

UNITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes (Approved 4-8-26)
March 11, 2026
5:30 PM
Unity Elementary School

Agenda Item		Notes
I	Call to Order Pledge	Shannon called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
II	General Business Roll Call Agenda – Amendments and approval Approval of previous minutes 02/11/26 Citizen Comments Mark Roberts, Quaker City Rd	Shannon Popescu - here Rocco Ruggeri - here Atonya Hart - here Darlene Ayotte - here Kristel Davis - here <i>Rocco made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Atonya seconded, all approved.</i> Rocco suggested two corrections – Jim Sullivan is NOT the auditor – so that needs to be crossed out. He also wanted to add clarification to his proposal as shown in the minutes. The changes were made by Secretary Erickson. <i>Rocco made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Atonya seconded, all approved.</i> “Thank you. I’m new to school board meetings.” From what he has seen and heard he appreciates what the Board is doing for the town.
III	Discussion/Action A. Action Items Oberkotter Fund. Audit Siding – Sue Garage update – Sue	No update at this time for any of these items.
	B. Budget SY27 Budget	Sue: Proposed budget is in the book. Sue is set for Saturday. She has prepared a Highlights for the budget that she will print out to hand out to folks at the meeting. She reviewed these highlights for the Board.

	Rocco would like to see Sue add last year's budget to the proposed budget presentation, and then Sue has nicely laid out how we got from one to the other. Matt Angell (interim SAU 6 Business Administrator) reminded Sue that we still had to pay the second part of the one-time insurance make-up payment that is in the SY 27 budget. Sue will add the objective that the staff and Board really tried to develop a zero-increase budget, to her "highlights." Sally Teague The Trustees of the Trust Funds need to get a typed request and invoice for any requests for funds from the Trust Funds. The Trustees never received the SY 24 funds that were appropriated. Matt is working on this as part of the audits and hopes to have an answer soon. Mark Roberts Regarding the lack of accountability regarding the Trust Funds – "is this due to our association with SAU 6?" Matt – yes. The prior information is a disaster and Matt and Kerry are working through everything. 2. Warrant Articles (assign) Article 1: Motion – Shannon Second - Atonya Article 2: Motion – Rocco Second – Darlene Article 3: Motion – Rocco who will then ask the moderator if Sue can present budget Second – Shannon Article 4: Motion – Kristal Second – Atonya Matt will talk about the deficit, including current plans to eliminate it. Article 5: Motion Atonya Second – Rocco Article 6: Motion – Shannon Seconded – Atonya Marj Erickson Don't we need to have a Warrant Article to spend any surplus from this year on the deficit from the previous year? Matt - no because he will balance the surplus with the deficit prior to June 30th so there will be no surplus.
	C. Financial Update Year to Date SY 26- Matt presented the following: As of today, the general ledger is showing a cash balance of \$227,952.

	Revenues through the end of February were \$2,769,108. The uncollected budgeted revenue is \$1,285,757, or 31.71%. Notable revenue for the period is the District Assessment from the Town of Unity for \$243,082. Please expect March to be a low revenue period, but April will have the final adequacy grant aid, which should be \$250,006. Expenditures through the end of February were \$2,280,578 and encumbrances were \$1,177,231. The remaining appropriation was \$497,057 or 12.57%. Notable transactions were encumbering \$55,000 for the Trustees of Trust Funds and transferring \$25,000 that was budgeted for the food service fund. 2. Vouchers The Board signed these during the meeting. 3. Audit update Matt: The Audit is ongoing. He is spending a huge amount of time going through detailed transactions of related districts, because all of the audit reports have to line up. His monthly reports are limited, as he am trying to spend as much time as possible on audits. Matt has spoken with the fraud audit firm. They are clearing their conflict checks with their national firm and will have an answer to us in the next 48 hours. 4. Other There was no other topics to be covered under this item.
	D. Calendar SY 27 (Discussion) Sue handed out calendars from other schools. Aug 31 will be the first day of school (as is Newport). Claremont may also start then. Sue will have a proposed Calendar next month for the Board. Sue will forward any other nearby school district calendars that she gets prior to the next meeting.
	E. Policies (Action) 1. EEA – 1st read <i>Atonya made a motion to accept policy EEA as presented as a second and final read, Rocco seconded, all approved.</i> 2. EB – 1st read <i>Rocco made a motion to accept policy EB as a second and final, Atonya seconded, all approved.</i> 3. Tuition Policy Sue gave the board our current UES tuition policy. She has Newport's tuition policy and will forward this to the Board. Newport's tuition went up from \$17.5K up to \$18 K for this year. It's unusual that Newport would change the rate mid-year so Sue is going to check on that. Rocco – would like to provide tuition information to the parents and give them a heads-up that the Board is considering changing the UES

	Sally Teague	tuition policy to possibly limit the tuition that Unity will pay for children to go to area high schools. Sue will draft a letter from the Board to parents and send it out via all available avenues to ensure that all parents see it. This letter will include that this will be the Board agenda in April. Rocco has continued talking with the Fall Mountain Board about the Unity concerns with their large tuition increase but did not receive assurance from the Fall Mountain chair that the FMRHS Board would consider a decrease in their tuition. Sue is concerned with how Fall Mountain is doing their billing as she feels that we may be paying for services that children are not receiving. She would prefer to be billed on a case-by-case basis. Rocco – there is no agreement on an ala-carte Special Ed tuition policy with Fall Mountain. He wondered how the UES Board should modify the UES tuition policy to better manage the tuition paid for students at various area high schools. Rocco would like the letter to go out this week so that parents are well aware of the fact that the tuition policy will be on the agenda for April Board meeting. Rocco will make it clear to the Fall Mountain Bd that Unity is continuing to move forward with modifying the UES tuition policy to possibly limit what Unity will pay for students to attend area high schools. <i>Darlene made a motion to have Rocco and Sue work on a letter to invite parents to the next board meeting to review the tuition policy.</i> “Every year we approve a Warrant to put money into the high school tuition Trust Fund and we have not received that money – why?” Matt – this money only comes from the surplus from each year so if there is no surplus there is no money to put into those accounts.
	F. New SAU Setup (Discussion/action) 1. Payroll 2. Accounting & other Software Systems	Sue and Jess met with ADP ADP -Full HR and payroll services company. Sue thinks the proposal that ADDP sent looks good. They would be ready to take over Unity HR and payroll on July 1st, 2026. Sue sent the Board the contract and proposal. She wants the Board to review the information. The contract is extensive and Sue would like Board feedback. Sue believes that the proposed contract falls within the UES budget. UES currently use Tyler accounting software. They are expensive but should UES stay with them for another year? Sue is looking into other software for accounting systems.

		UES just changed to Parent Square this year and Sue suggests that we stay with that. Unity is moving from PowerSchool to Alma. Sue and Jess are already being trained and staff will receive training this summer. Kerry Kennedy (interim Superintendent) – “we need to make sure that the switch goes smoothly. We need to figure out how to transfer all of the paper document records from SAU 6 to SAU 109. They will have to go into fire-safe containers.” Sue is looking to shred any documents that can be shred BEFORE they get transferred. It will save time/space.
	G. NEASC update	NEASC did a synopsis of every state that is in NEASC. NH key differentiators and peculiarities. . . see principals report. NH school funding is the poorest in the country.
	H. CSI update	No update except that we are meeting next week with CSI support.
IV	Superintendent Report	See attached Kudos to Sue for all that she does despite challenges at home. She also gave kudos to Jess and Lauren for all that they are doing.
V	Principal Report	See attached • Sue put links in her report for legislation coming up that will affect schools. • Parent teacher meetings coming up • March 19 – K-5 field trip to VINS
VI	Future Agenda Items	• SY 27 Calendar (Sue will bring Fall Mountain, Claremont and Newport calendars to compare) • Teacher presentations on data • Tuition policy • 5-year rolling test plan (Keirin McClarin is putting data together) • Open Enrollment • Parental Bill of Rights – depending on what the legislature does, the UES policy may need to be changed.
VII	Future Meetings	• School Board Meeting – April 8, 2026 • Annual School Meeting – March 14, 2026 @ 10 AM • SAU School Board Meeting - TBD. Need to elect a new Chair and otherwise meetings will wait on audit information
VIII	Dates to Remember	• Friday, Mar 13th - No School – Teacher Professional Development • Saturday, March 14, 2026 @ 10:00 AM – School Annual Meeting • Tuesday March 17, 2026 - St. Patrick's Day luncheon • Monday March 30, 2026 – No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences • April 27 – May 1, 2026 – Spring Break • KKids: Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00 PM • BUILDERS CLUB: Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00 PM • Science Club: Wednesdays – grades 5-8 3:00 – 4:00PM • Unity School Board Meeting: 2nd Wed of every month, 5:30 PM • Unity PTA meeting: 3rd Wednesday of every month, 6:30 PM



SAU6

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Serving Claremont & Unity

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

To: Unity School Board

From: Kerry S. Kennedy, SAU6 interim Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report for March, 2026

Date: 3/11/2026

kkennedy@sau6.org

Dear Members of the Board,

Below, please find my report for March 11, 2026. If you have any questions about a specific item, please direct them to me during the regularly scheduled board meeting or to the Board President and me if your inquiry is prior to the meeting. I appreciate your support to carry out our SAU6 mission to "inspire, engage, and empower every student in Claremont and Unity to achieve academic excellence in a safe, positive, and personalized learning environment."
Respectfully Submitted.

Executive Summary: Overview:

Follow-up:

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Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting- Monday, 4/13/26- 6-7 pm- online only this month- All SAU #6 Families cordially invited to discuss upcoming needs for families/caregivers of students with IEPs-

[Notes from the March SEPAC Meeting-](#)

- Monday, 4/13/26-6-7 pm- Virtual only
- [Join with Google Meet](#)
- meet.google.com/hfd-oxw-ida
- [Join by phone](#)
- (US) +1 402-7
-

Recognitions:

- A shout-out to Sue Schroeter. She keeps on going. Despite a variety of things happening in her own life and at school, she keeps in touch, is responsive with emails and calls, and is able to keep me updated on any needs within the school. She is working hard for all of you. Her weekly calls are personalized and informative, too. Way to go, Sue!
 - Thank you to Jess Hiscoe and Laurent Garrecht for keeping things going when Principal Schroeter is in meetings or away from the office.
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Academic Performance:

A reminder that the National Assessment of Educational Progress- (NAEP) testing coming in March for Unity 4th graders- This assessment compares UES students with all 4th graders across the Nation- This is nothing to study for, it's just to see what our students know and can do- The school data is included in a National Report regarding the performance of all 4th graders.

Community and Family Engagement:

UES continues to invite partners in to assist with student needs.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting- 2/17/26- 6-7 pm- Maple Avenue Elementary School, Claremont, NH- In-person or hybrid link- All SAU #6 Families cordially invited to discuss upcoming needs for families/caregivers of students with IEPs-

- [Join with Google Meet](#)
 - meet.google.com/krn-hqrb-mjr
 - [Join by phone](#)
 - (US) +1 316-416-2824 PIN: 275 289 455#
 - [More phone numbers](#)
-

Curricula and Programs:

No new programs are anticipated for the upcoming school year. We continue to monitor student assessments and will soon report out the Middle of the Year (MOY) data.

Professional Development: We are continuing with our Executive Leadership Professional Development. We are continuing with our Local Education Agency (LEA) training, and we will soon be partnering with Focused Schools on our Administrative Training per a Title grant. More to come on this.

Facilities and Operations:

- Principal Schroeter and I regularly communicate regarding the weather and any building needs. We have had to do some inclement-weather calls recently. Stay tuned for more weather arriving this weekend. We hope to limit the hours/days out of school. We appreciate everyone's patience as we determine what is needed for the safety of our students and staff.
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Finances:

- We appreciate the thought and care that Principal Schroeter continues to apply to next year's budget planning. Sue is trying to maximize all Unity dollars and ensure that a quality education is still provided to all students and families.
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Fundraising:

- We are reviewing opportunities for more fundraising options for UES. More to come on this.
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Human Resources/Personnel:

We are working on another transition within payroll at SAU #6. We thank Kim Hamel for her role in picking up payroll in addition to Accounts Payable. However, Kim Hamel has given her notice. Her last day at SAU #6 will be Friday, 3/13. We are looking for more support in this office. Lori Mowrey and Matt Angel are working on some more automation for payroll work. Thanks to all for this work. Best wishes to Kim Hamel in her next endeavor.

Technology and Innovation:

- We are reviewing technology options and needs for Unity. We are working on the transition plans to separate SAU #6 and form SAU #109. Jason Bonneville, IT Director, continues to work with Principal Schroeter on this.

Areas for Attention and Next Steps:

- 'FY27 Claremont Calendar Finalized at next Claremont meeting-Attached is a draft to be reviewed.
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Unity Elementary School
Principal's Report
March 10, 2026

STATE OF THE FACILITY

Knock on wood... all things are running smoothly.

We will have a date within the next few weeks on when they will begin the installation of the new lights.

NH STATE LEGISLATIVE

[Link](#)

SCHOOL MEETING

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Monday, March 30th is our spring conference. Our goal is for 100% attendance. Also, our teachers have scheduled meetings with parents that could not make the 30th on other days. Thank you to all of our teachers for their flexibility and commitment to our conferences.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers are super busy with PD. We have been working on

COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next community get together will be Tuesday, March 17th for our annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon. We will be serving a traditional corned beef and cabbage boiled dinner.

FIELD TRIPS

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Schroeter
Principal