# SAU 35 All Board
# Meeting Minutes
# May 5, 2026

School Board Members:

**Bethlehem**: Robert Weir (absent); James Noyes; Margaret Hocking; Erin Campbell; Susan Greenlaw

**Lafayette**: Joseph Garrison; Zak Mei; Eugene Leeds; Nicole MacKay; Michael Rhodes

**Landaff**: Matthew Copithorne; John Barth; Michelle Beaudin

**Lisbon**: all absent

**Profile**: Michael Culver (5:35pm); Andrea Price (5:35pm); Eugene Leeds; Joseph Garrison; Gordon Johnk; James Noyes; Kaitlyn Deveau (absent)

Administration: C.J. Watson, Superintendent; Toni Butterfield, Business Manager

Recording Secretary: Molley Gilley, Administrative Assistant

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Superintendent CJ Watson at 5:30pm

**Reorganization of Board Officers: Matthew Copithorne nominated Robert Weir as Chair; James Noyes seconded the motion. Motion carried 13-0.**

**James Noyes nominated Matthew Copithorne as Vice-Chair; Joseph Garrison seconded the motion. Motion carried 13-0.**

**Board Training:** Will Phillips from New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) gave the full board a training on school board roles and responsibilities.

Michael Rhodes left meeting at 6:38pm

**Consent Agenda**

***Eugene Leeds motioned to accept the consent agenda. John Barth seconded the motion. Motion carried 13-0.***

Public Input: no public input

Agenda Adjustments: Superintendent CJ Watson requested to add EMC financing to new business. Joseph Garrison motioned to accept the adjustment. Nicole MacKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 13-0.

**New Business**

**EMC Financing:** Superintendent Watson explained that the interest rates for the capital improvement projects are higher than predicted. He explained that the rates came in at 5.03%, this is informative for now and will be on the individual boards agenda to be discussed at their board meetings.

**E-Board Models:** Superintendent CJ Watson asked how the board would like to proceed with the e-board model. The board discussed the difference between full board and e-board and what is discussed during the e-board meetings. The full board decided to leave the e-board model as is for now but to create a structure layout for the full board & e-board over the next six months. This will be brought back to the December board to be discussed.

**SAU update**: Superintendent CJ Watson shared some big accomplishments the SAU has produced in the last five months. He also shared the strategic plan that was created with a committee along with a rough timeline to help make the strategic plan successful. Mr. Watson updated the board about how the schools want to collaborate, have vertical alignment, communication and marketing together. The Board discussed how the SAU strategic plan will feed into the Superintendents specific goals.

**Superintendent Evaluation**: Matt Copithorne discussed the overview of the survey results explaining that good communication, the vision, relevant information, and constructive feedback were the majority of the comments. Touching on how there are a lot of great comments and some concern surrounding what the future looks like and that there are still challenges throughout the SAU. And those things are going to take a lot of time, especially overall trust.

**SAU Office Nominations:** Mike Culver recused from discussion and the vote on SAU Office Nominations.

Superintendent CJ Watson presented the nominations for the SAU office positions. Mr. Watson explained that from previous discussions the SAU will be keeping facilities and IT in house so that created a part time IT and part time facilities position, the SAU has also changed the special education coordinator from two positions into one. Nicole MacKay asked what a District Pass-Thru Employee is, since the district has two of them listed. Superintendent Watson explained that they are employees actually overseen and evaluated by the Principals, not the Superintendent. But we bill the schools and the money comes through the SAU to the employees. It's a smoother way of handling shared services, but ultimate decision making on those personnel are by the principals

***James Noyes made a motion to accept all nominations for SAU office staff as presented. Eugene Leeds seconded the motion. Motion carried 13-0.***

**Continuing Business**

**Websites:** Superintendent CJ Watson presented the new websites to the board and explained that the board will have time to review and give their feedback before the next group will review the websites. The roll out goal for all websites is June 22nd.

**Consent Agenda**: Superintendent CJ Watson asked if the Board wanted to continue with consent agendas or go back to the way it was before on the board agenda. The board

discussed. Profile and Bethlehem boards requested the year to date to be removed from the consent agenda each month.

**Executive Board:** ***James Noyes made a motion for the executive board to act on behalf of the SAU35 full board until the next full board meeting. Joe Garrison seconded the motion. Motion carried 14-0.***

**Legislative Update:** CJ Watson shared the current updates for Legislature electronically. No discussion.

**Public Input:** no public input

**Adjournment**

***Joseph Garrison motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm. Nicole MacKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 14-0.***

Respectfully submitted,

Molley Gilley
Administrative Assistant