

**Benton School Board  
Budget Hearing  
January 23, 2023**

**School Board Members:** Joseph Boutin, III, Chair; Kristina Harris; and Dwight Swauger

Also Present: SAU 23 Superintendent Laurie Melanson; Dan Nelson; Benton Selectboard members William Darcy, Regina Elliott and Kimberli Carpenter

School Board Chairman Joseph Boutin III called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Chairman Boutin stated that the school budget was decreased from the previous year, despite a Haverhill 5% tuition increase and increases in both special education and transportation costs. He said the decrease was a result of a reduction in the number of Benton students. No student contingency was included in the budget.

It was noted that the Benton 5 year property reevaluation will likely result in an increase in the school budget next year as a result of the Benton property values going up relative to the rest of the SAU towns.

Dwight Swauger moved adoption of the budget, seconded by Chairman Boutin and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.