



**LEBANON CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOINT PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

1. Call to Order

The June 9, 2026 Lebanon School District and City Council Joint Partnership Task Force Meeting is hereby called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. May 12, 2026

3. New Business

A. Legislative Updates

B. Update about the SAU Building (20 Seminary Hill, West Lebanon)

1. Update on Potential Use of SAU Building - Boys and Girls Club of Central and Northern New Hampshire

C. Discussion on City of Lebanon and Lebanon School District Health Insurance

4. Future Agenda Items

5. Next Meeting Date

A. To be determined.

6. Other Business: None

7. Adjournment

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public who wish to attend remotely may do so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupt virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodation, please contact the ADA coordinator at City Hall by calling 603-448-4220 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

DRAFT

**LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT & CITY COUNCIL
JOINT PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 6:00PM**

CITY COUNCIL / STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

City Councilors McNamara, Ford Burley, Mayor Whittlesey, City Manager Hosmer

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Amy Allen, Lilian Maughan (School Board Chair), Candy Hammond, Tia Winter, Joe Castelot (Remote), Tim Ball (SAU 88 Business Manager)

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

2 City Manager Andrew Hosmer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. He reviewed the City's
3 meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures.
4

5 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 13, 2026**

6 Council members identified and corrected misspellings of Councilor McNamara's name in
7 the meeting minutes, specifically on page two and three of the minutes.
8

9 *A MOTION was made by Councilor McNamara to approve the January 13, 2026 Meeting*
10 *Minutes as amended. The MOTION was seconded by Lilian Maughan.*
11 *Roll call vote was conducted.*
12

13 ** The MOTION was approved (5-0-1 with Board Member Hammond abstaining)*
14

15 **3. NEW BUSINESS**

16 **A. Legislative Updates**

- 17 • House Bill 1300 School Tax Cap: Superintendent Allen explained that House Bill
18 1300, recently amended by Senator Lang, would require municipalities to hold
19 biennial votes on implementing a local school tax cap and establish a 6% cap on
20 SAU central administrative budgets, with these measures potentially appearing on
21 the November ballot.
22
- 23 • Budgeting Challenges: School Board members highlighted concerns with a city
24 tax cap in place for 2028, the district would need to manage two budgets
25 simultaneously, and existing multi-year contracts and collective bargaining
26 agreements could exceed the cap before the budget process begins, limiting
27 flexibility and increasing costs.

- 1 • Collective Bargaining Agreements: The group discussed that biennial votes would
2 disrupt the ability to negotiate three- or five-year contracts, requiring frequent
3 renegotiations and increasing administrative costs.
- 4 • Open Enrollment Legislation: Superintendent Allen noted that one open
5 enrollment bill failed, but House Bill 751 remains in conference committee, with
6 ongoing advocacy to the governor as the deciding factor; municipalities have
7 consistently opposed open enrollment.
- 8 • Special Education Funding Uncertainty: Council members discussed the
9 unpredictability of special education costs due to new students entering the
10 district, the legal requirement to provide services, and the depletion of the special
11 education trust fund, emphasizing the difficulty in budgeting for these expenses.
- 12 • School Board members reviewed House Bill 1064 and other legislative actions
13 that increase municipal liability and reduce local control, expressing concerns
14 about rising insurance premiums, erosion of local authority, and the impact of
15 state mandates on city and school district operations. School Board members
16 described HB 1064 as raising and expanding municipal liability, increasing
17 damage caps, and mandating indemnification of employees even in cases of
18 negligence, which would increase financial exposure for municipalities.
- 19 • Insurance and Risk Premiums: The group anticipated that insurance groups and
20 risk pools would adjust their premiums upward due to increased risk and potential
21 for more lawsuits, impacting city finances.
- 22 • School Board Members expressed concern that new laws from Concord are
23 stripping away local control, mandating services while reducing the ability of
24 municipalities and school districts to make independent decisions.
- 25 • Enrollment Trends: Contrary to statewide trends, Lebanon has seen enrollment
26 growth, including more Vermont students tuitioning into the district, and expects
27 steady or increasing enrollment over the next decade.

28 **B. Healthcare Discussion**

- 29 • Superintendent Allen, School Business Manager Ball and City Manager Hosmer, and
30 other council members discussed the challenges and options related to healthcare risk
31 pools, including the financial instability of school care, potential for self-funding or
32 private insurance, and the complexities of aligning plan years between the city and school
33 district.
- 34 • A lawsuit initiated by the Dover School District against School Care has raised concerns
35 about solvency, prompting the district to consult attorneys and monitor the situation
36 closely.
- 37 • School Care and HealthTrust are managed differently, with HealthTrust maintaining
38 higher reserves than recommended by the Secretary of State, leading to financial
39 disparities and uncertainty.
- 40 • The district and city have considered self-funding or private insurance as alternatives,
41 noting that self-funding may be more feasible given differing plan years, and larger pools
42 could improve rates.
- 43 • Plan Year Alignment Challenges: A major challenge is the misalignment of plan years
44 between the city (January-December) and the school district (July-June), which
45 complicates joint insurance efforts, especially with multiple unions involved.

- Discussions included the need for retiree coverage within any new insurance arrangement, with retirees benefiting from pooled rates, and the importance of addressing ancillary issues such as FSAs.

C. Discussion about the SAU Building (20 Seminary Hill, West Lebanon)

1. Discuss Potential Use of SAU Building – Boys and Girls Club of Central and Northern New Hampshire

Task Force members discussed ongoing facility use at the SAU building, including potential leasing to artists, and focused on the Boys and Girls Club childcare facility project, addressing concerns about green space, parking, site selection, and the need for detailed plans and community input.

- Superintendent Allen met with Planning Department Director Nathan Reichert and City Councilor Andrew Faunce to discuss leasing SAU building space to aspiring artists from the AVA Gallery, with plans to consult with Deputy Planning Director Tim Corwin and bring options to the board.
- Chris Emond from the Boys and Girls Club is scheduled to present to the School Board, with a community forum planned to gather input and address concerns, particularly regarding green space and traffic.
- Council members emphasized the importance of having a site sketch and visualizations to inform the board and community, especially given constituent concerns about green space and parking usage.
- Discussions clarified that the Boys and Girls Club project originated from the city, not the school district, and both groups expressed a desire for collaborative decision-making without imposing priorities.

D. Discussion of Potential Adjustment of Seminary Hill Property Boundaries

- School Board Member Castelot raised the possibility of using land near the Dana House, noting conflicting information about its suitability due to slope, and requested guidance from the city on feasible alternatives.
- The Task Force discussed lease terms, including a proposed \$1/year lease for 40 years, and clarified that Boys and Girls Club would pay impact fees, and maintenance costs, with federal grant funds covering a significant portion of construction costs.

E. Updates on Potential Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts

Task Force members discussed the ongoing negotiations and analysis related to the Signal Hill TIF district, including concerns about long-term city costs, developer commitments, and the need for data to inform decisions, with no immediate movement expected.

- The city is finalizing a contract with a consultant, jointly funded by the developer and city, to analyze short- and long-term costs associated with the Signal Hill development, including infrastructure and recreational fields.
- Council members noted that the developer's proposal for the TIF district lacked enthusiasm from the city council, as anticipated benefits were outweighed by potential costs, and the developer intends to proceed with phase one regardless of TIF district approval.
- The city aims to ensure per pupil costs for students in the TIF district are covered and seeks a right of refusal for changes to the developer's master plan, given the long-term nature and evolving scope of the project.

- 1 • Council members highlighted that the city has not previously established a TIF district
2 for developer benefit and expressed caution about committing to a plan that may change
3 over decades.

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5 **4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

6 None

7

8 **5. NEXT MEETING DATE**

9 June 9, 2026

10

11 **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

12 None

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14 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

15

16 *A MOTION was made by Councilor Tim MacNamara to adjourn the meeting. The*
17 *MOTION was seconded by Nicole Ford Burley. Roll call vote was taken.*

18

19 ** The Vote on the Motion was approved (6-0).*

20

21 The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.