Pelham School Board Meeting
Sherburne Hall
September 9, 2026
6:30 p.m.

School Board Members:	Greg Smith, Chair; Garrett Abare, Vice-Chair; Rebecca Cummings; Krista Garcia; and Laurie Paradis
Superintendent:	Chip McGee
Assistant Superintendent:	Sarah Marandos
Director of Finance:	Brian Krueger
Student Representatives:	Ellie Kerrigan and Adriana Picanco
Absent:	None
Also in Attendance:	Jennifer Donovan, School Nutrition Director; Tara MacDonald, Director of Student Services; and Keith Lord, Director of Technology.

I. Public Session:

A. Call to Order:

6:31 p.m. - Chair Greg Smith called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. <u>Public Input @ 6:32 p.m.</u>

The Board encourages public participation. Our approach is based on Policy BEDH, which includes these guidelines:

a. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.
b. Please give your name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
c. We welcome comments on our school operations and programs in public sessions; however, the Board will not hear personal complaints from school personnel or complaints against any person connected with the school system.
d. We appreciate that speakers will conduct themselves civilly.

A. None

Public Input closed at 6:33 p.m.

III. Opening Remarks:

A. Student Representative:

Ellie reported that the students enjoyed the extended Labor Day weekend. Upcoming athletic events include:

a. Boys Varsity Soccer at home against Monadnock on Friday at 4:00 p.m.
b. Football will host the New Hampshire Tackles Hunger Game against John Stark at 7:00 p.m. on Harris Field.
c. On Tuesday, Girls Varsity Soccer will play Belmont at 4:00 p.m.
d. Volleyball will host Milford in the gym, with JV beginning at 5:00 p.m. and varsity at 6:30 p.m.

B. Superintendent:

Superintendent McGee thanked the community, particularly the volleyball team, for moving its Thursday game from the high school to the middle school so the high school gym could be prepared for the New Hampshire Primary Election. The election proceeded smoothly, and the Board recognized the town moderator and election team for their efforts.

He also reminded families that Pelham Memorial School Parent Information Night would be held the following evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The event was noted as a valuable opportunity for parents, particularly those preparing for their children's transition to middle school, to obtain information and resources.

C. Chairman:

Mr. Smith expressed appreciation to everyone involved in conducting the election, noting the efficient process and strong community participation.

IV. Presentations:

A. None

V. Main Issues:

A. FY 2026 Budget Presentation – School Budgets

a. **PSD Nutrition Budget – Jennifer Donovan**

Jennifer Donovan, Director of Nutrition, reviewed the food service budget and thanked the nutrition managers, assistants, families, and students for their support. She stated that her goals for the upcoming school year are to closely monitor expenditures, increase revenue to meet expenses, and maintain strong family participation. She noted that the program has faced staffing challenges and increased food and supply costs in recent years.

Ms. Donovan reviewed the proposed changes to the Food Service budget. District 5, line 430, increased by **$18,500** due to consolidating maintenance costs from the individual schools into the district-wide budget. The change is intended to provide funding for day-to-day maintenance and repairs.

Ms. Donovan explained that maintaining ageing equipment is important to avoid premature replacement and that cleaning expenses are required for compliance. Line 531 reflects a **$574.17 decrease**. Line 631 represents the actual cost of commodities purchased through the USDA program, including discounted and fresh produce. A modest increase was anticipated, although the final amount will not be known until the end of the school year.

The District-wide food service operation was projected to increase by approximately **$19,307.83**.

Elementary School Food Service Budget

Ms. Donovan reviewed the PES Food Service budget. Approximately **$9,000** in Maintenance funding was mentioned for transfer to the District-wide Supplies.

Ms. Donovan requested removal of the **$30,000** budgeted for equipment replacement because the funds had not been used for several years and the program had been unable to replace equipment. Mr. Smith asked whether the equipment replacement allocation should remain available for future needs. Ms. Donovan explained that the focus would instead be on preventive maintenance and extending the useful life of existing equipment.

Mr. Smith asked whether eliminating the equipment replacement allocation could leave the program without sufficient funds if major equipment failed. Ms. Donovan explained that the program has a five-year equipment replacement plan but has not used the allocated funds during her approximately five years with the district. She stated that preventative maintenance could help extend the life of the aging equipment.

Mr. Abare expressed concern that removing **$30,000** from the budget while the Food Service Program remained approximately **$74,000** in the deficit could increase financial risk if an unexpected equipment failure occurred.

Ms. Donovan stated that she anticipated the recent price increases, increased participation, and closer monitoring of expenditures would substantially narrow the deficit and potentially bring the program to break even. She noted that the Board would have an opportunity to evaluate the results in November after sufficient sales data were available.

The Board emphasized that the proposed reduction should not leave the Food Service Program without adequate resources to address unexpected equipment repairs.

Pelham Elementary School
The proposed food service budget for Pelham Elementary School reflected a total reduction of **$39,000**. The changes included transferring repair and maintenance costs to the district-wide budget and adjusting supplies and food expenditures based on actual spending.

Pelham Memorial School
For Pelham Memorial School, **$3,000** in Repair and Maintenance costs was moved to the District-wide budget. Supplies were reduced by **$2,000** based on actual fiscal year 2026 spending and projected needs. Food expenses were reduced by **$5,000**, also based on actual spending.

The total proposed reduction for Pelham Memorial School was **$10,000**.

Pelham High School
For Pelham High School, repair and maintenance funding was adjusted as part of the district-wide consolidation, with an increase of **$1,000** based on prior-year expenditures.

Mr. Smith discussed whether moving expenses from individual schools to a district-wide account would affect the overall SAU budget, particularly in relation to HB 1300. Mr. Krueger stated that the SAU and its legal counsel had been working to determine which expenses properly belong to the SAU budget and that these food service expenses would not be included in that calculation.

Additional Food Service expenditures were reduced based on actual spending, with enrollment expected to remain close to the budgeted level.

Overall Food Service Budget
After reviewing the proposed changes across the district, the food service budget reflected an overall proposed **reduction of $40,692.17**.

The Board continued its discussion regarding expenditures, equipment maintenance and replacement, fund balance, meal pricing, participation, and the need to monitor the program's financial performance during the school year.

The Board thanked Ms. Donovan for her effort in preparing the budget and for the discussion.

b. **PSD Special Services Budget – Tara MacDonald**
Tara MacDonald, the Director of Student Services, thanked the School Board, community, and families for their continued support. She also recognized Kristen Rodrigue, Assistant Director of Student Services, for helping during the transition.

Ms. MacDonald stated that the priority for FY 2027-28 is to strengthen district services for the District's most vulnerable and complex learners through staff training, specialized consultation, necessary equipment and materials, and investment in programs and staff. These efforts will support individualized, IEP-driven services while keeping students connected to their schools, peers, and community.

Ms. MacDonald reviewed enrollment information from 2024-25 through the current year, along with projected enrollment for 2027-28, noting that the figures remain subject to change. Out-of-District (OOD) enrollment is beginning to decrease, and the District is encouraging students to receive services within the District whenever appropriate. The focus remains on strengthening in-district programs and supports to address increasingly complex educational and medical needs. Additional resources and staffing may be required. Preschool enrollment remains an estimate and may change throughout the year based on student enrollment and the IEP process.

Special Services

	Pre-K	PES	PMS	PHS	OOD	Charter	Private	Total
2024-25	35	127	69	62	16	17	6	332
2025-26	35	134	63	69	16	17	6	340
2026-27	25	142	65	76	76	16	4	344
2027-28*	27	150	72	79	79	16	4	363

Ms. MacDonald identified several significant budget drivers for FY 2027-28, including Out-of-District (OOD) placements, Contracted Services, Specialized Equipment, and Transportation. The District considers Out-of-District (OOD) placements only when a student's individual needs cannot be adequately met within the District and a specialized school can provide the required services and expertise. Because these placements are more restrictive and separate students from their peers and community, we consider them carefully after exploring less restrictive options. Placements are regularly reviewed based on student progress and changing needs, to return students to district schools and the community whenever appropriate.

Contracted Services have increased due to the evolving and specialized needs of students within the District and charter schools. These services may include Specialized Medical and Educational Supports when district staff are unavailable or lack the capacity to provide them. Ms. MacDonald emphasized that individual student needs drive Contracted Services and are necessary to fulfill educational requirements and legal obligations under students' IEPs. As student needs change, the budget must remain responsive to ensure students receive the services to which they are entitled.

Transportation also remains a significant budget driver, primarily because of students attending Out-of-District (OOD) placements. Transportation is also used in programs such as the STEPS program at PHS to help students develop vocational, life, community-based, and independent living skills in preparation for post-secondary transitions.

Ms. MacDonald emphasized that budget decisions are **100% student-centered and IEP-driven**. She reviewed specific budget line items, noting that the District now has an in-district BCBA, reducing the need for Contracted Services. The District continues to contract with Boothby for Medicaid training and support because Medicaid requirements for schools continue to change. This assistance helps the District maintain compliance and maximize Medicaid reimbursement.

A significant Professional Services expense is a Registered Nurse for a 1:1 student. The nurse is required during bus transportation because the student’s IEP requires nursing support due to the possibility of seizures. The nurse also provides 1:1 support to a preschool student with medical needs. The Director noted that the students’ IEPs require these services.

The budget also includes projected Translation Services. The District must now budget for these Translation Services on its own. The Department of Education used to translate the IEPs, and it no longer offers translation because of budgetary costs. Districts are now required to add the service to their budget.

Tutoring services have also increased because new students attending charter schools require services the District must provide.

Budget Increases and Enrollment Changes

Ms. Garcia questioned the increase of approximately **$70,000-$75,000** in the identified budget areas and asked where the additional costs were reflected. Ms. MacDonald explained that some of the increase is attributable to transition services and additional services required for students attending charter schools. These needs were not anticipated when students were previously enrolled in district schools.

Ms. MacDonald also noted that several students with visual and hearing impairments have required additional services. Three students underwent hearing evaluations over the summer and now require contracted specialized instruction because the District lacks staff with the necessary expertise.

Ms. Garcia questioned the significant difference between prior-year actual expenditures and the proposed budget, including the increase from approximately **$367,000** in actual expenditures to nearly **$500,000** in projected expenditures. Ms. MacDonald explained that Special Education expenditures fluctuate based on student enrollment and individual student needs. A new student moving into the District may require substantially more services than anticipated, while students moving out of the District can reduce expenditures.

The Board discussed whether the District could budget for cancellations or other reductions in anticipated services. Ms. MacDonald explained that although some students may move out of the District, the District remains responsible for providing the services required under existing IEPs. She stated that budgeting conservatively is necessary because the District is mandated to meet those obligations.

Special Education and Fund Balance

The Board discussed the potential effect of Special Education expenditures on the District's year-end surplus and unassigned fund balance. Mr. Krueger stated that Special Education expenditures have fluctuated significantly over the years, noting that spending differed by approximately **$1 million** between 2024 and 2025.

Ms. MacDonald stressed that, theoretically, if all projected services were required, the District would have to spend the budgeted funds because those services are legally mandated.

Mr. Abare asked about the proposed **$5.1 million** Special Education budget and how closely the actual expenditures would align with the proposed budget. Ms. MacDonald stated the numbers would be close, but added that this was her first year serving as Director and that she could not provide a specific estimate because student enrollment and needs can change unexpectedly.

Dr. McGee explained that, based on the practice followed over the previous six years, He noted that Ms. MacDonald has been asked to budget for the services identified in students' IEPs because that represents the best available information and provides a conservative budget. He added that the District frequently does not spend the full amount budgeted for Special Education, leaving a portion of the funds in the unassigned fund balance.

Dr. McGee noted that a significant portion of the District's unassigned fund balance could result from unspent Special Education funds. He explained that the District budgets conservatively to ensure it can meet all IEP obligations, including unexpected expenses that may arise during the year.

Ms. Garcia asked what percentage of the FY 2026 unassigned fund balance is attributable to Special Education. Mr. Krueger indicated that from the previous five years, approximately **45%** of the balance was associated with Special Education. Dr. McGee clarified that the Special Education budget figures under discussion represent only the non-salary and non-benefit portion of Special Education expenditures and do not include Special Education salaries and benefits.

Ms. Garcia asked whether state Special Education reimbursement is included in the actual expenditure figures. Dr. McGee clarified that the figures represent expenditures only; state reimbursement is recorded as revenue and is not included in the expenditure amount. Reimbursement is available only after qualifying expenditures have occurred and is received approximately two years in arrears.

Budget Risk and IEP Requirements

The Board discussed the potential consequences of under-budgeting Special Education. Members acknowledged that significantly reducing the allocation could leave the District unable to fulfill mandated services by students' IEPs, potentially resulting in substantially greater costs and legal exposure.

Mr. Smith explained that while staff can make reasonable projections for currently enrolled students, the District cannot predict the needs of students who may move into the District. A student requiring nursing services, specialized transportation, or other intensive support can significantly increase costs in a short period.

Mr. Smith recognized the importance of maintaining appropriate Special Education funding and discussed the existing Capital Reserve fund established by voters as a resource that may help the District manage these future obligations.

Special Education Budget

Mr. Smith noted that greater detail regarding changes between budget years would improve its ability to understand significant increases and requested continued detailed reporting.

Under line 335 – Required Legal Services, the proposed increase reflects the position's first year and the need to access legal counsel as appropriate.

Line 430 includes funding for a classroom identification system. The District currently has 15 students requiring audiology services, and maintaining current identification systems is necessary to ensure students have appropriate access to education. During the summer, three students received hearing evaluations, with at least one requiring an identification system.

Under line 561 – Tuition for Other LEAs, the expenditure has been eliminated because students who previously required these services have moved to other placements.

Line 564 – Tuition for Private Schools reflects anticipated increases in tuition rates. The private schools serve students with Specialized Educational, medical, or combined educational and medical needs and are primarily Special Education placements.

Ms. MacDonald discussed the Monarch School, where tuition includes most services. Physical therapy services are now billed separately as individual consultations, changing the associated budget figures. She also discussed the Merrimac Heights Academy because a student will complete the current program and require a different placement. The District has budgeted for a comparable placement. NorthStar represents a new Out-of-District (OOD) placement for the current school year.

The Special Education budget also includes funding for transitional services, including services provided through Easter Seals, as well as two legal agreements. The District has budgeted for two anticipated day placements, one of which may be needed during the current school year, to ensure sufficient funds are available if a placement becomes necessary.

Residential Placements

The District included funding for an anticipated residential placement that was removed from the prior year's budget. Ms. MacDonald explained that a student currently placed in a day program could require residential placement if the current program is unsuccessful. The District avoided a residential placement this year when another day program agreed to accept the student. If residential placement becomes necessary, the anticipated funding could be used for that student or another student requiring residential services.

Ms. MacDonald reduced certain Out-of-District (OOD) and director-related expenses based on actual utilization and reported no other significant changes in the remaining Special Education budget areas.

Specialized Equipment and Services

Line 734 – ADA/Disability Act Equipment includes student-specific equipment for a young student whose needs are expected to continue for approximately 19 years. As the student grows, equipment will need to be modified or replaced, potentially including wheelchairs and ramps.

The Board discussed the need for specialized equipment (AED) at the SAU/preschool building. The preschool serves medically fragile students, including students with seizure disorders, and currently does not have the necessary equipment on site. The elementary school has previously transferred equipment as needed. Ms. MacDonald noted an increase in students with seizure-related needs and indicated that the equipment would specifically support preschool students.

The budget also includes funding for device and accessory replacements needed to keep testing equipment current. Under line 890, funding was included for a chaperone associated with an 830 DC trip because of the needs of a particular student.

Extended School Year Services

Ms. MacDonald reviewed Extended School Year (ESY) expenditures. Summer costs increased because the District needed to contract with speech-language pathologists while in-district providers had existing summer commitments. She expects outside providers to be used less if in-district staff are available for future summer services.

Line 561 – ESY Tuition for Other LEAs reflects a previously discussed student placement.

Line 564 includes students who have historically attended other districts for ESY services. The budget also includes new Out-of-District (OOD) placements, additional summer services, anticipated day and residential placements, and ESY supplies.

Ms. MacDonald and the school nurse reviewed available supplies to ensure appropriate materials are reused when possible while maintaining student safety and service requirements.

The Board discussed the length and structure of ESY services and whether students remain in their year-round placements during the summer. Ms. MacDonald clarified that students generally continue receiving services through their established programs, depending on the individual placement.

Transitional Services and Contracted Services

Mr. Smith asked about transitional services provided through certain schools. Ms. MacDonald explained that these programs may include community-based services, employment-related support, and other transition activities designed to help students develop skills for life beyond school.

Ms. MacDonald also reviewed contracted speech and hearing-related services. Increased funding reflects contracted specialists who provide services to students using FM systems and other specialized hearing equipment necessary to access their education. The District has also modified Contracted Services for communication devices and related supports for students requiring those services. She noted that the District is changing some of its Contracted Service providers.

Special Education Budget Review

Ms. MacDonald reviewed the District-wide Speech Services budget, noting that the services had been reviewed previously and were reflected on page 13. She then reviewed district-wide Physical Therapy (PT) Services. Because PT needs are limited, the District contracts for these services rather than employing a full-time physical therapist. Individual schools maintain their own PT services.

Occupational Therapy Services

Ms. MacDonald reviewed district-wide Occupational Therapy (OT) Services on page 14. The budget reflects reduced OT service needs at the District's charter schools and for primary-district students. The proposed budget was adjusted to reflect the lower service level. She also reviewed the equipment replacement line for OT, noting that some funding had moved to the ADA line, while other amounts were adjusted to reflect reduced OT services.

Special Education and Transportation

Ms. MacDonald reviewed the remaining Special Education, administrative, and related service lines, including pages 15, 16, and 19. She also reviewed the Transportation budget, including a **20% increase**. She noted that district transportation costs are significant, particularly for Monarch, which requires additional mileage because of its distance from the District. The Special Education budget was presented as a comprehensive budget rather than as separate school-level budgets.

BCBA Position and Contract Services

Mr. Smith asked whether the successful hiring of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) was reflected in the budget and whether the position would reduce contracted services. Ms. MacDonald confirmed that hiring a BCBA would allow the District to reduce or eliminate related Contract Services. The corresponding savings would be reflected in the salary and benefits section of the budget. She agreed to identify the specific Contracted Services line affected and provide that information to the Board.

The Board thanked Ms. MacDonald for her effort in preparing the budget and for the discussion.

c. **PSD Technology Budget – Keith Lord**

Technology Director Keith Lord presented the District's updated Technology budget and planning documents. The District has completed its equipment migration, and all equipment is now on-site and operational. The migration also provides an opportunity to re-engineer and improve the District's technology environment.

Mr. Lord explained that the Technology budget forecast had been affected primarily by increased VMware/Broadcom pricing, which was not known when the original forecast was developed. Hardware costs have also changed since the District created the original plan. The District continues to review opportunities to manage costs and smooth expenditures across fiscal years.

Enrollment and Technology Replacement Planning

Mr. Lord reviewed the enrollment progression and supporting technology planning documents. The Technology and Budget Forecast Schedule tracks anticipated expenditures and distributes costs more evenly across fiscal years. The Student Chromebook Replacement Plan projects equipment needs by grade level.

Enrollment - Technology

October 1 Enrollments	Actual		Projected	
Grade Level	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**
3	134	110	128	105
5	113	106	139	112
9	102	105	103	112

Chromebooks are generally retained for four years. Students receive new devices in Grade 5 and Grade 9, allowing the same device to follow them throughout their education. The District leases Chromebooks for three years and operates them for an additional year after the lease period.

The District updated the replacement plan to reflect changes made for FY 2027. The District reallocated equipment originally purchased for first grade between kindergarten and first grade to continue meeting assessment and instructional needs while maintaining an appropriate repair cycle.

Student Chromebook Procurement Schedule

Grades	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	FY 32
K	4 - OL	2	3	4 - OL	1	2	3
1	1						
2	2	3	4 - OL	1	2	3	4 - OL
3	3	4 - OL	1	2	3	4 - OL	1
4	4 - OL	1	2	3	4 - OL	1	2
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
8	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
11	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
12	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL	4 - OL
Year 1 Lease							
Year 2 Lease	$32,000.00						
Year 3 Lease	$52,000.00	$52,000.00					
Year 4 - Off Lease	$36,000.00	$36,000.00	$36,000.00				
*No Lease - Continued		$38,000.00	$39,000.00	$39,000.00			
			$40,000.00	$40,000.00	$40,000.00		
				$43,000.00	$43,000.00	$43,000.00	
					$40,000.00	$40,000.00	$40,000.00
						$40,000.00	$40,000.00
							$40,000.00
	$120,000.00	$126,000.00	$115,000.00	$122,000.00	$123,000.00	$123,000.00	$120,000.00

FY 2028 Technology Budget

Mr. Lord reviewed several significant technology budget items. A previously scheduled equipment replacement was deferred following a substantial pricing increase identified during the District's RFP process. The item is now included in the FY 2028 budget at **$96,900** and was also presented during the elementary school budget discussion.

The District is also planning to purchase replacement Chromebooks. Mr. Lord explained that the District has historically reassigned well-used Chromebooks to IAs when appropriate and is evaluating a change to that practice while maintaining the same general device size and functionality.

Video Management System

Mr. Lord discussed replacing the District's existing video management system. With the current hardware being sunsetted, the District will need to transition to a new video management system while continuing to work with the existing camera infrastructure.

The project was previously projected at approximately **$50,000**. The current conservative estimate is approximately **$40,000–$45,000**. The District will follow the appropriate procurement process and coordinate with its existing camera vendor during the transition.

Equipment Support and Service Tickets

The Board discussed the importance of tracking equipment problems and identifying performance issues before equipment fails. Mr. Lord reported that the District has implemented a full-service ticketing system, similar to the system used by Facilities, to track technology-related requests.

Technology staff continue to accept service requests by email, which automatically generates tickets in the system and makes it easier for staff to report issues. However, Mr. Lord noted that email-based reporting can make it more difficult to obtain detailed, consistent data for analysis.

Mr. Lord also discussed the difficulty of establishing meaningful equipment-performance metrics when many issues are resolved quickly. Staff is working to improve the level of detail captured in service records so the District can better identify trends, performance declines, and equipment replacement needs.

Technology Budget Review

The Board discussed the District's Technology budget and the need for additional information to support proposed equipment replacement cycles. Members noted that technology hardware represents a relatively small portion of the overall budget compared with salaries, benefits, and Special Education.

The Board emphasized the importance of establishing a four- or five-year replacement cycle for laptops, tablets, and other hardware and maintaining data to justify future purchases. Mr. Smith explained that the ticketing system is intended to provide the necessary usage and replacement data. The Board agreed that providing additional information and projected costs would help support the budget discussion.

Middle School Computer Technology

Mr. Lord reviewed Middle School Computer Technology (line 738) and discussed how to allocate technology purchases. Mr. Smith acknowledged the rationale for standardizing technology platforms within individual buildings but also asked Mr. Smith to provide numbers for different replacement options. The Board indicated that understanding the costs of replacing technology throughout an entire school in a single year, compared with spreading purchases across multiple years, would help evaluate the budget.

District-Wide Technology Services

Mr. Lord reviewed the technology-related budget lines under district-wide services. Professional Services, line 330, reflects an overall increase of **$5,000**. He also reviewed Technology Services - Software and noted that one technology line is reduced by **$25,000**, primarily due to adjustments to district-wide expenditures and licensing. The final line in the section reflects approval of new central licensing.

Technology Equipment Replacement

Mr. Lord reviewed Equipment Additional, line 734, which includes the technology purchases discussed earlier in the presentation. Mr. Lord explained that these purchases have historically not been specifically allocated to the elementary schools. Line 738 includes additional devices being purchased for staff, with the equipment based on a four-year life expectancy.

Technology Use and Instruction

Ms. Garcia discussed whether the District is using technology as effectively as possible, particularly in the elementary grades. She raised the possibility of reducing the number of individual laptops and returning younger students to centralized computer labs. The discussion recognized that administrators, instructional coaches, and teachers with appropriate expertise should inform decisions about curriculum and instructional technology.

The Board discussed the appropriate balance between technology use and traditional instructional methods, particularly for younger students. Members acknowledged that technology requirements and instructional practices continue to change rapidly and that the District must remain responsive while ensuring technology is used effectively and securely.

Student-to-Device Ratios

Mr. Lord clarified the technology ratios for the elementary grades. Kindergarten and first grade currently operate at a 2-to-1 student-to-device ratio. Mr. Abare discussed the goal for second, third, and fourth grades in connection with potentially reducing the number of laptops. He continued to consider whether fewer devices for younger students could provide value while still meeting instructional and assessment needs.

d. **<u>Security Camera Memo</u>**

Mr. Lord said that a memo was submitted following up on questions raised during the August 26 School Board meeting regarding security cameras. The memo addressed recent news coverage concerning so-called "flock cameras" and clarified that the District has cameras on its campuses. The District also maintains a data-retention policy governing camera footage.

The Board thanked Mr. Lord for his effort in preparing the budget and for the discussion.

VI. Policy Review:

a. **First Reading:**
   i. None

b. **Second Reading:**
   i. None

VII. Other:

A. None

VIII. Board Member Reports:

A. Ms. Garcia stated that her family is very excited that the school year has started. She noted that both her daughters had a great first week of school.

IX. Consent Agenda:

A. Adoption of Minutes
   a. September 2, 2026 – Draft Public Minutes
   b. September 2, 2026 – Draft Non-Public Minutes

Vendor and Payroll Manifests

a.	AP090926	$503,426.53
b.	DU090926	$655.00

C. Correspondence & Information
   a. None

D. Enrollment Report
   a. None

E. Staffing Updates
   a. **Leaves:**
      i. None

   b. **Resignations:**
      i. None

   c. **Retirements:**
      i. None

   d. **Nominations:**
      i. None

Ms. Garcia moved to approve the Consent Agenda without the reading list. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed (5-0-0).

X. Future Agenda Planning:

A. Discussion on IT ticketing system.

B. Discussion on limiting the hours that Chromebooks are used.

C. Ms. Paradis asked that the Student Representatives add more academic updates.

XI. Future Meetings:

A.	September 16, 2026	– 6:30 p.m.	School Board Meeting @ Hal Lynde Meeting Room
B.	September 30, 2026	– 6:30 p.m.	School Board Meeting @ Hal Lynde Meeting Room

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XII. Non-Public:

Ms. Garcia moved to enter non-public session at 8:22 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3, II (j) – Confidential Commercial Matter. Ms. Paradis seconded the motion, which passed (5-0-0).

XIII. Reconvened:

8:48 p.m.

XIV. Adjournment:

Ms. Garcia moved to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 8:50 p.m. Ms. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Sullivan
School Board Recording Secretary