

Northwood School Board Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

2026-2029 Teacher Contract

During the fall of 2025, the Northwood School Board worked collaboratively with SAU leadership and the Northwood Teachers Association to negotiate a restructured teacher contract that supports both educational quality and fiscal responsibility. The negotiations were guided by a shared commitment to balance the economic realities facing the Town of Northwood with the needs of teachers and, most importantly, students at Northwood School.

The resulting agreement modernizes the teacher pay matrix and improves compensation at all experience levels, with a particular emphasis on strengthening early-career salaries. This targeted approach is designed to improve recruitment and retention while providing long-term stability for the school district. By investing strategically in the teaching workforce, the contract supports a strong educational foundation that benefits students, families, and the broader local economy.

The Northwood School Board extends its sincere thanks to negotiators Scott Bryer and Caitlin Reynolds for their thoughtful, diligent work throughout this process, as well as to the SAU administration and fellow board members who remained focused on fairness, sustainability, and student success. The contract covers the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, and will be presented to voters for consideration as **School Board Warrant Article #3** at the town vote on March 10, 2026.

With the New Hampshire legislative session now underway in Concord, many proposed bills are moving through the House and Senate that could have a direct and lasting impact on Northwood's community, local education budgets, and student opportunities. Because the decisions made over the next few months will shape the future of our classrooms, I encourage all community members, parents, educators, and taxpayers to review these proposals and share their perspectives with elected officials, as personal stories are often the most impactful way to illustrate how these changes affect our families. ~ Dr. Nate Byrne, Superintendent



HELP WANTED

*Northwood School District
Public Notice*

School District Election

School Board Member: 1 Position

- 3-year term

The filing dates for the open position on Northwood's School Board are January 21, 2026, to January 30, 2026 at 5 PM.

To run for this position, contact the School District Clerk, Penny Hampl at northwoodschooldistrictclerk@gmail.com, (603) 234-8609, or on January 30th at the Town Clerk's Office from 3-5 PM.

To talk to a School Board member with questions about School Board service and responsibilities, please email schoolboard@northwood.k12.nh.us.

2026-2027 School Budget Update

During their December 15, 2025, meeting, the Northwood Town Budget Committee amended the proposed budget to accommodate special education costs for students who recently moved into the district. The Budget Committee then voted unanimously to move forward with the amended budget which was developed by district leadership and the School Board. The Board would like to say “thank you” to the Budget Committee for the in-depth discussion of the proposed 2026-2027 school year (FY27) budget.

Due to legally mandated increases of \$707K in expenses for the 2026-2027 school year, much thoughtful consideration and diligent effort went into budgetary reductions for FY27. The Board removed \$280K from the current budget, reflecting a desire to prioritize teaching and learning at Northwood School while maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to employing taxpayer funds.

Voting **yes to School Board Warrant Article #2** approves a school budget of \$16,205,552, which is \$57,193 less than the default budget of \$16,262,745 should the article fail.

For more information and a full copy of the proposed Northwood School District Budget for FY27, please visit the Board’s [budget website](#).

- Important dates for the Northwood School Budget:
 - February 5, 2026: School Board Budget Deliberative Session
 - March 10, 2026: Northwood Town Vote

Meet the Board

Kendra Berry

Kendra Berry has served for two years as a member of the Northwood School Board. She is the parent of a Northwood School student, a local beekeeper and jam maker, and an engaged citizen of Northwood.

Ms. Berry has over a decade of experience in the automotive industry including sales, service, and end-to-end data solutions and technology; she also runs Marsh Berry Farm, a local jam, honey and egg farm stand. She serves on the policy and student experience committee of the Northwood School Board and brings thoughtful insights to each meeting of the Board.



Out of the public schools comes
the greatness of the nation.

Mark Twain

Unique Impact Awards:

Contact Us:
schoolboard@northwood.k12.nh.us

The Northwood School Board proudly supports innovative classroom practices by funding classroom grant awards to Northwood educators. The Board looks forward to reviewing applications for the upcoming school year! Teachers, please contact Ms. Young for an application.