

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Regular Business Meeting
November 18, 2021
7:01PM**

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

Call to Order

Chairman Farah opened the November 18th, 2021 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:01PM and took roll call.

Board Members Present

Kimberly Farah, Steven Finnegan, Amy Gentile, Barbara Kiszka, Katie Knutsen, Sheila Lowes and Kristin Savage

Seated at the Board Table

Dr. Brian Cochrane, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Christopher Kellan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Statement Read by Dr. Farah:

I would like to take a minute to address the rules of order at the Timberlane Regional School Board meetings.

First, these Board meetings are meetings specifically for the Board to conduct its business. As a school Board we have numerous duties and responsibilities, and many items have to be addressed for the district to continue to operate. So, while our Board meetings are open to the public, our Board meetings are not public hearings where the public has the right to speak out. In other words, Board meetings are not public meetings, but meetings held in public.

Second, while the Board welcomes participation of all interested citizens, all attendees are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner, and the Board will not tolerate interruptions, harassment, discrimination, threats, or other conduct that interferes with its meetings. There's an appropriate time and a specific manner for citizens to be heard at Board meetings which is governed by policy BEDH, which states as follows:

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

During the "Delegations and Individuals" section of each Board meeting residents may comment for up to no more than three minutes (unless waived by the Board) by completing a comment card and submitting it to the recording secretary at the beginning of the meeting. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDB, and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda that is to be properly discussed in a non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel or students will be directed to the Superintendent in accord with Poli-

cies KE and KEB. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, libelous, defamatory, or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order. Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board. Therefore, Board members will take comments and presentations from the public under advisement only.

Third, please be advised that the Board intends to strictly comply with policy BEDH and expects all citizens to do the same while attending Board meetings. Interruptions, name calling, booing, speaking and making remarks during the meeting will result in removal from the meeting. Violations of policy BEDH shall result in immediate removal from the meeting. Thus, please limit your time to three minutes. Please refrain from speaking about employees or students and please conduct yourself in a civil manner.

Finally, while the vast majority of the public has been respectful and compliant with the mask mandates in the district, please be reminded that masks are to be worn in all schools and SAU buildings in the district including the location of the Board meeting. Persons with disabilities may elect not to wear a mask at Board meetings if they remain seated in the cordoned-off area of the Performing Arts Center. Members of the public who refuse to wear masks and do not remain in the cordoned-off section of the meeting will be in violation of the rules of the meeting. Continued refusal to follow the rules of the meeting by any member of the public will result in an order to leave the premises. If the member of the public does not

leave the premises on their own volition, such refusal constitutes criminal trespass under RSA 635:2, section 3B2 and I will ask law enforcement for assistance effectuating the removal of said person from the meeting.

We sincerely hope to avoid having to take any of the above actions during our Board meetings as we believe that such a decision would not serve the district. I thank you in advance for your anticipated compliance with these rules of order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:5:11)

MOTION: Mrs. Kiszka motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of November 9th, 2021; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 5-0-2 (Lowes and Savage abstaining).

Ms. Lowes requested that the Chair hold off on Delegates & Individuals until the public follows the rules of the meeting. Dr. Farah then asked that the people not wearing masks move the cordoned-off area of the Performing Arts Center. Dr. Farah asked that the people not wearing masks move to the cordoned-off area of the Performing Arts Center for the second time. She then directed that people who were not wearing masks, should leave the premises if they do not move to the cordoned-off area. Dr. Farah then told the officers that she would like assistance removing people who would not sit in the cordoned-off area as they were now deemed to be criminally trespassing. The police removed two members of the public who refused to move themselves to the non-masked section. A woman sitting in the unmasked area began screaming and walking through the Performing Arts Center both masked and unmasked. She continued screaming for over three minutes calling people puppets who were afraid to stand up for

children.

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:12:00)

Kathleen Friel, of Atkinson, thanked the Board, the Administration, and teachers for making decisions that they believed to be in the best interests of all the children.

Tim Shannon, of Atkinson, said that he and his family moved to the Live Free or Die state to get away from “slimeballs like you”. He stated his son doesn’t have to wear a mask anywhere but at school. He said the School Board is going to be publicly shamed and “may God bless you because you’re going to need it”.

Sheryl Kelly, of Plaistow, has been part of the community since 1972. She stated that the Board was supposed to revisit the metrics and has not. She provided her own statistics saying that most of our schools, towns and state doesn’t have Covid. She also stated that there’s no difference in case numbers on masked vs unmasked. She said that the Board either follows the science or they have an agenda.

Michael Boucher, of Atkinson, wanted to discuss some bus issues. He said that his son stated someone used a laser pointer on the driver of his son’s bus. He also stated that late busses are now dropping off at common areas and not at the houses. He is wondering how this is safe given there aren’t many sidewalks. He also mentioned an anecdotal story on Facebook from a HS student saying that students were still vandalizing the bathrooms and only one bathroom was open for use. He asked the Board to weigh in on all those issues.

Lorryn Kinkaid, of Plaistow, spoke in support of public schools and the Board. She stated that even though there are people on both sides of the issue, she still thinks people have more in common than they don’t and asked people to remember why they were really here.

Mark Sherwood, of Sandown, thanked the Board for following common sense and common courtesy in the face of unreasonable aggression and subtle threats. He stated the many medical organizations all support children being in school with masks on. Masks are not bulletproof but go a long way toward mitigating the spread of Covid.

MOTION: Mrs. Knutsen 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 Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Farah – Yes	Finnegan - Yes	Gentile – Yes	Kiszka – Yes
Knutsen – Yes	Lowes- Yes	Savage – Yes	

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the Board entered nonpublic session at 7:31PM.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to exit the non-public meeting; seconded by Mrs. Knutsen. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Farah – Yes Finnegan - Yes Gentile – Yes Kiszka – Yes
Knutsen – Yes Lowes- Yes Savage – Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the Board re-entered public session at 7:49PM.

Mrs. Kiszka read the update provided by Kaylie Sheffield who was unable to attend this meeting.

DEFAULT BUDGET (00:54:30)

Dr. Farah went over the budget numbers for the public. The FY 2022 voted budget is \$75,398,154. The proposed FY 2023 budget is \$76, 300,383. It is a 1.2% increase over the prior budget. There are several drivers for the increases which are detailed in the agenda packet. Some of the line items are being brought over from the SAU budget and consolidated into this budget. Concerns that withdrawal would cost more have not been validated and indeed, the budget is still under what we were paying when we were a part of SAU 55. The increases in utilities are contractual and by law do need to be included in the default. The budget committee would like the Board to come to them. Dr. Farah thinks the next meeting is December 9th, 2021.

Ms. Lowes requested a copy of the overall proposed budget from Mrs. Watkins once its finalized.

PERSONNEL POSITIONS UPDATE (01:00:57)

Mrs. Watkins is working to take positions like the FLES positions out of the budget and put the correct positions in. Ms. Lowes is concerned that they might repurpose a position and then need it back based on enrollment. Mrs. Canotas stated she was looking to make sure that positions are not given up because if not needed, will be repurposed.

ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT (01:09:10)

Due to a change in the legislative law, the Board needs to sign a new agreement.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to authorize the Chair to sign an agreement for dual and concurrent enrollment between the Community College System of New Hampshire and the School District; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE (01:12:55)

There is an increase in enrollment. Dr. Farah is wondering if its due to people coming back to school from remote learning. Mrs. Allaire will get this information for Dr. Farah.

CURRICULUM – HS HEALTH COURSE PROPOSAL (01:13:50)

The Board reviewed a new course: Studies in Women’s Health & Wellness.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to approve Studies in Women’s Health & Wellness as a first read; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board also reviewed Algebra III course. The course is a redesign of Trigonometry, Probability and Statistics and Discrete Math. The Board had many questions and there was a lot of discussion. The name of the course was a problem as the Board wondered how college recruiters would react to it. Some members of the Board were also concerned with merging these courses.

MOTION: Mrs. Savage motioned to approve Algebra III as a first read; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE (01:35:24)

The Board reviewed the executive summary provided in the agenda packet. Kelley Brooks, Director of Special Education, was on hand to answer the Board's questions. Dr. Farah stated that the Special Education budget has been going up about a million dollars a year. She asked if there was any indication if that would continue or if the district could do something different to change the trajectory. Ms. Brooks stated that they are doing a lot of analysis right now to see where they are spending their money. She stated that some placements have gone up \$20-\$30K in just the last year.

POLICIES (01:39:15)

The Board reviewed three policies for first read: BG Board Policy Process, BHC Board-Employee Communications and GCCBC Family and Medical Leave Act

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to approve policies BG (Board Policy Process), BHC (Board-Employee Communications) and GCCBC (Family and Medical Leave Act) for first read; seconded by Mrs. Knutsen. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (01:41:00)

Dr. Cochrane discussed extended learning opportunities for those students who are not college bound. They are looking to add an administrative position over the coming weeks to support this program. It's not currently in any budget. Mr. Pederson stated that he hopes to bring this before the Board at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL REPORT (01:45:00)

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (01:45:08)

Energy Committee: Mrs. Kiszka said that EEI gave them a reality check on the amount of repairs and updates that they might be able to fund via the performance contract without having to ask the voters for money. That amount will likely be less than \$12M. That should allow them to get through the HVAC systems but it's unlikely that they will get to any other items on the CIP. EEI is currently doing an energy audit and should have a list of suggested improvements by March. They applied for a seed loan of \$80K from the state that they would need to convert Danville Elementary from oil to propane. This will reduce the number of boiler rooms from three to one and will allow them to remove the oil tank and pipes that are going between the buildings. Mr. Ingoldsby is requesting that a School Board or budget committee member attend the construction meetings each Tuesday at noon in the SAU building.

Curriculum & Assessment presented tonight. There will be more coming.

Policy is adding an extra meeting to bring more policies to the Board.

Dr. Farah stated that Union negotiations continue.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes 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 Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Farah – Yes	Finnegan - Yes	Gentile – Yes	Kiszka – Yes
Knutsen – Yes	Lowes- Yes	Savage – Yes	

Mr. Finnegan wished the Football team luck on Saturday. He also recognized all the music students who made all state music. Tremendous work and congratulations!

Mrs. Savage wanted to know what can be done to fix the bathroom issues. Dr. Cochrane stated it’s been a topic of conversation at the SLT meetings. The situation is compounded by staffing shortages, and technology issues. Unfortunately, they are damaging the bathrooms faster than they can be repaired. They are considering implementing a pass program. Principals are very supportive of adding cameras. Students are encouraged to come forward. Parents are encouraged to talk to their students about respecting the property. The Board also discussed severe consequences and payment for damages.

The Board also discussed the bus situation brought up by a resident in D&I. Assistant Superintendent Kellan spoke with him while the Board was in non-public. Mr. Kellan will follow up with the bus company and get back to the Board and the resident.

Dr. Farah requested that the principals of the six schools present to the Board their top three goals and one slide for five mins. She requested that for the next agenda.

With no other business before the Board, Chairman Farah adjourned the meeting at 9:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 12/2/21.