manchester.
- Across our high schools, teams have been practicing, competing, and settling into the season. I want to recognize our athletic directors, coaches, athletic trainers, transportation staff, and families who do so much behind the scenes to make these opportunities possible for our students.
- Athletics are an important part of the high school experience. They give our students an opportunity to build relationships, develop leadership skills, learn perseverance, and feel connected to their school community.

- We are excited for the season ahead and look forward to supporting our student-athletes as they represent Manchester throughout the fall.

Other

- The ribbon cutting ceremony for McLaughlin is set for Thursday, September 24th at 10 a.m. Please see the invitation you were emailed last week and given a physical copy of tonight
- The State of the District is set for Thursday, October 1 from 3:30 to 5 at the Welcome Center. You were given a physical copy of the invitation this evening, an electronic version with links to register will be emailed to you later this week.



District Enrollment

School	School Name	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
21545	BAKERSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	67	49	53	51	53	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318
21600	BEECH STREET SCHOOL-COMMUNITY	0	103	101	121	98	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	509
21530	GOSSLER PARK SCHOOL	24	49	71	60	65	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	342
21610	GREEN ACRES SCHOOL	0	81	89	69	64	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	388
21560	HIGHLAND-GOFFE'S FALLS SCHOOL	24	59	68	73	72	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	355
21520	HILLSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	259	235	252	0	0	0	0	976
21590	JEWETT STREET SCHOOL	38	70	79	75	87	78	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	428
21510	MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL CENTRAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	373	282	266	152	1073
21555	MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL WEST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	220	206	169	144	739
21505	MANCHESTER MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	364	359	276	295	1294
23090	MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY CTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	126	91	248
29085	MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	83	62	45	345
21565	MCDONOUGH SCHOOL	25	82	88	100	91	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	503
27595	MCLAUGHLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	210	187	218	211	0	0	0	0	826
21525	MIDDLE SCHOOL AT PARKSIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	188	185	175	0	0	0	0	753
26435	NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	0	99	103	89	88	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471
21540	PARKER-VARNEY SCHOOL	65	62	61	60	77	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	388
21605	SMYTH ROAD SCHOOL	11	66	68	61	60	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330
21575	SOUTHSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	188	163	200	197	0	0	0	0	748
21635	WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	75	43	57	59	61	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	352
21515	WESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	92	79	67	66	59	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	440
	Totals	421	842	905	884	875	896	834	797	838	835	1113	960	899	727	11826

Board of School Committee
September 14, 2026
Elementary Class Size

Class Sizes: BAKERSVILLE			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	50	3	15, 16, 19
1	55	3	19, 18, 15
2	51	3	15, 16, 20
3	53	3	18, 18, 17
4	44	3	14, 14, 15

Class Sizes: GREEN ACRES			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	81	4	17, 20, 20, 20
1	89	4	18, 18, 19, 19
2	69	3	22, 22, 22
3	64	3	21, 21, 22
4	73	4	21, 21, 21, 21

Class Sizes: BEECH			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	101	6	15, 15, 17, 18, 18
1	102	6	16, 16, 17, 17, 19
2	120	6	19, 20, 20, 20, 20, 21
3	98	5	19, 19, 19, 20, 20
4	88	5	16, 17, 17, 18, 19

Class Sizes: HIGHLAND			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	60	3	18, 18, 19, 19
1	69	3	18, 19, 19
2	73	3	21, 21, 21
3	72	3	22, 22, 22
4	61	3	17, 18, 20

Class Sizes: GOSSLER PARK			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	48	3	15, 16, 16
1	71	3	22, 22, 22
2	61	3	18, 20, 20
3	66	3	21, 21, 21
4	73	3	22, 23, 23

Class Sizes: JEWETT			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	69	4	16, 17, 18, 18
1	79	4	18, 19, 20, 20
2	77	4	18, 19, 19, 19
3	87	4	20, 22, 22, 23
4	78	4	18, 19, 20, 21

Board of School Committee
September 14, 2026
Elementary Class Size

Class Sizes: MCDONOUGH			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/ class
K	82	4	19, 19, 20 20
1	86	4	20, 20, 20, 21
2	98	5	16, 17, 17, 17, 18
3	93	6	17, 18, 18, 19, 19
4	118	6	16, 17, 19, 19, 20, 20

Class Sizes: SMYTH			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	66	3	20, 21, 21
1	68	3	21, 21, 21
2	60	3	18, 18, 19
3	59	4	17, 17, 18
4	64	3	12, 16, 16, 17

Class Sizes: NORTHWEST			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	97	5	16, 17, 18, 18, 18
1	103	5	18, 19, 20, 20, 20
2	89	5	16, 17, 17, 18, 18
3	88	5	17, 17, 18, 18, 19
4	92	5	17, 17, 18, 18, 20

Class Sizes: WEBSTER			
Ggrade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	43	3	14, 14, 15
1	56	3	17, 17, 19
2	59	3	19, 20, 20
3	61	3	18, 20, 20
4	57	3	17, 18, 19

Class Sizes: PARKER VARNEY			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	62	4	14, 15, 15, 15
1	61	3	18, 19, 20
2	60	3	17, 18, 18
3	78	4	16, 17, 18, 18
4	64	3	20, 20, 20

Class Sizes: WESTON			
Grade	# of students	# of classes	students/class
K	80	4	16, 18, 20, 20
1	67	4	18, 18, 20, 7
2	66	3	21, 22, 23
3	58	4	19, 19, 20
4	76	3	17, 19, 20, 20

MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2026-2027

Enrollment By Grade		Enrollment By School		Classes Above 25 Students	
Grade 05	836 Students	Hillside	976 Students	Hillside	2 Grade 08 Classes - Advanced Art and Algebra
Grade 06	793 Students	McLaughlin	827 Students	McLaughlin	33 Classes - Largest Classes in Unified Arts and Health
Grade 07	844 Students	Parkside	754 Students	Parkside	3 Classes - Pre-Algebra, Physical Education, and Art
Grade 08	835 Students	Southside	748 Students	Southside	14 Grade 08 Classes - Including ELA, Social Studies, Math, Science, Physical Education
Total Enrollment	3,305 Students				