TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Public Hearing
January 11th 2024
7:00 PM

Sue Sherman, Chair
Michael Mascola, Vice Chair

Call to Order
7:05 PM

Roll Call taken by Heather Greenfield
Present: Sue Sherman, Michael Mascola, Karen White, Sabrina Alberg, Sierra Dolce, Liz Kosta, Julie Hammond, Kathryn Consalvo, Kristi Auclair

School Board Present: Katie Knutsen (7:26pm), Paul LeCain, Shauna Manthorn, Kim McCormick, Jack Sapia, Kristin Savage, Mark Sherwood, Brie Woodworth, Don Woodworth

Administrators Present: Maria Watkins Business Administrator/CFO, Justin Krieger Interim Superintendent, Lisa Oliver Assistant Business Administrator

Also Present: James O'Shaughnessy, District Attorney

Michael Mascola - Lead the Pledge of Allegiance

New Business –

Sue Sherman reviews slides addressing mission statement, budget committee members, school board members, and agenda items.

Public Comment on Proposed Budget

Brian Boyle, town of Atkinson, asks if all the districts contracts and obligations are included in this operating budget.

Maria responds that they are included to the extent of the projections for FY25. Proposed budget is a projection not a formula.

Draft

Sheila Lowes, town of Sandown, asks if any new positions were added to this operating budget.

Maria states that there was an amount allocated toward new positions.

Sue clarifies that the Budget Committee doesn't decide which positions just the dollar amount.

Kim Farah, town of Danville, asks how many positions did the school board vote to add to the proposed budget for next year.

Maria states that they haven't voted to add any positions, just added funds to the salary lines for the proposed budget. The positions they are funding haven't yet been identified.

Jack Sapia makes a point that the school board can't add positions if they aren't yet funded.

Sue clarifies that we based this budget on what was presented to the budget committee.

Sheila Lowes is asking what these positions are going to be.

Justin answers that the positions presented were security, social workers, ESOL, etc.

Shiela Lowes, Sandown, asks where would these security positions land as far as unions, salary, etc.? There is discussion about the other proposed positions.

Justin answers that the security positions will be non-affiliated.

Justin and Sheila Lowes, Sandown, discuss classroom sizes and room availability at the elementary schools to accommodate more classes. Sandy clarifies the new classroom sizes and the each elementary schools ability to be able equitably absorb the new classroom sizes.

Brian Boyle, Atkinson, states that he thinks based on last meeting that there are certain specialist positions that the district is having a hard time filling and are currently subcontracting those positions and wants to make sure they aren't being double budgeted.

Kim Farah, Danville, questions the $227,000 in the proposed budget for the teachers retirement incentive. Asks if the amount is included in the cost for the new teachers bargaining agreement.

Draft

Maria states that this is not in the warrant article for the bargaining agreement, it was an existing benefit that was not negotiated in the new agreement and the districts legal counsel advised the district to put it in the proposed budget.

James O'Shaughnessy states that his understanding was that the retirement incentive was an uncapped benefit, previously treated as an unfunded liability. Not a line item in the budget. This round of negotiations the amount is capped and is an anticipated cost.

Jim and Kim Farah, Danville, discuss the bargaining agreements and proposed budget and where this benefit has been funded from in past practice.

Sheila Lowes, Sandown, is wondering what the law is that came about that we needed to put $500k back into the budget.

Maria states that the new law states that the state of NH is supposed to take effect July 1, 2023 and has not been funded as of yet. Discussion regarding the special education budget line.

Public comment on Default Budget

Brian Boyle, Atkinson, discusses one time expenditures and appropriations. Mentions difference in the contractual arrangements.

Kim Farah, Danville, would like to know if the $3.6 million will cover private tuition for next year. Questions why line 1200.564 differ between default and proposed.

Maria answers the default is prior year plus or minus contractual expenses.

Sheila Lowes, Sandown, asks why tuition private is so much higher in the default. Discusses budget lines and capital improvement line.

Kim Farah, Danville, discusses that this is not how it has been calculated previously. Discusses default and proposed budgets.

Brian Boyle asks about the track and if the money for it was in the budget.

Maria states the voters approved $1.8 million for Capital Improvements of the district. Projects change each year, projects are recommended each year and allocated.

Jack states the capital line is a pool of money. Used to fix things that are broken.

Draft

Jim goes back to definition of default budget. Reduced by one time expenditures budgeted for. That line is budget for capital improvements, always likely to occur.

Sheila Lowes, Sandown, sat line by line doing default budgets. What do you consider contractual obligation and when does the default actually get reduced.

Jim O states that this line is referring to legal obligations.

Paul states that over the last 14 years there have been 7 years where the default is higher then the proposed and 7 years where the default was lower than the proposed.

Public Comment on Revenue Budget

Kim Farah, Danville, 3111- what drives this line?

Maria responds that this is the adequacy aid.

Public Comment on Article 3 & 4

Sheila Lowes, Sandown, in the bargaining agreement it allows 7 teachers per year to retire under incentive. The agreement states that there could be others to retire under the incentive per superintendent approval, if there are more added to retire will that line cover those additional retirement incentives.

Maria states the budget was based on the seven highest retirement incentives.

Kim Farah, Danville, why didn't the board standardize the language used in previous CBA's regarding the retirement incentive.

Kim Farah, Danville, discussed the prep times at each level and why they differ.

Justin states that there is a committee being formed to look into the prep times for each level.

Public Comment on Article 5

No discussion

Public Comment on Article 6

No discussion

Draft

Public Comment on Article 7

No discussion

Public Comment on Article 8 & 9

No discussion

Public Comment on Article 10

No discussion

Other Business: None

Adjournment:
Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM by Sue Sherman

Minutes submitted by: Heather Greenfield

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