TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown, New Hampshire
Minutes of the Deliberative Session
2025 Deliberative Session, held at the Timberlane Regional Performing Arts Center, 40 Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH, February 6, 2025

District Moderator Robert Harb called the February 6th to order at 7:32PM. The Moderator led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a recorded performance of the Timberlane Regional High School Chamber Choir.

School Board Members in attendance: Chair Katherine Knutsen (Plaistow), Vice-Chair Mark Sherwood (Sandown), Shauna Manthorn (Plaistow), Alyssa Kowaszyk (Plaistow), Kim McCormick (Danville), Brienna Woodworth (Danville), Jack Sapia (Atkinson), Paul LeCain (Sandown) and Donald Woodworth (Atkinson).

Budget Committee Members in attendance: Chair Liz Kosta (Plaistow), Vice-Chair Karen White (Sandown), Julie Hammond (Atkinson), Lauren Schlerf (Plaistow), Katherine Consalvo (Atkinson), Kristi Auclair (Danville), and Sabrina Alberg (Danville)

Also seated with the Board and Committee: Superintendent of Schools Justin Krieger, Assistant Superintendent, Sandra Allaire, Director of Operations and Special Projects Chris Martin, Business Administrator Maria Watkins and District Legal counsel Attorney James O'Shaughnessy.

MOTION: Chair Knutsen made a motion, seconded by Liz Kosta to allow the following non-residents to speak during the meeting: District Legal Counsel Attorney James O'Shaughnessy, Justin Krieger (Superintendent), Chris Martin (Director of Operations and Special Projects).
PASSED by card vote.

Moderator Harb read the Mission statement of the Timberlane Regional School District. He then reviewed the rules of the meeting to the qualified voters in attendance and directed all makers of motions and seconds state their names for the record.

With no objection, the standard moderator rules were adopted for the conduct of the meeting. General comments are limited to 5 minutes. Makers of motions must state their name and address. All votes will be conducted by raising the voting card. If it is close the assistant moderators on the floor will count.

Voters in attendance: Atkinson (50), Danville (58), Plaistow (44), and Sandown (52)

To the inhabitants of the School District of the Towns of Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in District affairs:

The first session of the annual meeting, the Deliberative, you are hereby notified to meet the Timberlane Performing Arts Center, 40 Greenough Rd, Plaistow, NH on Thursday, the 6th day of February 2025, at 7:00PM. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles number 2 through number 13. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended, and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Voting)

Voting on warrant articles number 1 through 13 will be conducted by official ballot to be held in conjunction with town meeting voting to be held on Tuesday, the 11th day of March 2025, at the Town Election Polls in Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown, New Hampshire.

Atkinson	Voting will be conducted at the Atkinson Community Center from 7am-8pm
Danville	Voting will be conducted at the Danville Community Center from 8am-8pm
Plaistow	Voting will be conducted at the Plaistow Fish and Game Club from 7am-7pm
Sandown	Voting will be conducted at the Sandown Town Hall from 8am-8pm

ARTICLE 1 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

To choose the following school district officers:

Danville Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Danville Voters	Budget Committee Member	3-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	Budget Committee Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	Budget Committee Member	3-Year Term

ARTICLE 2 – OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the voters of the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **$88,568,076**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **$89,798,656**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Timberlane Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: Warrant Article 2 (the operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-4-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 2 on the ballot as written; seconded by Budget Committee Chair Liz Kosta.

TRSD BudCom Liz Kosta- Liz explained the process by which the budget was reviewed by the budget committee in collaboration with the Business Administrator, Superintendent, and department heads. She explained the drivers of the budget figures. These figures were all included on the slide show and handout that was given to the public.

TRSB Chair Knutsen spoke about the default budget, that it is controlled by RSA and is non amendable. Chair Knutsen went over the default budget drivers that were provided in the handout to the public.

Superintendent Justin Krieger spoke about the FY26 Budget Highlights and FY25 Check-Ins that were included in the slide show. He highlights that this is the first proposed decrease in the past several years, that is does not include 17.5 positions that were eliminated by the school board and doesn't reduce and student programming.

TRSB Shauna Manthorn, read a prepared statement. Hi, everybody. Welcome as we gather this evening to engage in a thoughtful process to deliberate our school board budget, we need to recognize that every voter, student, taxpayer, family and constituent, has a unique experience and circumstance, and this process allows those thoughts to be heard exchanged in the context of tax contributions related to education. Fundamentally, we understand that most folks see tax contributions as a burden. The discussion tonight goes far beyond tax contributions. We invite folks to view the discussion tonight as investments in our community and our neighbors. Our neighbors are all of you present tonight, and many of them are district employees. Timberlane Regional School District is one of the largest employers in the area. The district employs over 900 employees a year, and about half of them are residents in our district. They are our neighbors. Our community can be strengthened by a well performing school district. The longer range outcome of a well performing school district being an increase in property values, attracting residents, attracting businesses, and many of the community are in attendance tonight. As a regional school district, everyone in this room has a shared connection. We are a community, so as we begin deliberating, we invite you to entertain the shared perspective, to view taxes not as a burden, but as an investment, recognizing that every voter, student, taxpayer, family and constituent, has a unique experience and circumstance in the context of tax contributions related to education. While we are discussing dollars and cents, let's not lose sight of investing in our community and our neighbors. Thank you for being here to engage in the process and welcome you.

Nolan Pelletier, 24 North Ave Plaistow I noticed that there were four people on the budget committee who voted not to recommend the budget and I was wondering if any of those four people would be willing to explain their no vote.

TRSD BudCom Karen White- So the budget process was contentious this year. We all sort of know the challenges that we're all facing financially. I personally did not vote in favor of this budget because I wanted it to be a little lower. I wanted to sort of meet in the middle. I felt that some of the estimates for cost of things were a little higher than they could be, and so that's why I voted not in favor.

TRSD BudCom Liz Kosta- I want to echo what Karen said because I thought if it were just a little bit lower it would be more palpable. I did request not to cut personnel when we asked for budget cuts because we have a lot of needs in our schools and its for the health and safety of our children.

TRSB Jack Sapia- motions to amend Article 2:

MOTION: Jack Sapia (47 Hawke Lane Atkinson) motioned to amend Article 2 by deleting "$88,568,076" and replacing it with "$86,400,000"; seconded by Ben Sharpe (1 Metacomet Ave, Sandown).
VOTE BY BALLOT COUNT: Yes 322 No 111 AMENDMENT PASSES

TRSB Jack Sapia- So I challenged the budget committee this year, and they did a fantastic job. I say with a budget you shouldn't want to increase the budget or decrease the budget; it should be the right budget. And I struggled with this for a very long time. And I think the budget that was offered up is a good budget, it's a solid budget, but there are other considerations taking place. I went back and I agonized over this. I looked for places where potentially we could lessen the burden on the taxpayers, at the same time be able to perform our duties and our responsibilities. I would ask you to look at some of the things that are being done at a much higher cost, because I wish all you people were here five years ago. Construction has increased by 40% that means we're paying 40% more now than what we could have done by getting some of this stuff done six, seven years ago. So, by putting this off, we're kind of shooting ourselves in the foot, but I think this is a workable budget. I think it's a reasonable budget. It will affect some things, but not the critical things. So, I'm trying to find that middle ground, as a few of the budget committee members just spoke to, I think anything less than this, then you start affecting the workplace, and ultimately, the end result.

Michael Mascola, 63 Pollard Rd. Plaistow- I don't think there is tremendous amount of enthusiasm for this amendment so I'm hoping that after some discussion we can take a pulse of the room and potentially move the vote along.

Louise Pajak, 17 Hawkwood Rd. Sandown- I'd like to know if there is someone on the board that could speak as to what would need to be cut to meet Mr. Sapia's amendment.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- I'll take a stab at this because we don't know what would be cut. We simply don't know. So right now, the proposed budget, which is 3.3% less, for the first time in the decade, we've been able to come up with this, with a number that's actually negative rather than positive. Currently, 72.5% of our budget is simply salaries and benefits. So, if we're going to make an additional cut, and according to the stated objective from Mr. Sapia and from others in the audience, the intent is not to decrease staff or personnel. That means that $2 million will have to come from our operating budget. We quite honestly, don't know what the cost of transportation will be. We do not know what utility costs will be. One line that could be cut is the capital line for capital improvements and quite honestly, I would be warmer to Mr. Sapiar's motion if I had a sense of confidence that we were not going to cut that line or zero out that line. Years of under spending in our capital infrastructure is what got us into the situation that we needed a lease in the first place. So I am warm to his sensibilities, but I don't know where those cuts will come from. And with the exception of the lease, anybody that makes offers or suggestions of where the budget should be cut. Please tell us where in that 27% of the operating budget, they should come from. Or have the bravery to say it should come from staff.

TRSB Jack Sapia- I do have specific things, I mean, I wouldn't have done this willy nilly. There are some numbers that have been shot around our towns, shot from the hip. This is all I will say, because I don't give any more cause, some of it would come from the lease, a little bit from the capital line, and there are other areas that I would prefer not to speak about in public. And I'm sure most people appreciate why I don't. When you talk about contractual obligations and contracts and personnel, you have to be very careful on what you say publicly. It's not that I don't want to share it with you. It's just that I'm trying to protect your interest, because I don't want to end up in a lawsuit, which will then end up costing you folks even more money, and it's not good to lead with your chin. It's as simple as that. So, I offered up something that I think is fair, and I just mentioned two out of the three areas where I would take it from. I hope, hopefully that suffices. We're all volunteers up here doing our best, and I understand why you're upset. You have a right to be upset.

Holly Patterson, 24 Brady Circle Plaistow- First of all, I'd like to say that I've been called a radical conservative and a tree hugging liberal, so I think I can speak pretty broadly from both sides of the mouth. I was also called a threat to the district. So I'm going to just speak very plainly to the 3% reduction, $3 million over a decade that you are proposing to this group of people. You should be praised about. What about the increase that was 16% for fiscal year 2024. The $3 million that has been suggested to reduce, if we can't get specifics on that then how is there any credibility. This board doesn't have any.

Melissa Marr, 6 Lower Road Plaistow- If you live in a condo association, you know that the older building, the higher the HOA fees are because the buildings are falling apart, and our buildings are falling apart. So that's really sad. It would have been nice if, in years past, things were fixed. But what I did note was that contracted labor went up by $90,000, while 17.5 jobs were eliminated. And I'm not sure what those jobs were that were eliminated, but we do know that contract labor pays way more than the salaries for each job at the school. So we're paying more for contract labor. There's got to be a way to figure out how you can get more employees, because these contract labor, whether it's OT or paras or whatnot, are getting paid way more than what the salary ones are, and they have less of a connection with the students. So that would be an area to look at.

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main Street Plaistow- I think the suggestion was put forth as a sacrificial lamb, knowing the temperature of the room, I would like to ask whatever the secret reductions are and the reductions that you're putting forth, were those put forth during the budget process by you or not?

TRSB Jack Sapia- First of all, I'd like to point out to everyone that this is a bottom-line budget, so at the end of the day, it would give the board the flexibility to make those reductions wherever the board deems necessary, and that would be done with some deliberation and some research. So it's a bottom line budget. That's number one. Number two, I don't disagree with you about the 16% increase. The problem with that is that didn't happen with this board or the last board. That's a fact. Let's talk in fact. Okay, so it's a bottom-line budget. There's nothing secretive about it.

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main Street Plaistow- I've heard this from the board, and many have as well, that that wasn't our budget, that wasn't our number. Yet, this board, this administration, the superintendent, has continued to follow a playbook of the district and constantly over budgeting, overspending, and it got so bad that you couldn't spend fast enough to keep that spread down to a minimum. You say it wasn't your responsibility, wasn't this boards responsibility. However, you put forth a budget that includes the vast majority of that increase as well, when it's very clear that the increase is not needed. So you know, I think all you out there, the administration at large puts out misinformation, provides misdirection.

Nola Whitman, 47 Hawke Lane Danville- I think you could reduce the CIP by two items. There are things that I am for currently, one is the Atkinson belfry, I'm fine with that. I think that needs to be done. Two is the roof at Danville Elementary, I'm fine with that. The other two being the high school fence and the bathrooms, I think could be held off. And I would like to just talk about the bathrooms just a little bit. I did go. I did go investigate it a little bit. I'm glad I got to see those pictures, because it actually made me feel better. I'm going to go back to the bathrooms. I'm not against putting in the bathrooms. I just think they need more work. I didn't see the proposal. I did go to Keene to look at what they had. Very impressive, I gotta say, very impressive. I would want to see something similar to what they have, then what the plans that I'm hearing about are. And because of that, I think that we can postpone. That's where I think we can reduce, the bathrooms and the fence. So that's my suggestion. Thank you.

Jen Raymond, 11 Woodland Drive Sandown- I am a 1980 graduate of Timberlane High school as is my husband and my two children. I'm a 24 year veteran Special Ed paraeducator from preschool to fifth grade, ages three to 11, I worked at every elementary school except for Atkinson, other than ESY throughout these years. I'm also the current TSSU co president. I am speaking this evening on behalf of every student I've had the opportunity to work with directly, one on one, that is and those to come as a Special Ed paraeducator one on one. Over the past 24 years, I've learned that preschool is by far the most important educational experience for any child, in my opinion. Currently, I'm working at TLC at Sandown Central and work with preschool students whose parents/guardians feel their children need special education services. They request evaluation, which determines if said student does or does not qualify. I'm speaking on behalf of the teachers, the support staff, and anyone who works directly with any student every single day, our positions cannot be cut, in my experience, with the evaluations that are done on these three year old children, they're kids who have never been to school, and they have an hour, possibly evaluation time. Moderator Harb- I urge you to make a point regarding the amendment on the floor. Jen- Think long and hard about where you make cuts, our children are our future.

Michael Boucher, 19 N Broadway Atkinson- I respect Jack's motion because I feel that he's trying to do what's best, where he's trying to be respectful of taxpayers while also trying to be respectful to the operation of the school. You know, I have children within school, and I'm a taxpayer, and also paid tuition. So, I put quite a bit of money into this, I put quite a bit of money into the school system. And biggest concern that I have with all these discussions, especially on social media, is that we're going to cut to deep. So, I think the fact that Mr. Sapia suggested to do anything to decrease the budget, that's a little bit more in line with what I believe the budget committee members who voted against the budget were thinking, but I think it'd be pretty close to what they were hoping for. I think that's commendable, not trying to speak for everyone to say if it's right or wrong to do this, but it's definitely something worth considering.

Sheila Lowes, 47 Hawkwood Road Sandown- asks to call the question.

Moderator Harb calls for a vote:

Yes: 322
No: 111
Result: Amendment Passes

Michael Mascola, 63 Pollard Rd Plaistow- made a motion to amend Article 2:

MOTION: Michael Mascola (63 Pollard Road Plaistow) motioned to amend Article 2 by deleting "$86,400,000" and replacing it with "$81,941,925"; seconded by Sheila Lowes (47 Hawkwood Rd, Sandown).
VOTE BY BALLOT COUNT: Yes 278 No 174 AMENDMENT PASSED

Mr. Mascola goes on to explain that the actual spend for 2023-2024 was $75,463,725, the average increase over the last 10 years is about $1.339 million, the estimated dollars spent in 2024-2025 was $76,803,163. His estimated need for 2025-2026 is $78,142,601, then factoring the additional CBA increases for 24-25 and 25-26 is about $5 million plus or minus. So they're saying they need about $81,941,925.

John Downing, 17 Phillipswood Road Sandown- I'd like to speak in favor of this motion of $81.9 million. There has been a deep dissection of every dollar spent in the year 23-24 there's been projections made of the money spent thus far into the financials that were just listed for January. The number that has been proposed is in line with what is projected in the budget. With the $81.9, there would be zero cuts to any staff. There would be zero cuts to any type of extracurricular activities. We have identified where the cuts can come from. I'll get to that further on. But there's $3 million alone that was raised and appropriated for the lease available to be cut because it's not being appropriated correctly. That's for starters, transportation can get cut. There are many avenues to cut this budget without cutting staff or services.

Katherine Webster, 12 Jasmine Dr Atkinson- I have a question. What happens now that the budget's been amended and now that there is yet another cut amendment before this body, what happens to the default budget with these lower numbers. Mrs. Knutsen responds that the default will stay the same but that if this $81 million gets passed then that would become next years default budget.

Julieann Dougherty, 44 Academy Lane Atkinson- I just am coming up to say that as a teacher for just about 20 years, not in the district, but out of the district, I've never seen a decrease in budget. So for a budget committee to come up and hear the residents and make some changes, that is commendable. Then for us to come up here and say that we want to cut more and more and more, schools are already working at bare bones. Teachers are overworked, understaffed, students aren't getting services the way that they should be, because the staffing is not there and that's everywhere. It's not just a localized problem, but it is horrifying to just hear the excitement that people have about cutting from children

Francine Hart, 298 Main Street Plaistow- I would like to give everybody a little bit of a historical perspective. I have the last 10 years of the actual expenditures that the district has spent since 2015 and you all have done a remarkable job in keeping your expenses very consistent. You spent a little over a million dollars every single year. And I say, haha, a little over a million dollars, but it's you've done a wonderful job. It's been very consistent. However, we voted on significantly more than what this district has needed over the last 10 years, and the average is at least 5% more than what you need over 10 years, every single year. And I suspect that's probably why we had to give back $16 million because it's been accumulated year after year. I have some numbers in Plaistow that are a little bit older, a couple years old, but I think the numbers are still pretty good. We have approximately 7800 people that live Plaistow, school aged children, and they count those zero to 24 years old is approximately 21% of our town. 40% are people in the ages of 25 to 54 and the rest of it, 32% which is almost a third of our town, are 55 and older. Which are people who are entering retirement or are already senior citizens. So, our tax rate is $8.28 goes to our town, our local and our state support; $12.44 last year, which is 60% of our tax rate goes to support less than 20% of our people in Plaistow. Now someone mentioned that this is an investment, and I would actually guess that most of the people that are in this room agree this is an investment. But you need to ask yourself, is that smart investment to invest 60% of your money in less than 20% of your people? Our enrollments have gone down over the last two decades, and our pupil costs have gone up. So, I guess I'm respectfully requesting for the people in this room who are voting, just take a breath and push the pause button on all of this expenditure and approve that $81,941,925. We are all in the throws of just coming out of potentially a huge inflation. We don't know what our country is going to be doing. We don't know what our town's going to be doing, but I think we all need to just take a little bit of a breath.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- We do hear the concerns. We hear it because we are your neighbors, and every dollar that we deem worthy of spending is coming out of our pockets. Every dollar we deem not worthy of spending, it stays in our pockets, just like it does yours. We have been hearing this in last year's surplus. At the end of this, ask Mr. Krieger to review that, because there's a lot of misinformation and a lot of confusion as to what the surplus actually does and where it goes and whether it spends and whether it accumulates it doesn't. So, I think that would be clarifying for all discussions going forward. I went to my towns deliberative as I know a lot of you have, a lot of you are on bud com for your towns, have been involved

in looking at this and looking to see whether we were spending responsibly, because it's a narrative that we're spending money hand over fist and our budget keeps on going up year after year. I did a little bit of researching here over the past five years, this is budget increases reported to the state. Atkinson, on average, has increased 8.2%, Danville has increased 6% a year, Plaistow 2.6% and Sandown 5.8%, so an average for all the towns over the past five years, the budget has increased 5.65%. In that same time period, the Timberlane School District has increased 4.2%, a percent and a half less than the average of all our towns. And I don't think any of us that are involved in town governments think that our towns are going out and buying, you know, things that are frivolous. They certainly are not. I know the COVID years are a little bit odd here. So, I went and I know these past couple years have been in the spotlight. The Danville actual spend compared to the proposed is up 15%, I realize that recently they've had some expenditures that were unforeseen. Sandown in that same time frame, the actual 2021 spend compared to their proposed is up 4.3%, Plaistow is up 9.1% and Atkinson is up 8% in that same time period. Our 2021 spend with our proposed budget for 2026 is up 4.4% essentially, our school district, the Timberlane School District is increasing less, our budget, our spend, is increasing less than the district in general. So, I know we are an easy target because the majority of everybody's taxes we are, we get that, we don't represent 22% of the population, as a lady stated, because most of us went to school, went through school, we are all a product of this. And unfortunately, unlike the town, the school district does have responsibility the town doesn't. We are subject to the same increases the towns are the salary, for insurance, but we also have to bus and Special Education, which we are contractually obliged to follow. We get the concern. This is the first time in a decade there's a lower budget. But even prior to that, if you look over the past 12 years, the expenditure, the actual expenditures from our school, and it is in your packet, is lower than all of the towns. We're not very throwing your money away. When you consider future votes, just consider where those moneys are coming from. The majority are in salaries and benefits those are the people. That's something we all need to consider.

Shawn O'Neil Danville- motions to overrule the moderator and not allow the Superintendent to speak on the surplus.

Motion result: PASSES with majority cards raised.

Sheila Lowes, 47 Hawkwood Road Sandown- states that we have been talking about only having 17 open positions right now. Am I correct on that? 17 open positions? Board responds yes. Sheila goes on that we eliminated 17.5 positions. Can I ask how that number went from $727,000, down to $600,000 on that 17.5 positions that were removed by the school board. I believe the initial number on the minutes is $727,000 but yet on the slide it shows $600,000. BA Mrs. Watkins states that the $600k on the slides is only the salaries and does not include benefits. Sheila states that her other question is it seems to me that in house, in house on this on this property, we have 17 open positions. However, we also have 54 contracted positions. That I don't consider those filled, they're still in the salary, they're still in the contract line, but they are, quote, unquote, not filled by Timberlane. So those are actually open positions that are sitting in the budget. Granted you're paying out for contracted services, but they're open positions. But what I don't understand, which I'm very confused about, is, if we need all these positions for contracted services, why aren't these 54 positions being advertised for? We're not even advertising for these people to come in. We're just contracting services. We're not even looking at this point for psychologists or anything else they're not listed in Applitrack. She's saying that there is a lot of money sitting in a lot of places. To say that we only have 17 open positions is a play on words.

Brian Boyle, 24 Winslow Drive Atkinson- wants to make it crystal clear to every employee in this room, there is not one position that will be eliminated on this proposal. Last year, last year, this district ran successfully, $75,400,000 and there was no conversation discussion about the eliminating positions and activities. So why in God's name, as we increase it from $75.4 up to $81.9 million would we be talking about people. Don't buy into the scare stuff. To my good friend, my good neighbor, Mr. Sherwood, you do a great job tying expenditures in, unfortunately, the budget is not tying into the expenditures. If the budget was tied to expenditures, it would mirror more like Mr. Mascola's motion on the floor. There's no way the math adds up, they would go from $74.0 up to almost $89 million it just doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense. So, I'm in support of this motion and want people to know that their jobs are safe.

Jim Stoney, 68 Forest Street Plaistow- state I love teachers, I want to see teachers get what do they deserve. But what about the administrators? My high school had 1000 students. We had one principal, one dean of students. That was it, and still today, it still has that like one principal, one dean of students, and 95% college acceptance. So why do we need so

many administrators in Timberlane. Give the teachers everything they need and the citizens, but we have too many admins here. That's it.

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main Street Plaistow- It's just peculiar the last amendment put forth and this amendment, first of all, I support this amendment. It's peculiar to me that, you know, right here are the two-operating budget, $88,568,076, recommended by school board 8-0-0, well, that's what we just did, six out of eight of you voted to reduce it by multiple million dollars. This is your budget you put forth and you're telling us then, that you know it's juiced. It's also telling me that there's many more millions that it can be reduces. I've been saying this for years, these ridiculous budget increases don't make sense in reality. And the fine group of the tax impact group has done tremendous amounts of research, and I applaud them. I'm glad to see that they've done their homework and are holding the district accountable and so I urge support for the $81.9 million reduced budget.

TRSB Jack Sapia- asks the superintendent or maybe Mark, what is the total sum of our contractual obligations?

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- I was one of those school board members who did vote for this and then voted for Mr. Sapia's reduction, and I did that over, quite honestly, I did that out of fear. I did it out of fear because I'm not quite certain where that's going to come from with the capital improvements we've made as MJ had mentioned, there could be some squeeze there. My fear is that we will gut this with the contractual obligations we do have, with the way that our district, our budget increase year over year, is less than the other than the towns that make up this district, and they're certainly not you know, they're running pretty lean as well. I don't know how that's sustainable. I do not know what the insurance rates will be in 2026 we're putting this budget together in 2024 trying to figure out what our expenses will be in 2026, that's tough. Try playing a trip for the family to Disney two years in advance when you don't know what transportation costs are going to be. You don't know what the Disney tickets are going to be. There are these unknowns. And unlike other businesses, we can't go in arrears. We cannot default, and just don't have enough money to pay for transportation or special education. So I think there's probably that 2 million there will there be sacrifices, absolutely, beyond that it's foolhearted.

TRSB Jack Sapia- I'm opposed to this, people say with great certainty oh, it won't affect a single teacher. This is the lowest amount that they could cut. I don't believe they could go much lower than that. I will tell you that things will be affected. And I will tell you right now that we level funded for years, felt good, everyone was happy. But in the interim by ignoring the work that we had to do and to the credit of Mr. Boyle, Ms. Farah, and Ms. Lowes they addressed it. Because in those 4-5 years of level funding the construction costs went up 40%, which means you guys are biting the bullet on the work that has to be done. The buildings have certain requirements that need to be met by state and federal law, air quality, temperature, water quality those are requirements, we don't have an option. Nor do I think we would want to be sub where we're supposed to be. So every year we put these things off, don't kid yourself, you're shooting yourself in the foot. And finally, we started going down the right road, we almost had this behind us. Let's not keep maiking the same mistakes over and over again. And I'm telling you it costs you tens of millions of dollars.

Michael Boucher, 19 N Broadway Atkinson- so we already had our first cut $86 million. And the general idea is that possibly, if we were cut anything its going to be work on buildings, facilities and whatnot. And clearly, that doesn't matter to some people and you know, that's fine. We can hold off for a year. But $81 million right now, I'm uncertain. No offense to anyone who's done the research online or whatever, but we have numbers right in front of us. I'm looking at this contractually required expenses fiscal year 2026 budget saying right here it's going to be $83 million so I don't know if somebody from the district administration can speak to that? I mean, are they right, or is this right? I'm trying to figure this out.

Business Administrator Maria Watkins- So as you all are aware, we do have contractual expenditures that we are obligated to pay for our students. The salaries and benefits are contractual because those salaries and benefits to all of our employees, those two together, are about $64 million, student transportation from our articles of agreement, we are required to transport all the students in our district, first to 12. We do have a contract with the transportation company, and this cost that is reflected in the budget for 2026 is the cost of the contract that we have for 2026. Professional services are most of that at $3.3 million are professional services required for special education students. Those are required services that we need to provide for those students. The tuition is for students is two parts for the tuition amount. One is for the special education students that get placed out of our district. Again, it's a requirement by law that we place those students in those places. The second portion

is the tuition for the students that go to CTE, which they attend, either in Pinkerton or Salem programs, we are required to pay for the tuition for those students who have those programs. Fund transfer is the required amounts that we need to carry in our budget for federal and food service expenses, that is required by law. Bond principal and interest is the $2 million that the voters voted for the lease payment back in 2023. Book and info resources those are the programs, either the books or the programs that we use for curriculum to teach our students, so required because we need them in order to teach the students. Utilities, energy, water and telecom are our utilities, which, without the utilities, we cannot keep our buildings open. And insurance is the property and liability insurance and the workers comp insurance for our district.

Michael Boucher, 19 N Broadway Atkinson- one more question. If we were to adopt Mr. Mascola's amendment would we run into trouble as a district? Mrs. Watkins states she doesn't know what is going to happen in a year and a half. All she knows is the projections and based on the expenditure rates that we have right now, so far this year we have spent $49 million dollars. Mr. Boucher asks about aside from other cuts that could be made what other recourse could the district take if we are short money. Distict Attorney O'Shaunnesey states that we would have to hold an emergency meeting to appropriate.

Shawn O'Neil Danville- we are on a $91 million budget and Mrs. Watkins just stated we're gonna end up with $81-82 million so it's like, what? $9-10 million more funds that we have. That's just what happened in the last five minutes. My whole point was on this stuff is it's easy to offer a reduction. It's easy to offer this olive branch of a cut when you asked for two years ago by the very some of the same, very people on the stage moderator that asked for well bover a 10% increase, and then they gave a large majority of it all back. They couldn't spend it fast enough to hide that's the sad part. And then you build on the next year's budget that was over inflated. And now this body is going to make some potential decisions on here that's going to be able to lower it back into where it should have been multiple years ago with gradual increases. I'm in support of this. And folks, I have been up on that stage. I was chair. I was a school board member for four years. There's enough money in here to run the district if they know how to run it properly.

Megan Ricketts, 2 Stewart Farm Road Atkinson- I'm speaking wildly under qualified, because I have like, $25 in the bank account. So, talking about millions of dollars, it feels slightly out of pocket here. However, I do have a child in special needs who goes to Atkinson Academy and receives services from the NECC group. And I will tell you the difference that it has made over the course of the two years of participating in this program. He is in the classroom. He is participating. He is safe to his self in his classroom. So, I have to step up to bat for him, because we should be talking about giving these people less we should be doing so much more for them, because they do so much for us. You know, we never know which students are going to connect with which teachers. So having more people on staff to give to students the ability to connect and feel safe and secure and supported. Again, very underqualified by all these numbers is like, you know, but again, we are in very uncertain times. The amount of change that's happened in this calendar year alone is very scary to many people in this population. So, in a time when there's so much drastic change and potential, you know, lack of federal funding in the future when we're talking about years to come, we have no idea what that's going to entail. To me being more prepared, preparing our schools, our buildings, our administrators with more resources in a time of uncertainty is the only smart choice.

Julie Labrecque, 174 Main Street Plaistow- I just want to make a comment that there's a lot of smart, educated people on our board standing before me, but look around you, there's four towns represented here of a lot of really freaking smart people who looked at the numbers, who looked at the budget. So, you can sit there and say, you've looked at the budget, this is our bottom. We have a lot of other really smart people who looked at the budget and they say no way. So, I support a lower budget. And if this does pass and you have trouble coming up with cuts not effecting staff, why don't you sit down and talk with us? Because we'll show you where the budget cuts can be made.

John Downing, Sandown- it's pretty clear to myself and many in this room that the legislative body here is in favor of this amendment. It is pretty clear that we could have gone quite lower. We chose not to, because we are going to fund the education of these children properly and promote a responsible budget. So therefore Mr Moderator, I'd like to call the question. Seconded by Michael Mascola.

Ryan Holder, 197 Long Pond Road Danville- I work in many other districts, most of them are unfortunately, much more fortunate than we are. Their teachers are paid more. Their buildings are nicer, and I feel bad I live in this district, and

I understand it hasn't been fair. Hasn't been fair. What's happened to so many of you to have a sudden increase. I think Mr. Sapia spoke to it pretty well, I think Several people up here have spoken to it pretty well. It's unfortunate that we made small, small, small, incremental increases, and then it all caught up to us at once, and we got hit hard. That stinks, but this is really tough. I haven't heard anyone actually say that we can do this without cutting teachers, teachers that are underpaid. I know some people mentioned about contracted services, a lot of times, and I can't speak for Timberlane, but a lot of districts contract services because the pay is so low that nobody will take the contracted rate. So, if they're contracted service they can get paid more, so that's why they do it. I just wanted to speak out against this, I'm sorry the budget is up so much. I know this is tough on everyone, but I think the kids deserve this.

Moderator Harb asked voters to raise their cards to vote:

Yes: 278
No: 174
Result: Amendment Passed

John Downing Sandown- motions to restrict Article 2 for reconsideration, Shiela Lowes Seconds.

Motion result: Passes with majority card vote.

ARTICLE 3 – Amendment to Articles of Agreement

Article 3 – Amendment to Articles of Agreement

To see if the school district will vote to amend the Articles of Agreement of the Timberlane Regional School District as follows:
3. Effective July 1,2027, the Timberlane Regional School District shall be responsible for the public education of pupils in ~~grades 1~~ Kindergarten through grade 1. Pupils in the pre-existing districts shall be assigned by the Regional Board to attend the elementary schools in the pre-existing districts in which they reside for no less than the first five years of formal schooling. Resident parents or guardians may voluntarily request that their elementary student(s) be assigned to another in-district public elementary school on an annual basis as long as seats are available and that no additional costs (transportation, etc.) be incurred by the School District. The Regional School Board may assign pupils to a school other than one in the pre-existing district in which they reside for the purpose of special education not available in the pre-existing district. Grades 6 through 12 may be maintained in central schools within the Cooperative District.
….
12. The Timberlane Regional School District shall provide transportation for all pupils ~~grades 1~~ in Kindergarten through grade 12, to the schools within the district, consistent with the provisions of RSA 189:8, except that until the Timberlane Regional Junior-Senior High School is operative, present regulations pertaining to high school transportation shall apply, and any costs to the Regional School District for this transportation shall be charged to the pre-existing district in which the students reside, who incur this expense. (TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)
Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 3 on the ballot as written; seconded by Shauna Manthorn.

TRSB Don Woodworth- Yeah, If you'll give me a couple of minutes of your attention, I'll try to get through what we have in the course of the last year that led to this warrant article. If passed, warrant Article Three will align the current Timberlane school districts kindergarten program with the district's articles of agreement and with the New Hampshire state requirements. It is no is a no cost warrant. There is no thing that's going to change in the design or the cost of kindergarten next year. It will allow the voters to decide in future years whether or not they would like the district to provide other options, such as a full day kindergarten program, which would have a cost and, you know, would change for if all those students now going half year, half day, the opportunity to go the same amount during the day as their peers. That's something we've talked about as

a board. We support it, but when we ran into some issues regarding the articles of agreement, we realized that we had put this on hold, and this is something that we decided later regarding change. But just to know that we are one of perhaps four districts in the state that are not currently using a full tuition free for kindergarten program, it puts us in we were the last we were the last. We were the last school to adopt kindergarten in New Hampshire, and we might end up there as far as the last one to go to full day kindergarten for all students and tuition free is something that I think would benefit quite a few people, not only in this room, but across the district. The current articles agreement commit the district to educate students in grades one through 12 with no mention of kindergarten. When the when the district mandate was mandated by the state to offer a minimum of half day kindergarten in 2007 Timberlane complied and began offering half day kindergarten. Some years after that, Timberlane also offered tuition based full day education for kindergarten students for a cost of $4,500. You're considering this warrant article because the district never updated the articles agreement to reflect the inclusion of kindergarten as it should have. It should have been for K 12 that we are responsible for us, but it's not just grade one through 12. Again, the articles agreement, as originally written and as it still reads, is out of sync with the state mandate that all New Hampshire School districts provide kindergarten. Making these changes will appropriately address the state mandate and must be made regardless of if and when we change to any other model. Over the past year, an ad hoc committee, the subcommittee of the school board, worked to determine the feasibility of and the district desire to move to tuition free, full day kindergarten for all students. The committee heard from parents and teachers who express regret that the that the school system, while benefiting students whose parents could best afford to pay tuition, was failing to meet the needs of many students who attend only half a day because of the cost. First grade teachers and parents are challenged, hard pressed, to close the gap for students who went to grade one under prepared ad hoc committees like us. Our ad hoc committee recommended that we make a change. The board supported that, but we decided that this is the first step was to do this alignment of our agreement with the state policy. We might have been voting for full day kindergarten, either as warrant or a part of the budget this year otherwise. The school board would have supported full day kindergarten because we feel it's the best preparation for first grade and would be good for all students. The district will ultimately decide what form kindergarten will take for future years after taxpayer consideration of the value and the cost, when and if, is presented as part of the operating budget or as part of a warrant article at some point down the road. For now, I urge you to support this warrant article, because it puts us in agreement and reflects present practice. I'd like before we open this up to questions, to ask Mr. O'Shaughnessy to share his opinion on whether the proposed edits to the Articles of Agreement will suffice for the district to be in compliance, and if any change needs to be made regarding the number of years, the Articles of Agreement requires the district to commit, commit to be changed into a number that includes kindergarten towards the six years, rather than five years of committing to support elementary education.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy- Um, first question is, yes, if, if the if the amendment is adopted, your Articles of Agreement will mandate that the district provides kindergarten free of cost in addition to the other grades. The other question, I think, had to do with the timing. Right now, it says 2027, that means you'll have two years to develop whatever budget there is, and that budget will, or cost will appear in the operating budget. I think those are the questions. Mark says the question was, would with the amendment to the articles agreement in order to reflect our current practices, as required by the state of New Hampshire to provide kindergarten, half day kindergarten. Is it adequate to have July 1 is the date? What are the implications of having that date to reflect our current compliance with the state mandate of offering half day kindergarten? Additionally, because it says for the first five years, should that change the first six years to reflect that we are actually providing kindergarten services as required by the state, we just want to be compliant. What's easiest way to do that? Mr O'Shaughnessy, I mean, I think the amendment is fine. I think you're in compliance now in the amendment, the amendment will make it crystal clear that you're in compliance in the future. So, I don't, I don't think there's a compliance issue if this amendment passes. I think the language about the first five years, actually, much of Article Three is just old language that is in the articles of agreement from when they were adopted.

Nola Whitman Danville, I wish I could steal some words, if you said that would make this much easier for me. After re watching the 30-minute segment of the January 16 budget public hearing and also reviewing the approximately one hour Articles of Agreement public hearing on January 27 I've come to two conclusions. One the main purpose of this warrant article to update the articles agreement so that it is in line with what the district is currently providing. Two, taxpayers want to be aware of the coct of implementing full time kindergarten moving forward. And as far as the second, I have several mentions from administration and elected representatives of submitting another warrant article next year, which will include any appropriations that may be needed. The current warrant article specifies that implementation would not begin until July 2027.

Nola Whitman proposed the following amendment:

MOTION: Nola Whitman (74 Hawke Lane Danville) motioned to amend Article 3. ~~Effective July 1, 2027~~, The Timberlane Regional School District shall be responsible for the public education of pupils in Kindergarten through grade 12 (add) **as mandated by the State of NH**. Pupils in the pre-existing districts shall be assigned by… **seconded by Shiela Lowes (47 Hawkwood Rd Sandown).**

VOTE BY CARD BALLOT: Yes 261 No 39 AMENDMENT PASSES

Shiela Lowes, Hawkwood Road Sandown- Okay, I want to talk to Attorney O'Shaughnessy. Here we go, Jim. I want to make this very, very clear, because this is what I said at the public hearing and I was told no. Once this goes into effect, before the motion, as it was written, these people were liable for full time kindergarten to be paid by the taxpayers.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy- Can I just rephrase? I'm gonna rephrase your question to make a little more sense. So are you saying, if this passes, is the district going to be responsible for fully funding, full day kindergarten? Yes.

Sheila Lowes, Sandown- Thank you. Now here's the second part of that. There will be no warrant articles put up? Attorney O'Shaughnessy, no it will go into the operating budget. It goes into the budget. Shelia Lowes, we don't have a say now, so let me answer that question. Attorney O'Shaughnessy, Can I explain why? Because I think it's important. Because if you, if you agree that you're going to provide full day kindergarten, right, you don't get to choose not to do it anymore, to pay for it. It's in the operating budget. So you wouldn't put a separate article asking appropriate that money, because you have to pay for it. Sheila Lowes, not only does the district automatically pay for it nut it gets thrown into the budget and we don't really know what that cost would be, no one has a good answer. We had a facility meeting on the 28th one of our schools, Sandown Central does not have a working kitchen meals come from Sandown North. It was discussed in the meeting to get pricing to redo the kitchen at central. For 65 full day kindergarten students. I estimate that will cost $1-2 million. The voters said no to redoing the kitchen years ago. So that is going to be an added cost to this.

Michael Boucher, Atkinson- asks the person who wrote the amendment to explain the changes.

Nola Whitman, Danville- the first change will make is effective immediately and the second will make it say as mandated by the State of NH. Right now the state mandates half day.

Kim Farah, 189 Beech Plain Rd Danville- I spoke at public hearing also, and I was surprised, Mr. Woodworth, when you just mentioned that there was no cost to this warrant article that was clearly articulated at the public hearing, that there would be both a loss in revenue and a cost to the district and by state accounting, one kindergarten student costs us about $18,000 so to say that we're going to be getting $4500 from the state certainly not going to cover the cost. And to also try to state that, well, we already have all these other students in here, so it's not $18,000 is also not a correct statement. So I just want somebody on the board to tell me what the cost of kindergarten is going to be. And I do want to caveat this. I'm not opposed to full time kindergarten. There are many benefits to full time kindergarten. I paid for full time kindergarten for my daughter for that reason, but to be fair to the voters, you need to understand and explain to them what the costs are going to be.
TRSB Chair Knutsen, if we did it next year it would cost us $300k. Kim Farah, let me just state for the record that at the public hearing we were told that it would be one more FTE, 1.5 FTE, and now it's going to cost $300k. There is no way that full time kindergarten is going to cost this district only $300k. I would dispute that whole heartedly.

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main St Plaistow- legal made a comment that we were currently in compliance with our articles of agreement. So are we currently in compliance without this amendment as written. Attorney O'Shaughnessy says that we are, the articles don't supersede state law. And the full day program is being paid for by the parents, so the board and district are able to provide it because district cost is neutral. Ryan Labrecque, so this is just another ruse by saying we are just trying to be in compliance, but we are already in compliance. This was brought up because this board already tried to put in full day kindergarten without the voters input and it was pointed out that they were unlawful in doing so. We are currently in compliance this is not needed. My other question is what is the current revenue brought in by the second half that the parents are paying for. Superintendent Krieger answers that last year it was about $700k in kindergarten tuition. Mr. Labrecque, so

if we are losing $700k by going to full day paying in full how is it only going to cost $300k. Superintendent Krieger, because we are going to be collecting addition adequacy revenue which would equate to about $400k. So the math $700k minus the $400k is $300k. Mr Labrecque asks what the current enrollment of half day Kindergarten is. Superintendent Krieger responds approx. 230 enrolled, 189 are full time. Mr. Labrecque, so your projections don't include the added cost of the additional 40 something student that are now going to be full time as well. Superintendent Krieger says that yes they do. Mr. Labrecque asks which amount he is referring to, is this the $4500 from the state?

Superintendent Krieger- refers to a slide presentation included in the presentation. Mr. Labrecque asks if this additional funding is in perpetuity. Superintendent Krieger responds that it is.

Holly Patterson, 24 Brady Circle Plaistow- Mr. Woodworth initially said that there would be zero cost to the taxpayers. And now we got a number of $300k. We have average that it costs about $18k to educate a kindergarten student. If you have 239 students enrolled today. That $4,300,000 it doesn't add up.

Marianne Springer, 160 Sandown Rd Danville- wants to go back to the amendement on the floor. By removing the date, this warrant article would come into effect for the next school year, and by adding as mandated by the State of NH it puts us clearly in compliance. While the change isn't necessary it does clarify things. Since the board put the effective date 2 years from now it gives us that time to plan and ask the voters about their true support for full day kindergarten. If this were to pass as written and parents have students that would be attending Kindergarten in the next 2 years I would expect that they would be up in arms with having to pay $4500 in tuition when a couple years later they would be absorbing the cost through their taxes. I believe that at the Public Hearing Dr. Martin said that the reason for the date was to give time to plan and implement and figure out costs. I believe that the amendment proposed for this article does exactly whats needed, brings us in line and delays cost implications and gives time for planning.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- so circling back to cost, there is an economy of scale. If you have a kindergarten class of 2 students as opposed to a class of 4 students with one teacher the costs do not double.

Michael Boucher, Atkinson, so I'm actually going to add to what Mr. Sherwood just said right now we have 2 kindergarten classes at each elementary except for TLC, with a max ratio of 20 student per classroom. From what I remember right now we are not maxing out those classrooms. We are not fully utilizing these classrooms. The cost for teachers and transportation costs, a lot of these costs are shared. So saying that it will cost $18k per student is inaccurate.

Lynn Jeffries, 12 Ridgefield Rd Plaistow- we do calculate cost per student. Elementary students are approx. $20k per student. If we talk about that adequacy, NH is notorious for starting funding and stopping it. So to count on the $400k year after year I think is unreasonable.

Kayla Galligher, 9 Stonewall Terrace Atkinson- you talked about how we needed this full day kindergarten to get kids ready for reading. Recently there was a study done by BC, a very good college, that when students start reading at 7 they have better outcomes. So why do we want to start at kindergarten? So as a college professor I have these high school students that come to me riddled with anxiety because of the pressure that we are putting on them. Let these kids be kids. Keep them home with the parents that love them the most.

Nolan Pelletier, 24 North Ave Plaistow- I am in favor of this amendment. Second of all I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules and limit comments to 2 minutes for the sake of time. Mr. Smith Atkinson seconds.

Motion result: Passes.

Megan Ricketts, Atkinson- as far as kindergarten goes, we aren't expecting them to do long division. It comes down to golden rules. Teaching them to share, be kind to their peers. Things that I think we can all agree that some of the people in this room would benefit from.

Lindsey Ryan Mills, Maple Avenue Atkinson- I am in favor of this amendment because I think it clarifies a few things. If we make this change and the language says this is immediate and also as state mandated, wouldn't we only be required to provide half day. If this is amended, aren't we only responsible for half day. Attorney O'Shaughnessy replies yes. To be clear I am in support of the article being amended so that it is clearly in compliance to what you are already doing.

Cassie Alder, 33 Sawmill Road Danville- I am a mom of 3. My first daughter went to half day kindergarten and she did wonderful. The next 2 children I'm not sure that they would do well only going to half day kindergarten and then going to first grade. The expectations that are on kindergarteners right now are huge and I agree they need to play and be home with their moms, but moms need to work so sometimes full day kindergarten is the only option. There are children that can't afford full day, and we are doing them an injustice.
Sheila Lowes, Sandown- calls the questions. Shawn O'Neil seconds.

Moderator Harb stopped the discussion and called for a vote on the amendment.

Results:
Yes: 261
No: 39
Results: Amendment Passes

Nolan Pelletier motions to restrict reconsideration. Jay DeRoche 20 Sunrise Terrace Plaistow seconds.

Motion result: Passes

ARTICLE 4 – Tax Cap on Operating Budget by Petition

Article 4 – 2.5% Tax Cap on Operating Budget by Petition
Shall the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) vote to establish a committee to study the feasibility and impact of RSA 32:5-b, and implementing a tax cap whereby the governing body and budget committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 2.5%. (THREE-FIFTHS MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 4 on the ballot as written; seconded by Don Woodworth

Shawn O'Neil, Danville- the ability to govern and use our tax dollars wisely. It has clearly been shown the last couple years that has not been the case. This is to put in a cicuit breaker so we don't experience a 10-15% increase which blew everyones budgets, local budgets as well. When everybody on the board said it was a bare bones budget. This is going to eliminate it. They can't come to this meeting with budgets more than a 2.5% increase. They can come here though and plead their case and show that the money is needed.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- I appreciate the nature in which this was proposed by Mr. O'Neil. I know that he has been involved in the school and community for many years. But I would humbly request that with the cuts that we have just seen with a cap of 2.5% is untenable. There has not been a town in this district in the last 5 years that has been able to limit their own spending to 2.5%.

Katharine Webster, 12 Jasmine Drive Atkinson- if this passes will the district be able to meet its contractual obligations and what happens if we cannot meet our obligations. Superintendent Krieger says that it would be a challenge to meet obligations with a 2.5% tax cap, if we are unable to meet those obligations we would have to hold a special meeting and go back to the taxpayers.

TRSD BudCom Liz Kosta- motions to make an amendment shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body and budget committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior fiscal years actual amount of local taxes raised by more than 5%. Advisory Only. Mark Sherwood 2nds.

MOTION: Liz Kosta motions to make an amendment shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body and budget committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior fiscal years actual amount of local taxes raised by more than 5%. Advisory Only. **seconded by Mark Sherwood**

VOTE BY CARD BALLOT: Yes 134 No 136 AMENDMENT FAILS

TRSD BudCom Liz Kosta- I think that 2.5% is tight. We have contracts coming up. We don't know what is going to happen in the state. 2.5% is cutting our nose to spite our face, we need to take care of our children in this district, we need to make sure that our buildings are maintained. Asking our teacher unions, our support staff to look at 2.5% over x amount or in a year. To me for what they do in the classroom is unconscionable. We need to be good faith and do whats right for our student in this district.

Jim Garrity, 14 East Road Atkinson- I'm asking if this by law? Can you make it advisory only. Attorney O'Shaughnessy says yes I think it's a lawful amendment, if this passes you won't have a tax cap.

Nolan Pelletier, 24 North Avenue Plaistow- this basically guts everything by making it advisory only. Makes it a poll, it means nothing, please vote this down.

Peter Terosian, 18 Pinehill Drive Atkinson- 2.5% tax cap by petition by putting advisory only this is not a tax cap so I hope we vote this down and 2.5%, have you heard of prop 2.5 in Massachusetts. They lived within that. I ask you to vote down the amendment.

Evan Karipis, 19 Little Mill Road Sandown- I'm a teacher out of district, I live in Sandown. We just went through negotiations regarding the 2%, we get a 2% raise over the 3-year contract, and it doesn't even show up in my paycheck after taxes. So if you expect to people to show up to work and get a 2% raise and educate your kids, and then on top of that you want to cut the budget really low, lower than they recommended. You're out of your mind. No one is going to go to work for less money in a building that is falling apart and then say you only get 2%. None of you would do that, no one.

Doug Galinas, 73 Back Road Danville- I have history working on 2 school committees. Massachusetts we had proposition 2.5% and year after year after year we never went over 2.5%, the school knew better. They stayed within their budget and when they had to go to the community for new school buildings they were rewarded new buildings and new additions if the people knew that they were spending their money wisely. So 2.5% is a great starting spot, they still have the opportunity to come here and sell it.

Louise Pajak, 17 Hawkewood Road Sandown- You can't compare MA to NH, MA has money from the state, we don't have any money.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- Just for something for everyone to think about as we are looking at this 2.5%. Currently 72% of our budget is tied up with salaries and benefits. So in order to give a 2.5% raise to our teachers, which is below inflation, they would be losing money every year they stayed in Timberlane. That would assume the health insurance increased by 0%, when is the last time that any of us has experienced an increase less that 10% year over year. So with this 2.5% cap, in order to pay for this health insurance and stay at that we would have to cut pay or cut teachers.

TRSD BudCom Karen White- I'd like to remind everyone in the room that we voted for contracts and raises that are stepped over the next few years. The 2.5% cap would eliminate those raises and we would have to go in to override next election. This is irresponsible.

Sheila Lowes, Sandown- Attorney O'Shaughnessy can you tell me what supersedes a union contract with a 2.5% tax cap. The contract has passed by warrant article, it's a done deal, correct? Attn O'Shaughnessy the cost increases in year 2 and 3 are part of the operating budget which would have to come under the cap. In part 2 with the new law all articles with a tax impact have to come under the cap, it is a cap on all of your spending. The SAU put out a page at the public hearing, before the 16%, the highest increase I believe was 2.9%, there were years that we were 0.7%. This can be done if you are doing it wisely, but this year alone you just got done saying we are going to have a $9 million surplus. This has been done in the past historically it shows it. Am I happy with it, I have mixed feelings on this one. But from your own numbers it's been done.

Michael Torres, 82 Providence Hill Road Atkinson- Just from seeing what this body did tonight, we changed the budget, we really don't need this cap because we have a right to do that. I applaud the committee because for the last 2 years you have massively underspent your budget. So, to cut the budget in the range of $6 million you've saved that much in the last 2 years. Whatever number we've budgeted, the committee has spent way under that number.

Shawn O'Neal, Danville- to address Mr. Sherwood's comments, there are provisions in here to override it. You dismissed those points that I talked about. You can come here to this meeting and ask the legislative body to override it, and if your argument is good enough, we'll support it. Ms Kosta, I would even consider you raising that to 5% but with you putting advisory only, you just sealed your fate.

Brian Stack, 20 Partridge Lane Plaistow- Are we aware of how many NH communities currently have a tax cap in place, ballpark. Attn O'Shaughnessy, I am personally aware of one traditional school district, there are a lot of cities. I've heard the number 4 and I've heard the number 8 thrown around. I think its less than 10. Mr. Stack, so cities and towns are different, MA very different, so I guess my wonder and I understand there's a motion on the table. I'm not necessarily disagreeing with the petitioner's logic to look at it, I don't know enough about it. And to your point there's not a lot of districts with one right now. I wish this community would look forward before doing something that could potentially cause harm and say maybe this is worth our time to look at for a year and get a committee together to study what this would mean so we get all of these pieces.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- so my hesitation with that is if we do do this we have established that we would not currently be able to fund our teachers and our paras salaries and benefits with that cap of 2.5%. So, I would not support a maneuver or mechanism that would require this body to gather again to do the right thing, which is to honor the contracts that have already been made. Additionally, if there's inclement weather and you have certain people that gather and don't want to hear an explanation of what the surplus is. I don't have the confidence, and I would not want to have to gamble on being able to convince a body of people to have to keep to the contracts that we have made with our teachers and our children, so for that reason I cannot support it.

Mark Pasquini, 91 Royal Range Road Sandown- so just a point of clarification, the tax cap for years 2 and 3 for all CBA's would have to be overridden to continue our contractual obligations for those CBA's if they went over the 2.5% tax cap when added into the operating budget. Attn O'Shaughnessy, so I feel like there's a little bit of a misunderstanding. It's really simple, you take all of the warrant articles that have a tax impact, add them all up, that's the amount that has to be under the 2.5%, it's not individual warrant articles, it's the total. So, if your contract increase is 3% you're going to have to absorb that somewhere else in your budget and find that money somewhere else. So, my second point is they've mentioned not much of an increase in budget for several years, the teachers directly saw that impact before last contract our teachers out of 18 districts we averaged 15, then we moved up to 13 this year and I'm not sure that that's accurate because I'm not sure we looked at what those 18 schools were making this year. So, we are still playing catchup with that, so if you put a 2.5% tax cap on that it will make it hard to retain teachers.

Michael Mascola, 63 Pollard Road Plaistow- I'm looking at some numbers from the SAU agenda December 26th, it basically shows what the voted budgets have been for the last 12 or 13 years and the column next to it has percent change

from year to year. I just did a quick average of the last 12 years and it's less than 3%. Explained to me that if truly the average increase over the last 12 years has been less than 3% how can this be so bad, why do we need 5%, 6%, 8% caps if we are only averaging that much. And don't forget, you can still come to this body and ask for more money.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- so 2 reasons, for the past 5, 6, 7 years or so we severely underfunded our capital. Hence the buildings falling apart, hence all the roofs, air conditioners, air handlers, the reasons that necessitated the lease. Additionally, we had a buck in some trends where our salaries and benefits went down because we lost so many teachers. Traditionally steps increase year after year, we actually lost so many salaries and had so many open positions. That's one of the ways we were able to do that, by losing senior teachers, by having open positions and filling some of those slots with less tenured teachers, which are quite honestly cheaper to pay for and hire. That's how we were able to buck that trend.

TRSB Jack Sapia- I guess I'm a little perplexed by this, I have a couple of things to say. First, look at what happened tonight, the system works, therein lies the cap. You guys are the legislative body, you have the final say, and you did tonight. Number 2, I think Mike brought up the $17 million surplus, it's been suggested by some folks in this room, that we rushed to spend that $17 million surplus. We didn't try to spend anything; we were actually rejecting proposals and requests.

Business Administrator Maria Watkins- I would like to bring to everybody's attention. I would like to not focus on the budgets but on the actuals. She goes over the actuals from each of the towns and the percent increase in actuals from the DRA. The Timberlane districts actual percent increase in expenditures over the last 5 years is 6% while the towns are 40%, 38%, 43%, and 11%.

Jen Gussler, 3 Sunrise Terrace Plaistow- I am not in favor of this cap. Last year as a parent I watched my daughter struggle because she didn't have a teacher because we did not pay our teacher livable wages, so she had substitutes all year. Substitutes that weren't curriculum planning, that were just passing out worksheets. So, if we keep with this tax cap, we are going to get more of that for our kids. I understand that budgets are a big thing, but it matters to the parents the most. This is a big deal, we need teachers and reducing their pay with a tax cap, we are going to lose that.

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main St Plaistow- I'd just like to say that the elephant in the room has nothing, I fully support teachers, I think they should be paid a great wage, nothing to do with that. The elephant in the room is that we are bloated with non-teaching administrative, as in people running the schools, not teaching the kids. So, lets reduce those positions and pay the teachers appropriately.

Nola Whitman, Danville- I want to really address the cap, I don't know where I stand on it because the proposed budget did get cut quite a bit. So, I'm having a problem with the 2.5% cap. I think the issue for me is not the teachers' salaries or contracts, we need to do more for them, I don't see that happening that much. But what I have noticed the last few years is that there are no warrant articles, we aren't asked do you want to spend money on new tennis courts, do you want to spend the extra money. We used to see more warrant articles than we did in the past because now it's part of the proposed budget and I think that's why the idea for the 2.5% cap came in, was to try to get us to have a voice in what we want. I don't think anyone is looking to cut salaries for staff, I think it's more controlling some of the extras. There's a lot of extras that I see that I think should be coming before the voters.

Shawn O'Neil, Danville- one of the benefits that this warrant article will do as written, not the amendment, will allow you to address all the problems you have already talked about. We have to take on the fight, why don't you guys take on the fight and sell it to us here on that night.

Jim Garrity, 14 East Rd Atkinson calls the question.

Moderator Harb calls for a vote on the amendment:

Yes: 134
No: 136

MOTION FAILS

MOTION: TRSB Mark Sherwood motions to make an amendment shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body and budget committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior fiscal years actual amount of local taxes raised by more than 8%. **seconded by TRSB Jack Sapia**

VOTE BY CARD BALLOT: Yes 132 No 140 AMENDMENT FAILS

Moderator Harb calls for a vote on the amendment:

Yes: 132
No: 140

MOTION FAILS

MOTION: Brian Stack Plaistow motions to make an amendment shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to establish a committee to study the feasibility and impact of RSA 32:5-b and implementing a tax cap whereby the governing body and budget committee shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior fiscal years actual amount of local taxes raised by more than 2.5%. **seconded by TRSB Jack Sapia**

VOTE BY CARD BALLOT: Yes 132 No 140 AMENDMENT FAILS

Moderator Harb calls for a vote on the amendment:

Yes: 149
No: 124

MOTION PASSES

MOTION: Shiela Lowes made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 4, seconded by Brian Stack.
MOTION PASSES

Motion passed by: show of cards vote

Scott Wallace, Wymans Landing Danville- On this warrant article , we have no idea who is going to be serving on this, when they are going to meet. We want to see some volunteers. Attn O'Shaughnessy replies that the board will establish the committee.

ARTICLE 5 – Lease Purchase Agreement by Petition

Article 5 – Lease Purchase Agreement by Petition
Shall the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) vote to rescind and terminate the March 14, 2023 adoption of Article-3 Lease Purchase Agreement of $25,243,000 as authorized by TRSD. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

MOTION: Katie Knutsen made a motion to place Article 5 on the ballot as written, seconded by Shauna Manthorn.

Sheila Lowes Sandown, motions to make this article advisory only. Seconded by Vale Freeman

Vale Freeman, 76 Highland Danville- I mentioned during a previous meeting that the article was written when I was still learning about the policies and procedures of the district being new to the area. The wording doesn't quite get across my intent, accordingly I wrote and submitted a subsequent article which is article 6 and which expresses my intent more clearly.

MOTION: Shiela Lowes made a motion to amend Article 5 to be Advisory Only seconded by Vale Freeman.
MOTION PASSES

Motion passed by: show of cards vote

ARTICLE 6 – Lease Purchase Agreement by Petition

Article 6 – Lease Purchase Agreement by Petition
Shall the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) vote to raise and appropriate $2,061,000.00 as voted on March 14, 2023 in Article-3 until all prior lease expenditure amounts, including principal, interest, and prepayment penalties, are paid in full, and furthermore, vote to no longer appropriate for any future phasing as relates to the March 14, 2023 adoption of Article-3 Lease Purchase Agreement of $25,234,000.000. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 6 on the ballot as written; seconded by Brie Woodworth.

Vale Freeman, 76 Highland Danville- so this lease purchase agreement amazes me. It amazes me that it passed without the taxpayers knowing 2 vital pieces of information, the interest rate and whether or not there would be a prepayment penalty. In fact, the research I did showed that the warrant failed in Sandown, passed by 3 votes in Plaistow, passed by only 20 in Danville, but passed in Atkinson. So someone rallied the troops in Atkinson. However, my research also indicates that ¾ of the towns had less than 20% voter turnout. It amazes me that this would pass with the administration indicating that the warrant article needed to be passed before they could shop the lease and therefore didn't have terms to present to the taxpayers. In fact when questioned about a prepayment penalty at deliberative prior to voting the information I found was that the taxpayer was told that there would be no prepayment penalty. When a member of administration was asked at a joint public meeting in the fall about the administration of the lease product a course which is required by the lease documents the answer was along the line of, this was done in college. In fact, in the purchase orders obtained from a right to know indicate that several payments were made out to Municipal Leasing Consultants for phase 2 of the lease. This amount is approximately $23k. Well over the $5k that the school board voted to use to have the same company shop the lease. It appears that this company is still being used to administer the lease. The same administration member, when reporting to the school board after the RFP went out was surprised that the only 2 respondents came back with products that included prepayment penalties. TD Bank, the bank that the district uses didn't even want to touch this.

Sean O'Neil, Danville- we had two warrant articles here on this topic, since both were done by the same petitioner, could the previous one have been modified to this exact verbiage at this meeting. Attn. O'Shaughnessy replies yes. Sean, then why was the administration telling the petitioner about all the complexities and the problems with it and that she had to submit another one. It creates 2 warrant articles talking about the same thing. Voters are going to go into the booth and see one article that's advisory only that kind of talks about this and then this one that's the real one. Creates confusion and I believe that that was done on purpose.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy- I just want to present a little legal guidance on this article. As written, if this passes what I believe DRA would do is that they would appropriate $2,061,000 for the next fiscal year. This is asking to appropriate that money. It seems preposition in there until all prior lease expenditure amounts. That's not how it works this is an appropriation warrant article, if that's what you want to do go ahead and do it, but that's the effect of this. The other part of this where it says and furthermore vote to no longer appropriate for any future phasing. I think the goal here is to direct the board to not enter into any more phases, if that's the goal it needs to be more clear, this is not clear enough to have that effect. Someone needs to come up with ways to amend it, I raised these concerns at the public hearing.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood spoke to why it is important to pass this warrant article. TRSD teachers are paid less than other school systems and the district is unable to hire and retain good teachers because of it.

Brian Boyle, 24 Winslow Drive Atkinson- I'm kind of confused at this article in general. Being on the board that actually pushed this. I am dead set against cutting any money, there's about $12 million left and there's a lot of work to be done around here. I have no idea why we would be debating over an interest rate. There was no big debate about the interest rate 2 years ago. EEI has been taking a bashing, but they've done a pretty good job in the district as far as I'm concerned. They're a pretty good outfit and they've done a pretty good job for Timberlane. I just want to speak against this article, this makes no sense you're halfway through the projects. You clearly don't even have enough money to finish what you're trying to do.

Business Administrator Maria Watkins- I just want to address a couple of things. First one, this is a lease purchase agreement that was supposed to be cut in phases. So, the reason why an interest rate was not shown in the warrant article is because we didn't know when the phases were going to happen and what the interest rate would be for those phases. So, I'm not sure I understand the question. The other thing is the $2 million dollars was calculated on a 5%, 20-year lease and that was presented with the warrant article. Also, this is a warrant article that is going to add $2 million to the budget.

Sheila Lowes, Sandown- Ok Jim, you were the one that told me this, that there was no money in the first one because it wasn't appropriated. We didn't want to not pay the debt. The biggest issue is that I don't have any confidence that you have somebody on this thing that can actually figure out what the priorities are. You've gotten rid of the construction committee which were the people who actually started this whole thing and prioritized it. And now it seems like we are going through lists and pulling things. So this is where this came about. As far as the $2,061,000, that's the payment. That's how that worked out. I'm trying to figure out, Jim this is what you told us we needed to add to the first one.

Attorney O'Shaughnessy- I can't come up with your wording, what do you want to do. There are a lot of really smart people in this room, how do you want to amend this. Propose an amendment and I can tell you if it will do what I think you are trying to. I honestly don't really know what you are trying to accomplish with this, propose language and I'll tell you whether its going to work or not.

John Downing, Sandown- Mr. Moderator it says as voted on March 14, 2023, it does not say add or raise. The original lease agreement called for $2,061,000 to be raised and appropriated each year for 20 years. We now know the first phase was made in a payment of $222,000, we now know that there is $786,000 that will be paid on phase 2. Both of these phases come nowhere close to the $2,061,000. It was stated in a school board meeting by the superintendent that the school board would have to decide how to appropriate the unexpended money. This money was raised strictly to pay the lease, there should be no question as to where the money goes. I think we can all agree, this was flawed. There were many problems with this lease agreement. That's why it needs to be stopped.

Bob Kincaid, 76 Old County Road Plaistow- makes a motion to make advisory only and call the question. Jim Garrity Atkinson seconds. Mr. Moderator, as I have said if there is someone else at the mic, I will allow them to speak and then you may make your motion.

MOTION: **Bob Kincaid made a motion to amend Article 6 to be Advisory Only seconded by Jim Garrity, Atkinson.** **MOTION PASSES**
Voted by card ballot: Yes: 112 No: 72

TRSB Jack Sapia-, I want to piggyback on what Mr. Boyle said. At the end of the day we still have a laundry list of critical things that need to be done. I think that there are things absolutely need to be done. Look at inflation, we are paying 40% more. If you stop the lease you'll end up having to pay more. We'll be making the same mistake over and over. EEI has done a good job on the roofing and HVAC units. The high school roof leaks and that needs to be done, or else it's just going to cost us a lot of money in the future. You're only paying on what you borrow, so it gives us options.

Moderator Harb calls to vote on the amendment.

Yes: 112
No: 72

MOTION PASSES

Marianne Springer, Danville makes a motion to make an amendment

~~**MOTION: Marianne Springer Danville,** motions to make an amendment shall the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) vote to stop appropriations that were authorized on March 14, 2023 in Article 3 Lease Purchase Agreement as soon as currently contracted lease obligation have been paid in full. **seconded by Carston Springer Danville**~~

Marianne Springer, Danville withdraws her amendment, Mr. Springer withdraws his second.

MOTION: Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, motions to make an amendment shall the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) vote to no longer appropriate for any future phasing expenditures as relates to the March 14, 2023 adoption of Article 3 Lease Purchase Agreement of $25,234,000.00 **seconded by Shawn O'Neil Danville**

VOTE BY CARD BALLOT: Yes 132 No 140 AMENDMENT FAILS

MOTION PASSES by card vote

ARTICLE 7 – Fund Balance by Petition

Article 7 – Fund Balance Retention by Petition
Shall the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD) vote to rescind the March 14, 2023 adoption of Article-15 Fund Balance Retention of 5% as authorized by TRSD. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 7 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Mark Sherwood.

John Downing, Sandown- we just don't trust our money in the hands of the board.

BA Maria Watkins- wants to mention that any amount that is retained that is not used goes back to the tax payers the following year.

John Downing, Sandown- Year 2022-2023, $5 million was retained and encumbered. Last year the $16 million surplus, $3.5 million was trying to be retained until it was realized that it couldn't be. We had to fight to get that money back.

Carston Springer, Sandown Road Danville- motions to move the question.

Seeing no one else at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 7 would appear on the ballot as written**.

Shawn O'Neil, Danville motion to restrict Article 7 for reconsideration. **Nolan Pelletier Plaistow** seconds the motion.

MOTION PASSES by card vote

ARTICLE 8 – 3 Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (Timberlane Custodians' Union

Article 8 – 3 Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (Timberlane Custodians' Union)
Shall the voters of the School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Timberlane Custodians' Union and the Timberlane Regional School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Estimated Increase	$138,189	$69,332	$71,168
3-Year Total			**$278,689**

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of $138,189 for the 2025-26 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0

Estimated Education Tax Impact will be an INCREASE as follows:

Atkinson: $0.019 Danville: $0.042 Plaistow: $0.030 Sandown: $0.035 per $1,000

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 8 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Mark Sherwood.

TRSB Mark Sherwood this was an agreement that was made after much negotiation with the bargaining unit. They did give up some of their historic benefits in order to get this deal across. Our wages are not as competitive as those around us.

Seeing no one else at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 8 would appear on the ballot as written**.

ARTICLE 9 – Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items

Article 9 – Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items

Shall the voters of the School District, if Article 8 is defeated, authorize the Timberlane Regional School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 8 cost items only? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 9 on the ballot as written; seconded by Shauna Manthorn.

Seeing no one at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 9 would appear on the ballot as written**.

ARTICLE 10 – 3 Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (Timberlane Cafeteria Workers' Union)

Article 10 – 3 Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (Timberlane Cafeteria Workers' Union)

Shall the voters of the School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Timberlane Cafeteria Workers' Union and the Timberlane Regional School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Estimated Increase	$4,798	$5,805	$6,419
3-Year Total			**$17,022**

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,798 for the 2025-26 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0

Estimated Education Tax Impact will be an INCREASE as follows:

Atkinson: $0.0007 Danville: $0.0014 Plaistow: $0.0011 Sandown: $0.0012 per $1,000

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 10 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Mark Sherwood.

TRSB Vice Chair Mark Sherwood- this is a very small union of only 4 people that have been with us for decades. This is a union that isn't adding any more members but we wanted to keep them in step with those contracted workers.

Seeing no one else at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 10 would appear on the ballot as written**.

ARTICLE 11 – Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items

Article 11 – Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items
Shall the voters of the School District, if Article 10 is defeated, authorize the Timberlane Regional School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 10 cost items only? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)
Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 8 on the ballot as written; seconded by Shauna Manthorn.

Seeing no one at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 11 would appear on the ballot as written**.

ARTICLE 12 – General Acceptance of Reports

Article 12 – General Acceptance of Reports
Shall the voters of the School District accept reports of agents, auditors, and committees as written in the 2024 Annual Report? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)
Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 12 on the ballot as written; seconded by Shauna Manthorn.

Seeing no one at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 12 would appear on the ballot as written**.

ARTICLE 13 – Capital Reserve Fund by Surplus

Article 13 – Capital Reserve Fund by Surplus
Shall the voters of the School District raise and appropriate up to $250,000 to be placed in the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund established in 1996, with such amount to be transferred from those funds in the June 30, 2025 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year which were apportioned as Capital Expenses in 2024-2025 in accordance with Article 6 of the Timberlane Regional School District Articles of Agreement? No amount to be raised by additional taxation. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)
Recommended by the School Board 8-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 13 on the ballot as written; seconded by Shauna Manthorn.

Seeing no one else at the microphones**, Moderator Harb stated that Article 13 would appear on the ballot as written**.

Moderator Harb reminded everyone to vote on March 12 and declared this deliberative session adjourned.

The 2025 Deliberative Session of the Timberlane Regional School District concluded at 11:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenfield

Heather Greenfield
Timberlane Regional District Clerk

CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
URR6K-BTHC2-VYCIS-KXHEW

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
17 MAR 2025 19:09:30 UTC

SIGNER	TIMESTAMP	SIGNATURE
HEATHER GREENFIELD EMAIL HEATHER.GREENFIELD@TIMBERLANE.NET	SENT 17 MAR 2025 18:53:33 UTC VIEWED 17 MAR 2025 19:09:06 UTC SIGNED 17 MAR 2025 19:09:30 UTC	Heather Greenfield IP ADDRESS 50.237.135.14 LOCATION ATKINSON, UNITED STATES

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
17 MAR 2025 19:09:06 UTC