

*NOTE: When feasible, TRSB meetings are videotaped. These meeting minutes reflect only a basic summary of the meeting topics, discussion, and action. The Vimeo recording of this meeting can be viewed at: <https://livestream.com/trsd/trsb/videos/228119897>
Materials presented at the Board meeting may be viewed at:*

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular Business Meeting
December 16, 2021
7:00PM**

**Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH**

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Savage opened the December 16th, 2021 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:00PM and took roll call.

Board Members Present

Brian Boyle, Steven Finnegan, Barbara Kiszka, Katie Knutsen, Sheila Lowes, Shawn O’Neil and Kristin Savage

Seated at the Board Table

Dr. Brian Cochrane, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Christopher Kellan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Kaylie Sheffield, Student Representative

PUBLIC HEARING ON ESSR III FUNDS (00:00:56)

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to open the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mrs. Savage opened the Public Hearing at 7:01PM. Timberlane Regional School District was awarded \$1,223,191.28 funding under the American Rescue Plan Act and Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund which is also referred to as ESSER III. This money will be available for use through September 30, 2024.

We are required to set aside 20% of the funds to address learning loss and providing mental health services and support among students.

The grant also has a focus on large dollar construction projects, and it mandates stricter guidelines compared to other federal grants the district has accessed in the past. For example, it requires compliance with federal regulations including but not limited to The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) which will involve large amounts of time and effort from the business department.

There were no questions or comments on the ESSER III Funding.

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

This Public Hearing ended at 7:05PM.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the ESSER III Funding in the amount of \$1,223,191.28; seconded by Mr. O’Neil. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Mrs. Kiszka motioned to direct that 20% of the funds to address learning loss and provide mental health services and support for students. The remainder will be applied to the items identified by the Capital Improvement Plan as eligible for ESSER Funds; seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 7-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:05:46)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of December 2nd, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 5-0-2 (Finnegan and Lowes abstaining).

FOOTBALL TEAM and STAFF RECOGNITIONS (00:06:31)

Assistant Superintendent Kellan introduced the New Hampshire Division 2 State Championship Football Team, the 2021 Timberlane Owls. Mr. Kellan discussed the commitment to the season by the players and coaches. Both players and coaches spoke briefly as well. Cooper Kelly was named Player of the Year while Coach Fitz was also honored as the Coach of the Year. Booster championship apparel will also be available on their Facebook page.

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:14:08)

Mrs. Savage: I will not be reading the prepared statement that has needed to be read at the meetings lately. It is my hope that every here will act appropriately and with respect towards others. If that is not the case, I will immediately interrupt delegates and individuals to read the statement. Again, it is my hope that that will not become necessary.

This portion of the agenda will be capped at thirty minutes. Speakers will be chosen at random. All submitted Request to Speak forms have been given a number and we will use an app to pull the numbers and determine who has the opportunity to present tonight. Each speaker is given a maximum of three minutes on the floor. We ask that you keep your comments concise and appropriate for a school setting. We realize there are issues that have brought concern from many people and emotions are heightened. We understand that and it does not go unrecognized. But we ask that you remember that you too are representing Timberlane when you speak, especially with the heightened media presence.

We will listen to speakers for a total of 30 minutes and then we will return to the next items on the agenda. Delegates and Individuals has always been an opportunity for people to speak and voice their comments and concerns to the board. It is a historical practice that the board does not respond to speakers or engage in dialogue during this time. The Board will not provide responses to speakers rather we will take the speakers points under advisement. This is not an attempt to be rude or dismissive; this is the practice that we follow. We also remind you that we cannot always answer your questions even outside of Delegates and Individuals forum as much of the information we are privy to, of its own, is privileged information. This is for a multitude of reasons, and we are subject to rules and restrictions beyond our control. We recognize that this can be a frustration to many of you, but it is also frustrating to all of us. I'm hopeful that we can have a productive Delegates and Individuals session tonight. We have nine speakers so all nine will be entitled to speak tonight. Again, we will be calling them randomly

and we will start now.

Katie Seidl, of Plaistow, is concerned about the policies and procedures used in vetting teachers. Ms. Seidl claims that no one has responded to her emailed concerns. She said communication is an issue in the district.

Coral Hampe, of Danville, spoke as TTA President, and read a letter from one of her colleagues. The letter claimed that no one had informed the teachers of shooting threats within the school. Middle School teachers were receiving emails saying students would not be in due to threats. This teacher felt betrayed by the district. She also said communication is an issue in the district.

Myra Hogan, of Plaistow, is a taxpayer, teacher and former parent in the district. She said there is a lot of change in the district with many things wrong. She is on the CBA negotiating team. She claimed that the bottom-line budget is more important to this board than educating children. She is upset that the board is attempting to remove the retirement incentive. She claims that the district will only attract the worst teachers with the contract they are offering.

Oswaldo Hernandez, of Atkinson, teachers are supposed to teach and not indoctrinate our children. Atkinson Academy had a lockdown, and the parents weren't informed until afterwards. Where does it stop? He got significantly worked up as he progressed and ultimately ended up swearing and saying that the board works for them. He wants all the members off the board and was mad that the Chair wasn't at the meeting. He then called the board a bunch of Nazi's again.

Dr. Karlyn Borysenko then screamed "we know where you live" and Vice-Chair Savage called a recess. The unmasked people continued to scream at each other. The Board returned 10 minutes later.

Nolan Pelletier, of Plaistow, said the board is not providing a safe environment for their children and that they are also hiding stuff from parents and teachers. He said they need to do better.

Kevin Dube, of Danville, was called but no longer at the meeting.

Kate Lindblad, of Plaistow, is a mom of three and a sub in Timberlane schools. She said that subs are not trained in what they should do in any given emergency. She said it's not safe. She requested that subs be required to take paid training.

Melissa Marr, of Plaistow, came to discuss the fact that she found the threat issues on Facebook. She was thankful she did because she felt her daughter would have regressed had she gone to school that day. She said the administration needs to get better at communicating with parents.

Jess Pelletier, of Plaistow, said she was very disappointed in the response from the administration. She said parents should not be hearing about these issues on the news. You have lost the trust of the parents and the children in this district, and you have a lot of work to do if you want to regain that trust.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (00:50:44)

Miss Kaylie Sheffield gave an update on what each school is currently working on from each elementary school, the middle school, and the high school. She also mentioned the Football Team's incredible State Championship win. TRHS Soccer player Isabella Keo earned All State, All New England and All-American

Team honors. Her twin sister, Sophia, has also made All State, team 2.

“In regard to the variety of growing concerns recently associated with social media, including rumors, vandalism, and inappropriate behavior, I would like to personally acknowledge that I, myself, as well as a variety of other student leaders are working on enforcing social media as an outlet for positivity and encouraging students not to share rumored information across media platforms by any means. Rather, students are being encouraged to go to administration or trusted adult upon seeing any questionable information or anything on a media platform that makes them feel unsafe. This is a difficult and hefty task to take on but little by little more student awareness of being brought to the misuse of media platforms. I would like to personally encourage members of the district community to share this advice with their families and students thus to prevent as much as rumor as possible. As the Student Council President and Board Representative, I will personally be working with my Vice-President and Public Relations Officer over the winter break to continue this advocacy upon return.

In regard to several issues surrounding the bathrooms at school, I would like to publicly issue a sincere apology on behalf of the TRHS student body. Though these actions have been done by a small percentage of students, it is a great disservice the administration and custodial staff that works incredibly hard to provide students with a safe and clean school environment. I, along with several other student leaders, have been sufficiently disappointed with the repetition of these destructive actions and are working towards means of encouraging better behavior among our peers. Again, to the Administration and staff of Timberlane, and District staff and the School Board, the student body recognizes your hard work, and we appreciate constant efforts to provide a safe learning environment.

As always, I would like to thank the School Board and District Administration for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my fellow students. I would like to everyone a great end to the year and a wonderful start to the next.”

SCHOOL GOALS PRESENTATIONS (00:57:16)

Each Principal at all District Schools went over their presentations that were in the agenda packet. Principal Stephen Harris spoke about Atkinson Academy. Principal Christopher Snyder spoke about the goals for Danville Elementary. Principal Doug Blay spoke about the goals adopted for Pollard School. Principal Patrice Liff spoke about TLC/Sandown Central and Principal Nancy Stafford of Sandown North also went over the presentations in the agenda packet. Similar goals and themes were found in these presentations. There were a few questions from the board at the end of the elementary presentations.

Principal Mitch Mencis went over the goals for the middle school. Math and Reading goals could represent 12-25% improvement if they can meet their benchmark. Mr. O’Neil asked what we need to do to get Timberlane back in the top ten. Mr. Kellan said it’s going to require commitment across all functions. Mr. Finnegan asked what effects they have noticed post remote learning. Everyone is going to get tested on iReady on Reading and math in January. By October or November of next year, the Administration should have information to show the board as to whether they met their goals or not.

Before giving his presentation for the high school goals, Principal John Vaccarezza said: One of the things I'd like to say is I'd like to thank the students this week. I'd like to thank staff this week. And really everybody was just kind of been dealing with a lot of difficult situations, but I can tell you that they were in their classrooms trying to work with kids, trying to be there for kids, trying to talk to kids. We do need to improve. We heard a lot of harsh comments tonight, but the key is, yeah, we do need to improve; we

need to up the expectations for ourselves. And the grand shame of everything is if we don't learn from our mistakes. So that's what we're looking to do. I do want to make a shout out to that. How much the staff and students are relying on each other at different times this week. I give them a lot of credit for that because it's not always easy to do that. With a flurry of different stuff being said, it can be even more difficult. So sometimes we do need some positivity, which we'll talk about in the goals that we as a school have. I will, Mr. O'Neil, just give a little bit of explanation of how I believe we can be an elite school as well as district.

BUDGET & DEFAULT BUDGET (01:40:44)

Mrs. Watkins informed the board of the budget figures:

- Operating Budget figure is \$75,753,607
- Default Budget figure is \$76,300,383

Mr. O'Neil said the big drivers are salaries and benefits. Mrs. Kiszka asked about items that are over budgeted and underspent, like the PAC. Mrs. Watkins explained that the revenue that the PAC brings in is reflected in that line item.

Ms. Lowes asked about the Special Education budget as it looks fairly level year over year. Ms. Brooks said that many students are aging out and some students are coming back from out of district placements. The Board also discussed Health Trust and the fact that the figure is not exact until, generally, January or February. Mr. O'Neil requested that the Administration poke and prod Health Trust for the correct figure. Mr. O'Neil requested an update on this at the next meeting. He said February is unacceptable. Approve

MOTION: Mr. O'Neil motioned to accept the School Board's FY 2023 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$75,753, 607; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to accept the School Board's FY 2023 Default Budget in the amount of \$76,300, 383; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ANNUAL MEETING (02:01:00)

The Board discussed the warrant and the required dates. Mr. O'Neil inquired as to the District Clerk position and where it stands.

MOTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to approve the Draft Calendar dated 12/8/21; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

CURRICULUM –PROGRAM OF STUDIES (02:05:36)

Mr. Pederson updated the Board on the changes made since the last time he was before the Board.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the Program of Studies as a second read; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 7-0-0.
--

TLC/EARLY EDUCATION NUMBERS (2:09:05)

The Board reviewed the executive summary provided by Mrs. Canotas. There were no questions from

the Board.

ATHLETICS GRANT (02:09:42)

Mr. Fantasia indicated that all the information for the grant is ready, and it can be submitted on time.

MOTION: Mr. O'Neil motioned to authorize the superintendent and/or the Assistant Superintendent to sign on behalf of the board for the grant application for the State of NH Natural & Cultural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (Round 32); seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RECORDING SECRETARY POSITION (02:13:22)

Kat Lancaster has resigned. She has agreed to stay on until a replacement is hired.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignation of Kat Lancaster, Recording Secretary with gratitude and thanks; seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mrs. Savage requested that both this position and the District Clerk position be posted right away. Mrs. Savage asked the board if the current rate of pay is acceptable to the Board. The position will be posted as reflected in the agenda.

POLICIES (02:15:10)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to approve policies BGC (Policy Review and Evaluation), BGE (Policy Dissemination) and JFA (Residency) for second read; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (02:16:53)

Nothing to report.

WINTER ATHLETIC PROTOCOL (02:17:02)

The Board reviewed the Executive Summary provided in the agenda packet.

PERSONNEL REPORT (02:17:10)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the retirement of Jane Berrigan, Special English Language Arts Teacher, TRMS, with gratitude and thanks for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Mark Cerniglia, Science Teacher, TRHS, with gratitude and thanks for his service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Barry Chooljian, Director

of School Counseling, TRHS, with gratitude and thanks for his service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Kathleen Dresser, Physical Education, TRMS, with gratitude and thanks for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of John Dube, Social Studies, TRHS, with gratitude and thanks for his service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Barbara Kane, Elementary Education, Pollard, with gratitude and thanks for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Janice Knuuttunen, Physical Therapist, TRSD, with gratitude and thanks for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Anne Licciardello, English Language Arts Teacher, TRMS, with gratitude and thanks for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Toni Mealey, Reading and Writing Specialist, Case Coordinator, TRHS, with gratitude and thanks; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional retirement of Jo Ann Robichaud, Elementary Education, Pollard, with gratitude and thanks for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD (02:21:50)

Ms. Lowes asked Mr. Kellan to speak to the incredible art students' portraits that will soon be hanging in the PAC. Thank you Mr. C. for the invitation. Mr. O'Neil requested that this be posted to the district website. Mr. Finnegan thanked Dean Zanello for all he does!

Mrs. Savage: At this time, the School Board would like to announce a transition in the SAU organizational structure. The School Board and Dr. Cochrane have come to a mutual Separation Agreement, and he will depart from his role as Superintendent effective December 17, 2021. Assistant Superintendent Chris Kellan will become the acting Superintendent. Dr. Cochrane has agreed to stay on for the end of this year during the transition and to support the school board by completing a significant policy review project. The Board would like to thank Dr. Cochrane for his successful work in leading the school reopening plan and his collaboration with the School Board in preparing for and implementing the separation from SAU 55 and the strategic development of SAU 106. This work was especially challenging over the past 20 months during the pandemic. We wish Dr. Cochrane well in his future endeavors.

The School Board would also like to announce that Assistant Superintendent, Chris Kellan, will become the interim superintendent effective December 17, 2021. And it is expected that he will be appointed as superintendent in the near future. I wish both men and their families the best in all their futures. I also want to take this time to wish them, the remainder of our staff, our students and our community, the best for the holiday season. Hopefully for a very great new year moving forward into 2022.

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to go into non-public under 91-A:3, Paragraph II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation or disciplining of any public employee and (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-1-0 (Mrs. Kiszka opposed).

The Board was polled:

Boyle – Yes Finnegan - Yes Kiszka – Yes Knutsen – Yes
Lowes – Yes O’Neil - Yes Savage – Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the Board entered nonpublic session at 9:30PM.

MOTION: Mr. Finnegan motioned to exit the non-public meeting; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Boyle – Yes Finnegan - Yes Kiszka – Yes Knutsen – Yes
Lowes – Yes O’Neil - Yes Savage – Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the Board re-entered public session at 10:35PM.

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to seal the non-public meeting minutes by reason that divulgence would likely affect adversely the reputation of someone other than a member of the Board; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Boyle – Yes Finnegan - Yes Kiszka – Yes Knutsen – Yes
Lowes – Yes O’Neil - Yes Savage – Yes

With no other business before the Board, Vice - Chairman Savage adjourned the meeting at 10:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 1/6/22.