

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown, New Hampshire
Minutes of the Deliberative Session
2024 Deliberative Session, held at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH,
February 8, 2024

District Moderator Robert Harb called the February 8th Deliberative Session to order at 7:04PM. The Moderator led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a performance of the Timberlane Regional High School Chamber Choir under the direction of Robert Finch.

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

Budget Committee Members in attendance: Sabrina Alberg, Kristi Auclair, Kathryn Consalvo, Julie Hammond, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola (vice chair), Susan Sherman (Chair) and Karen White.

Also seated with the Board and Committee: Interim Superintendent of Schools Justin Krieger, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Sandra Allaire, Business Administrator Maria Watkins and District Legal counsel Attorney James O'Shaughnessy.

MOTION: Chair Knutsen made a motion, seconded by Kristin Savage to allow the following non-residents to speak during the meeting: District Legal Counsel Attorney James O'Shaughnessy, Louis Broad (TTA President), Ryan Richman (TTA spokesperson), Justin Krieger (Interim Superintendent), Karl Ingoldsby (Director of Plant Operations). **PASSED** by card vote.

Moderator Harb read the Mission statement off 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 8th day of February 2024, at 7:00PM. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles number 2 through number 10. 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 10 will be conducted by official ballot to be held in conjunction with town meeting voting to be held on Tuesday, the 12th day of March 2024, 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:

Atkinson Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Atkinson 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 **\$89,120,265**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$89,585,373**, 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 9-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-2-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 2 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Kristin Savage.

TRBC Sue Sherman: Thanked the budget committee for their hard work this year. She explained the process by which the budget was reviewed by the budget committee including their request that the administration go back and reduce the proposed budget by two million dollars. She explained the drivers of the increased budget figures. These figures were all included on the slide show and handout that was given to the public.

Interim Superintendent Krieger discussed the cost per pupil, historical enrollment, current enrollment, and projected enrollment. He discussed staffing levels, stating that twenty positions have been eliminated since 2018. He also went over the 2023 tax impact per town and reviewed the 2024 tax impacts per town. Again, all of this information was in the handout that was provided to the public.

Moderator Harb and 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.

Karen Steele, 4 Pebble Brook Road, Atkinson, asked that the Board explain why the default budget is higher than the proposed budget.

Business Administrator (BA) Maria Watkins explained that the default budget is derived by a formula directed by the State. She stated that its really the prior year's voted budget, plus or minus any contractual agreements and minus any one-time expenditures.

Chris True, 4 Hunt Pond Rd., of Sandown commented that the voters are left with no choice when the default is higher than the proposed budget. He also took issue with the 2.7% increase shown in the handout was disingenuous because it should be based on the proposed budget from each year. He stated that using last year's budget, inclusive of the other warrant articles that passed, is like comparing apples to oranges. He said its really a 7% increase.

TRSB Mark Sherwood stated that the made substantial cuts this year and the default is higher than the proposed because of it. He also stated that this happens about 50% of the time and is not unusual.

Nola Whitman, 47 Hawke Lane, Danville made a motion to amend Article 2:

MOTION: Nola Whitman (47 Hawke Lane, Danville) motioned to amend Article 2 by deleting "\$89,120,265" and replacing it with "\$82,944, 063"; seconded by Nolan Pelletier (24 North Ave., Plaistow).
VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT: Yes 76 No 115 **AMENDMENT FAILED**

She explained that would reduce the budget by \$6,176,202 which is the amount of the TTA contract in Article 3. Ms. Whitman is concerned that people cannot afford the recent tax increases and that the teacher contract will fail if we do not reduce the budget. She made several suggestions as to what cuts that could be made to get to the new figure.

Nolan Pelletier, 24 North Ave., Plaistow stated that he was in favor of the amendment. He stated that he had almost the identical amendment in his hand and that we can't keep putting this burden on the taxpayers.

TRSB Jack Sapia stated he was vehemently opposed to the amendment. He explained why he doesn't agree that the cuts proposed by Ms. Whitman would work. He feels this is a bad amendment because the district has avoided investing in our buildings for twenty years.

Marianne Springer, 160 Sandown Rd., Danville, voiced her support of the amendment. She asked why there has been a 20% increase over the last two years.

Melissa Marr, 6 Lower Rd, Plaistow suggested that the administration and budget committee should be working with the subject matter experts, the teachers and staff, to cut the budget. She suggested that there were ways to realign the staff to free up some money to lighten the tax burden.

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main St., Plaistow spoke in support of the amendment. He said the proposed budget represents another \$1K in proposed tax increases and its just not sustainable. He stated that the collective town budgets are still less than half of the school budget and he supports this amendment wholeheartedly.

Nola Whitman, 47 Hawke Rd., Danville, wished to reply to Mr. Sapia's comments. She stated that every suggestion she made, she researched thoroughly. She read the minutes from the October 19th, 2023, meeting into the record and then submitted them to the clerk for Mr. Sapia to review.

Ken Petersen, 38 Sanborn St., Danville, asked about Professional Services and why it went up so drastically. BA Watkins explained that the majority of the Professional Services line is due to Special Education requirements. Mrs. Watkins also explained the increases in the bus company contracts and the interest and principal on the lease payments.

Diana True, 41 Hunt Pond Rd., Sandown, stated that she is for the amendment because the Sandown budget always fails because those voters have no control over the school budget.

Nolan Pelletier, 24 North Ave, Plaistow, submitted a handwritten motion for a secret ballot vote with the following five signatures:

1. Nolan Pelletier (24 North Ave., Plaistow)
2. Ryan Labrecque (174 Main St., Plaistow)
3. Nola Whitman (47 Hawke Ln., Danville)
4. Jessica Pelletier (24 North Ave., Plaistow)
5. Dave Soloman (13 Cricket Ln., Sandown)

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main St., Plaistow requested that two people on the budget committee who didn't recommend this article speak to their reasons why they did not. Liz Kosta and Michael Mascola explained their reasons for voting against the budget.

Jessica Hudgins, 25 Walnut Hill Rd., Sandown requested to know what "other" or "miscellaneous" means under the Professional Services line covers as it is a large dollar amount. Mark Sherwood explained that Timberlane has a higher than state average number of students requiring special education services. Some of them cannot receive those services within the district and must be transported outside the district. Some of those costs are in excess of \$100K per student.

Shawn O'Neil, 16 Jade Dr., Danville said he is in support of this amendment because we can't keep going back to the taxpayers. He stated that the town is collecting the school's tax money and that insulates the board from seeing the townspeople coming to the towns for help when they can't pay their taxes any longer.

Jack Sapia stated that our precious resources are our children. When you combine the four towns, the school district is the largest employer in each one. We've ignored those assets for years.

Dennis Heffernan, 4 Secluded Cir., Plaistow asked that the question be called.

Moderator Harb asked for a show of cards to call the question. Seeing the votes, he then read the amendment on the floor. He followed that with instructions on how to vote by secret ballot.

Shawn O'Neil asked if the vote would be held open for an hour for people to come down and vote. **Moderator Harb** said that he would not do that and if people wanted to vote, they should be here to do so.

At the end of the secret ballot, **Moderator Harb** asked voters to retake their seats and announced the following double-checked results:

Yes: 76

No: 115

Result: Amendment **Failed**

Ryan Labrecque, 174 Main St., Plaistow wanted to respond to Mr. Sapia's comments. He said he is not against the children. The more money the school costs, the less money the parents have available to raise them. He also stated that success in sports is about talent, an individual's drive and desire to be the best. He said that Timberlane's facilities are not bad at all and we need to stop aspiring to have it all.

Marianne Springer, 160 Sandown Rd., Danville asked what the kids are getting from the 20% increase from \$73M to \$89M over the two years. BA Watkins explained that the main drivers are Special Education, Transportation and Food Services, the lease payments, salaries and benefits account for 70% of the entire budget.

Nolan Pelletier proposed the following amendment:

MOTION: Nolan Pelletier (24 North Ave., Plaistow) motioned to amend Article 2 by deleting "\$89,120,265" and replacing it with "\$85,620,265"; seconded by Ryan Labrecque (174 Main St., Plaistow).
VOTE BY CARD BALLOT: Yes 77 No 116 **AMENDMENT FAILED**

Mr. Pelletier took a quick moment to explain that this amendment is less than the last one and he hopes that people will consider it, saying that if you “want to get, you have to give”.

Kristin McKeeman, 53 Moose Hollow Rd., Danville said that she wanted to support what Mr. O’Neil had stated, that people are really hurting. She said that we need to look at this number in a more responsible way so that we can educate our children and feed our children as well.

Nancy Lavallee, 24 GH Carter Dr., Danville asked if the 7% increase was in salaries. BA Watkins explained that the different contracts call for different pay steps and scales on a variety of different factors that were negotiated with the six unions. She also asked if students have to contribute to play sports or if the district bears the entire weight of the cost. Mrs. Savage explained that both families and boosters incur significant costs.

Shawn O’Neil, 16 Jade Dr., Danville asked about the Covid funds that were received. He wanted to know if BA Watkins said the funds were being returned to the taxpayers. BA Watkins explained that the funds received offset the total budget so whatever amount was returned to the taxpayer, it was likely due in part to that extra revenue that was received.

Jack Sapia stated that he voted for things that were long term investments that would have reduced the costs of the district. He would also like to see donations and volunteers working on some of these projects to offset costs.

Moderator Harb reminded people to stick to the amendment. **Mr. Sapia** asked the maker of the motion where that \$3M would come from. **Mr. Pelletier** said you can’t just keep compounding the problem, people can’t pay these amounts. He brought up the cost per student and said if it were about the kids, the money would follow the student. But it doesn’t so its about sustaining this institution.

Mark Sherwood stated that he is against this proposed amendment. He said that Sandown took an even bigger hit than Danville. He stated that they are being confronted in public places. He asked where the cuts would come from. Everyone is hurting.

Nolan Pelletier responded by saying that its not a decrease of \$3M when you are asking for another \$6M for the teacher’s contract.

Ryan Labrecque stated that the budget process is flawed. He believes the original submissions are wish lists and not proper budgets.

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

Results:

Yes: 77

No: 116

Results: Amendment **Failed**

Nolan Pelletier asked how many students are enrolled. BA Watkins stated there were 3296 students as of October 2023.

Ryan Labrecque referenced Mr. Petersen’s question relative to a bond vs lease.

Ken Petersen, 38 Sanborn St., Danville asked why Windham is paying less per student than we are. BA Watkins explained the budget process.

Diana True, 41 Hunt Pond Rd., Sandown questioned why the default budget is higher than the proposed budget. BA Watkins explained that the proposed budget is a thoughtful process whereas the default is just a formula.

Ben Sharpe, 1 Metacomet Lake Dr., Sandown stated that the state is not paying the proper amount per student and that if the state was paying the proper figure, TRSD would recoup \$9.6M. He suggested that everyone saying the budget should be dropped should be talking to their State Representatives, like Mr. Chris True who was in attendance. He also mentioned a \$200-\$300M education surplus in the state. The state has also decided not to take federal money to support education in NH. He also stated that vouchers take public money and spend it on private education. He stated that he is in support of this article because he thinks the funding could come from somewhere else. If people don't stand up to their state reps, we will continue to play this game every single year.

Peter Torosian, 18 Pinehill Dr., Atkinson spoke about the default budget and said it should not be that way. He said we are paying way more money than what we are getting back in test scores. He stated the number is just outrageous.

Nolan Pelletier stated TRSD cost is \$27,262K per student.

Michael Boucher, 19 North Broadway, Atkinson, stated that the real problem is at the state level. He stated that he didn't see the point in deliberating it any further and asked to call the question.

Mark Sherwood stated that the NH Department of Education, as of January 2nd, 2024 has the average per pupil cost at \$24,755 for the state and TRSD is \$20,012.

Ryan Labrecque stated that if you take the \$89M proposed and divide it by the number of students, that would be where Mr. Pelletier is getting the \$27K number from. He continued to question the budget process. He said that "if individually we're able to find it, how come, collectively, the school department can't figure out a way to live within their means and stop bleeding the taxpayers dry year after year after year after year ad nauseum."

Moderator Harb stated that **Article 2 will appear on the ballot as written.**

MOTION: Katie Knutsen made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 2, seconded by Susan Sherman.

MOTION PASSES

Motion passed by: show of cards vote

Article 3 – Three Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (Timberlane Teachers' Association)

Shall the voters of the School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Timberlane Teachers' Association 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	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
Estimated Increase	\$2,427,107	\$1,799,324	\$1,949,771
3-Year Total			\$6,176,202

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,427,107** for the 2024-25 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 7-0-2

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0

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

Moderator Harb reminded the audience that this article was not amendable.

Timberlane Regional School District Deliberative Session

February 8, 2024

Page 6 of 11

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.

Ryan Labrecque stated that if the board was so interested in it passing, they would have made room in the budget for it to pass. He asked how many teachers this warrant article represents: 368.

Louis Broad, President of the Timberline Teachers Association, wanted people to know that this is a good contract, on both sides. It balances the needs of the district with respect toward teachers. He said this contract will address the pressing problem of recruitment and retention. He asked that the voters support Articles 3 & 4 on March 12th, 2024.

Laurie Herchenroder, 28 Partridge Ln, Plaistow spoke in support of Articles 3 & 4.

Melissa Marr, 6 Lower Rd., Plaistow, is concerned that “if this warrant article does not pass, we will see this district fall apart before our eyes.” Her son is in fourth grade at Pollard. They’ve always had four classes; this year there are three. The class sizes are at capacity. It’s caused a lot of issues. They are headed to fifth grade where there are no fifth-grade teachers, only long-term subs. There’s no apparent requirement for long term subs to have a teaching degree. A lot of teachers don’t feel heard or supported. It’s a huge problem when people are leaving en masse. She is also concerned that contract workers are making more than the staff. She stated that a way to cut the sub help is that every administrator can sub two days a month.

Coral Hampe, 38 Boulder Dr., Danville addressed Mr. Labrecque directly saying that no teacher has want lists, only needs. There is no such thing as a wish list. Ms. Hampe addressed the discrepancies in wages in the district. She compared the Timberlane wages with sixteen other districts in NH.

Bachelors Step 1

Timberlane: \$39,900
Average: \$44,600

Bachelors Top Step

Timberlane: \$61,000
Average: \$70,000

Masters Step 1

Timberlane: \$44,400
Average: \$49,300

Masters Top Step

Timberlane: \$68,300
Average: \$79,400

Over the last few years, Timberlane has lost some great teachers, solely due to salary. She asked who we wanted to teach the children. Just whomever we can get? Or the best educators in the state?

Nolan Pelletier said that he didn’t support the article because of the additional tax burden. He said the teachers probably do deserve a raise but there are too many taxpayers who cannot do it and he would urge people to vote no.

Myra Hogan, 18 Westville Rd., Plaistow is a retired middle school teacher. She said the pay scale is ridiculously low. She said people that worked two districts away made \$20K more than her at ten years than she did at 41 years in. She said more than thirty teachers left last year. Timberlane is not going to get the best teachers until they get competitive.

Catherine Lindblad, 11 Hilltop Rd, Plaistow addressed comments about test scores and the fact that every student is counted whether parents opt out of testing or are special education students. She stated Chromebooks and printers are an issue for teachers. She asked that people not punish the teachers because you are mad about the budget. Teachers can get paid a lot more money in surrounding districts.

Kathleen Blood, 155 Main St, Atkinson spoke in support of Article 3. “I don’t need any more money. I need time. I need time enough to do a good job. In my department alone, we are down three positions. I sit in front of a 57-year-old

aluminum window with a broken latch. The last big rainstorm that we had a ceiling caved in in a vacant classroom. The only reason that that classroom was vacant is because there is no teacher there to teach. I don't need more money, thank you. I need more time to do an excellent job for our kids. Please support Article 3 & 4. Thank you."

Principal John Vaccarezza, 83 Royal Range Rd. Sandown, said that UNH currently has twelve students in their teacher program. We are fighting for teachers and students. We need to be able to fill positions. We have interviewed countless individuals; shown them the salary scale and they have gotten up and walked away. This happened in June, July and August. We are still trying to fill positions and we know this is costly. Its even more costly when a student doesn't have the resources in order to graduate. We need to support the teachers for both our towns and our students.

Seeing no one else at the microphones, **Moderator Harb stated that Article 3 would appear on the ballot as written.**

Article 4 – Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items

Shall the voters of the School District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the Timberlane Regional School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 9-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 4 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Kristin Savage.

Nola Whitman asked if Article 3 doesn't pass, what does Article 4 mean? Attorney O'Shaughnessy stated that the Board would have the option of going back and meeting with the TTA and trying to reach an agreement on a different set of cost items. If they reached an agreement, they could call a special meeting of this legislative body to vote on those cost items. That would mean another two-meeting process which would prove costly and complicated.

Seeing no one else at the microphones, **Moderator Harb stated that Article 4 would appear on the ballot as written.**

Article 5 – 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, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1 of this year which were apportioned as Capital Expenses in 2023-2024 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 9-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0

MOTION: Chair Katie Knutsen made a motion to put Article 5 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Kristin Savage.

Ryan Labrecque stated he is against this article. We've obligated the taxpayers to \$40M in capital improvements over the next twenty years already. It's not necessary to shift anymore money into the capital lines. The money should be used to offset the ridiculous budget.

Jack Sapia stated that yes, we did commit to the lease but there is \$130M needed. There is no shortage of work to be done. If we continue to kick the can down the road, we will get a lot less for that money.

Seeing no one else at the microphones, **Moderator Harb stated that Article 5 would appear on the ballot as written.**

Article 6 – General Acceptance of Reports

Shall the voters of the School District accept reports of agents, auditors, and committees as written in the 2023 Annual Report? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 9-0-0

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

Seeing no one at the microphones, **Moderator Harb** stated that Article 6 would appear on the ballot as written.

Article 7 – Amendment to Administrators Union CBA

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the amendment to the previously approved 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreement between the Timberlane Regional School Board and Timberlane Administrators’ Union (Teamsters Local Union #633), which calls for the following increases and decreases in salaries and benefits over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year at current staffing levels under the previously approved agreement:

Fiscal Year	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Estimated Increase	\$60,000	(\$30,000)
2-Year Total		\$30,000

No appropriation necessary in this Article because the funding for these increases is part of the operating budget in Article 2. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 9-0-0

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

Interim Superintendent Krieger stated that these funds are for professional development for the administrators.

Nola Whitman asked what happens if Article 2 fails. It is also part of the default budget. This was an attempt to be transparent. Ms. Whitman stated that this Article is very confusing.

Attorney O’Shaughnessy stated that NH law requires that cost items be approved by the legislative body and because it’s a negotiated cost item, even though it was already a benefit, because it was negotiated, technically it needs to be presented now to you to be voted on.

Marianne Springer asked if this doesn’t pass, does it still happen? Do they still get those benefits?

Attorney O’Shaughnessy stated that there is a law in NH that prohibits the expenditure if any purpose or appropriation is not approved by the legislative body. We often refer to that as “No means no”. So, if the voters reject this, then that would be a prohibition against spending money for that purpose.

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

Article 8 – Amendment to CBA for Technology Staff

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the amendment to the previously approved 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreement between the Timberlane Regional School Board and Teamsters Local Union #633 (Administrative Assistants/Secretaries and Skilled Maintenance Employees), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year at current staffing levels under the previously approved agreement:

Fiscal Year	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Estimated Increase	\$28,471	\$25,891
2-Year Total		\$54,362

and further to raise and appropriate **\$28,471** for the 2025 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the amendment to the 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreement over the costs that would be paid at current staffing levels under the previously approved agreement.

[Note: This article concerns the costs associated with the amendment to the previously approved 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreement, which was negotiated because the NH Public Employee Labor Relations Board added IT employees to this bargaining unit.] (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 9-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0-0

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

Shauna Manthorn stated the NH Public Employee Relations Board added IT employees to the Collective Bargaining unit, so the warrant article is a result of the negotiations with those IT employees. The CBA is via this amendment.

Seeing no one 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

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 9-0-0

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

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

Article 10 - Tax Impact Statement by Petition

To see if the Timberlane Regional School District will vote to accept RSA 32:5 which will allow the inclusion of the estimated tax impact per town as part of the warrant article and to be included on the ballot. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

MOTION: Nola Whitman made a motion to put Article 10 on the ballot as written; seconded by Vice Chair Kristin Savage.

Nola Whitman explained that she was requesting the tax impact be added so that people will understand how much they are voting for during each election.

Ryan Labrecque stated this is a breath of fresh air. He feels that many people have no idea what they are voting for dollar wise.

Mark Sherwood stated that this year's tax estimates were included in the packet that was distributed to the public.

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

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

The 2024 Deliberative Session of the Timberlane Regional School District concluded at 10:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Timberlane Regional District Clerk