

APPROVED PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Note: When feasible, TRSB meetings are videotaped. This Public Hearing was not videotaped.
Materials presented at the board meeting may be viewed at: [School Board Meeting Agenda Materials](#)

Timberlane Regional School Board Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing on Local Tax Cap

February 17, 2026
6:00 PM

Danville Elementary School
Gymnasium
23 School St. Danville, NH

Call to Order

Board Members Present

Katie Knutsen, Paul LeCain, Shauna Manthorn, Jack Sapia, Marianne Springer, Brie Woodworth, Don Woodworth

Excused Absences: Mark Sherwood and Alyssa Kowalczyk

Administrator Present: Justin Krieger, Superintendent of Schools

Call to Order

Chair Knutsen called the public hearing on a local tax cap to order at 6:01 P.M.

Videorecording Presentation by Petitioner

Nolan Pelletier, the lead petitioner, submitted a video to present his citizens' petition regarding the tax cap warrant article. In the video, he stated that his intent was to create guardrails and provide protections for taxpayers. He explained that the petition originally proposed a 2.5% tax cap to help stabilize tax bills and prevent unsustainable increases affecting households. He further stated that at the deliberative session the warrant article was amended from a 2.5% cap to a 25% cap, which he believes effectively renders the measure meaningless and a disservice to the community. Mr. Pelletier urged voters to vote "No" on Article 18.

Comments

Chair Knutsen noted that last year a separate warrant article was amended to create a study committee. She explained that the Tax Cap Study Committee held several meetings and reached a consensus.

Mrs. Springer then presented the committee's findings. She explained that the group included representatives from all four towns and reviewed the legal implications, fiscal constraints, and how other school districts manage tax caps. On the legal side, the committee found that a tax cap could create uncertainty when setting the following year's budget, and it was unclear how an override would be placed on the ballot. There was also uncertainty about how the district could

APPROVED PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

spend funds under such a cap. Mrs. Springer added that two other districts that have implemented tax caps and are experiencing challenges. The committee was concerned about the uncertainty and risk that the district might not be able to maintain its current staffing levels and services. They determined that a 2.5% tax cap would result in a reduction in staffing, programs and services.

Mr. Sapia noted that if a tax cap had been in place five years ago, the district would have lost about 10% of its purchasing power due to inflation. He referred to GDP, the Consumer Price Index, and inflation to explain this.

A member of the public asked how the tax cap increased from 2.5% to 25%. Chair Knutsen explained the amendments proposed at the Deliberative Session and their outcomes. She expressed that one of the School Board's goals is to engage the community and develop study or stakeholder groups. In addition, she mentioned that the School Board unanimously voted not to recommend this warrant article.

A member of the public expressed concerns about school performance, funding fairness between towns, and the complexity of budget apportionment. Superintendent Krieger invited the public attendee and anyone interested in learning more about how the district's budget is developed under the Articles of Agreement to meet with him and the district's Business Administrator. Mr. LeCain noted that the 25% cap is unnecessary and that local control mechanisms exist. Mr. Sapia highlighted Atkinson's planning and the complexity that other towns face. Mrs. Springer stated the proposed cap is too high to be effective and emphasized the need for a sustainable path forward.

Mrs. Manthorn encouraged public engagement and suggested reviewing the Deliberative Session video and look out for opportunities to join study groups.

Chair Knutsen closed the public hearing at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Salovitch
Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Board on March 5, 2026.