

**HOLDERNESS SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Minutes**  
**September 10, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** Peter Desloge, Sam Damon, Sean Smarz, Tara DiSalvo, Ms. Pearce (joined at 6:20)

**Administration Present:** Dana Andrews, Joseph Sampson

**Others Present:** Emily Kelley, Sean Dembiec, Harper Stepp, Lewis Thompson, Ryan Fuller, Michelle Thompson, Lindsay Stepp, Kristen Fuller, Daryl Dembiec

Mr. Smarz started the meeting by swearing in of Ms. DiSalvo and then the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:05.

**Agenda Review & Disposition:** no changes

**Minutes of August 13:** On a motion by Mr. Damon seconded by Mr. Desloge the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025.

**Privilege of the Floor #1:** Mrs. Kelley discussed with the board the tradition of the middle school team building the first week of school. This year they were unable to conclude with a field trip and barbecue because they couldn't find a lifeguard, they are still hoping to do something soon. Sean Dembiec talked about the activities that they usually do and barbecue. Harper talked about bridges between grades and how bridges work. The students built bridges in Science. In Language Arts class they drew a bridge over water, and had to write down things on the bridge that were easy for them and things that are hard to do in the water. Lewis & Ryan talked about connecting bridges, the kids made bridges in two parts while they were in different rooms and had to put them together. They could only communicate by talking, no pictures. Mrs. Kelley talked about the debriefing they do afterwards and they discuss what works and what doesn't.

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Sampson discussed with the board the following:

Enrollment - 156

1. Shoutout
  - a. Chandra Hazelton, Veronica King & Mary Richardson for taking on Grades 1-4 theatre production of A Year with Frog & Toad.
2. Staff
  - a. First faculty meeting this week and discussed the updated behavior referral among other things.
3. Students
  - a. Book Club coming
  - b. Earth Club is on its way
  - c. Field Trips - Science Center for middle school 8th grade lake ecology, 6th & 7th grade for field and stream
  - d. K-2 going to Vermont Institute of Natural Science, this is new this year
  - e. We are planning Boston for Middle School
  - f. 3rd grade going to Chamberlain Reynolds in October
  - g. Bell to bell cell phone ban has not been an issue
4. Athletics

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- a. Soccer teams have started playing games. We have 8 girls going to Plymouth to play Field Hockey and 1 student doing travel soccer with Plymouth.
- 5. Community
  - a. Boys & Girls Club has 5 students registered and participating.
  - b. PTA Fall fest is being planned October 25th, pumpkin carving display at fire station and around town.
- 6. Safety/wellness
  - a. We have a safety committee meeting scheduled for later this month.
  - b. We have a grant for fruit for students. The wellness committee will be meeting this month also.

On a motion by Mr. Desloge, seconded by Mr. Damon the board unanimously approved the out of state field trips discussed during the principal report.

**Consent Items:**

Claims & Payroll were approved

Correspondence -

**Discussion Items:**

1. **Facility Update:** Mr. Andrews discussed the roof project, it has been completed. The boiler project came in under budget. There were two existing pumps that were designed to work with the system not working as well as they would like, the consensus is to replace the pumps. The cost of the pumps should be under the amount that is remaining for the project. There was discussion about who recommended the change. There has been communication with Mark, Tom, CCI, and the Engineer. It was thought that what is there would work but it doesn't.
2. **Board Retreat/Time:** The October board meeting will be moved to the 15th at 6:00, the board retreat will start at 6:30.
3. **Bring Your Own Device Policy Rescind:** Mr. Andrews discussed that this policy doesn't apply any longer. A motion by Ms. Pearce seconded by Ms. DiSalvo to rescind the policy. Discussion about if there is anything we want to keep. We are following school rules. There was discussion about use on buses being covered, we need to follow rules of the bus and handle any issues on a case by case basis. Discussion about expectation of privacy. The board voted unanimously to rescind the policy.
4. **Use and Location of Automated External Defibrillators - KFD - 1st Reading:** Mr. Andrews discussed we don't have a policy for this yet. We are following this now, we just need to put it into a policy. Discussed purchasing one to travel with sports, or for the front office. There was discussion about the section talking about who can use it. NH has no duty to intervene for emergencies and no liability. Mr. Andrews will get some clarification or options for language.
5. **Video and Audio Surveillance Policy - EEAA - 1st Reading:** Board will review and revisit next month.

**Privilege of the Floor # 2:-**

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On a motion by Ms. DiSalvo, seconded by Ms. Pearce the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Ann McKenney  
School Board Secretary