



TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

November 21, 2023

7:00 PM

Sue Sherman, Chair

Michael Mascola, Vice Chair

Call to Order

7:04 PM

Roll Call taken by Kerrie Ward

Present: Sue Sherman, Michael Mascola, Sabrina Alberg, Sierra Dolce, Liz Kosta, Kathryn Consalvo, Julie Hammond (7:09pm)

Not in Attendance: Karen White, Kristi Auclair, Mark Sherwood

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

Sue Sherman - Lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Sierra Dolce motions to approves the minutes from November 09, 2023.

Michael Mascola seconds the motion.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 09, 2023

5-0-1

In Favor: Sue Sherman, Michael Mascola, Sabrina Alberg, Sierra Dolce, Liz Kosta,

Abstained: Kathryn Consalvo



Correspondence – None

Delegates and Individuals – None

Budget Recap November 9th, 2023 –

Sierra Dolce initiates a discussion on where the committee should focus on placing the district funds this season.

Michael Mascola adds he hopes the administration team would have a preliminary focus on what is going into the budgets and presented to the budget committee.

Sue Sherman reminds the committee that they can ask the administration team to relook at the budget if cuts need to be made.

Administrative Report – Justin Krieger

Justin Krieger presents to the committee about the presentation at the board meeting regarding elementary phonics and suggests reviewing the segment from the school board meeting if they'd like to see what that looks like application wise in the classroom.

Justin adds that we have reached a tentative agreement with the TTA for a new three year agreement.

Maria Watkins discusses that the NH Superior court ruled that the current school funding amount for base adequacy aid is unconstitutional. The base of adequacy increase that they are proposing would be about an extra \$10 million for the district.

Michael Mascola asks a clarifying question regarding how the taxes are collected and distributed now vs. how the model they are proposing would work.

Maria answers stating that right now the SWEPT tax is collected through the towns and then distributed to the school. Currently, larger towns with a larger tax base that have excess tax funds at the end of the year are allowed to keep it and carry it over into the new year. The current proposal would make those towns give the excess money back to the state to be redistributed.



Reports of Committees –

Liz Kosta reports back from strategic planning stating that they voted on leadership and had a nice discussion about what they'd like to put forth to the school board and budget committee.

New Business – Budget Presentations

Special Education – Kelley Brooks

Kelley Brooks presents a FY2025 budget of \$8,082,216.40 with a variance of \$924,197.36 from FY2024. Kelley reviews her budget drivers, the largest being contracted services. The special education department is struggling to acquire and retain special education staff.

Michael Mascola questions how far off our salary schedules are compared to MA rates.

Kelley responds that a current OT is making probably \$85k in Mass and we have one that's at \$47k.

Sue clarifies that these specialists all fall under the Teacher contract.

Sierra Dolce asks a clarifying question on how the adequacy aid change would affect the budget in regards to the budget presentations they're seeing this season.

Kelley Brooks presents three (3) position request forms to the committee. SLPA, COTA & Medicaid.

Michael Mascola asks a clarifying question on the contracted increases.

Michael Mascola questions about what percent of our student population has an IEP.

Kelley responds that approximately 25% of the students are identified with an IEP.

Sue Sherman requests a motion to approve the Special Education budget for review.

Michael Mascola makes a motion to approve the Special Education budget for review.

Sabrina Alberg seconds the motion.

Motion to accept the Special Education budget for review.

7-0-0

In Favor: Sue Sherman, Michael Mascola, Sabrina Alberg, Sierra Dolce, Liz Kosta, Kathryn Consalvo, Julie Hammond



Facilities – Karl Ingoldsby

Karl Ingoldsby presents a FY2025 budget of \$5,052,490 with a variance of (\$1,434) from FY2024. Karl presents a major budget driver being a decrease in electric and fuel rates with a budget decrease of (\$145,000).

Michael Mascola asks a clarifying question on how the district stands with boiler maintenance.

Karl responds that all schools have fairly new boilers or ones that are in really good shape with the exception of Sandown Central whose are really old.

Michael Mascola asks about why we are converting the oil boilers to propane.

Karl responds that it is a more cost effective and cleaner burning fuel.

Michael Mascola asks a clarifying question on the two (2) new maintenance positions.

Karl responds that the positions were added last year.

Sue Sherman requests a motion to approve the Facilities budget for review.

Kathryn Consalvo makes a motion to approve the Facilities budget for review.

Liz Kosta seconds the motion.

Motion to accept the Facilities budget for review.

7-0-0

In Favor: Sue Sherman, Michael Mascola, Sabrina Alberg, Sierra Dolce, Liz Kosta, Kathryn Consalvo, Julie Hammond

Maria Watkins initiates a discussion on the proposed budget. The proposed budget is up 3.6% from the current FY2024 budget and includes all the requests that were made by the administrators for this budget season. Approximately 70% of the budget is Personnel costs.



Sue Sherman states that the Budget Committee is meeting with the School Board December 14th to discuss any other warrant articles.

Liz Kosta asks everyone to be mindful of where our tax payers are economically and look at the true wants vs. the true needs.

Michael Mascola agrees with Liz and suggests to give a larger spread and suggests making cuts to bring the proposed budget down.

Michael Mascola calls for the committee to give a direction for the budget to the administration for next meeting.

Julie Hammond asks a clarifying question regarding the \$25 million lease.

Sue Sherman motioned to direct the superintendent and business administration office to relook at the total budget and come back next meeting with some significant changes.

Michael Mascola seconded for discussion.

Julie initiates a discussion on making an amendment to give a percentage to shoot for.

Michael Mascola amends the motion to give the direction to the administration to go after 5% in cuts/savings put into a prioritized list.

Julie seconds the amendment.

Motion to accept Michael Mascola's amendment:

2-4-1

In Favor: Michael Mascola, Julie Hammond

Opposed: Liz Costa, Kathryn Consalvo, Sue Sherman, Sabrina Alberg

Abstained: Sierra Dolce



Liz motions to amend the motion to \$2.5 mil. in cuts/savings in a prioritized list for the next meeting.

Michael seconds the motion.

Motion to accept Liz Costa's amendment:

6-1-0

In Favor: Michael Mascola, Julie Hammond, Liz Costa, Kathryn Consalvo, Sue Sherman, Sierra Dolce

Opposed: Sabrina Alberg

Other Business: None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM by Sue Sherman

Minutes submitted by: Heather Greenfield

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