

*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/229118604>
Materials presented at the Board meeting may be viewed at:
<https://trsdpublic.timberlane.net/trsb/layouts/15/start.aspx#/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Ftrsb%2FShared%20Documents%2FSCHOOL%20BOARD%20MEETING%20AGENDA%20MATERIALS%2F2021%2D22%2F2%203%2022%20School%20Board%20Meeting&FolderCTID=0x0120004312551B46136E4BA51A2C05822A071C&View=%7BD71C77CA%2D529B%2D49D7%2D8C91%2DE62575BBB707%7D>*

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Business Meeting
February 3, 2022
7:04PM

Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Vice Chairwoman Savage opened the February 3, 2022, meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:04PM and took roll call.

Board Members Present

Brian Boyle, Kimberly Farah (arrived 7:10PM), Steven Finnegan, Amy Gentile, Barbara Kiszka, Katie Knutsen, Sheila Lowes, Shawn O’Neil and Kristin Savage

Also present at the Board Table

Mr. Christopher Kellan, Superintendent of Schools

The Pledge of Allegiance followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:00:54)

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of January 20th, 2022; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 5-0-3. (Mr. Boyle, Mr. Finnegan & Mrs. Kiszka abstained.)

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:1:48)

Nolan Pelletier, of Plaistow, came to speak about choice and control. He said parents want to have a choice; they want to have a voice. They feel like they are not being heard because they come up every week and ask for the choice to have their kids breathe normally. They want a clear and transparent look into the curriculum and there have been statements that the teachers don’t want parents interfering. He wants the Board to poll the parents regarding masks. He interprets this lack of polling as the Board wanting to control what parents do with their kids. He wants the Board to give up their control and listen to the parents and there won’t be an issue.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (00:03:40)

Ms. Sheffield was not present and there was no update sent in.

NH FOODBANK DONATION (00:03:53)

A donation was received from the NH Foodbank in the amount of \$701.67. These funds were generated by the students through the NH Tackles Hunger initiatives done at athletic events and student counsel, etc.

MOTION: Mr. Boyle motioned to accept the donation from the NH Foodbank in the amount of \$701.67; seconded by Mr. O’Neil. The motion passed 8-0-1. (Dr. Farah abstained.)

KELLOGG’S NO KID HUNGRY GRANT (00:5:16)

Mr. Kellan thanked Mayra Maldonado who is the Director of Food Service and Rachel Tedford, the Assistant Director of Food Service, who are Whitson’s employees who took the initiative to apply for this grant, as well as others, on their own. They did it in the interests of benefitting our students and their families.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept a \$5K grant from Kellogg’s No Kid Hungry program; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 9-0-0.

SAU 55 FINAL PAYMENT (00:06:37)

TRSD has received the final payout from the unreserved fund balance from SAU 55 in the amount of \$198, 519, completing the withdrawal from SAU 55. Mr. O’Neil requested a complete accounting as to how this number was generated because he thought past predictions were higher. Mrs. Watkins said that the prediction, presented about a month ago, was actually \$186K so this is higher. Mr. O’Neil will review the audit and sit down with Mrs. Watkins with any further questions.

FACILITIES UPDATE (00:08:23)

CPOWER Energy Payment: some buildings within the district were metered. When there is high energy usage, they contact us so we can power down some so that we essentially get a rebate and we’ve already received \$6K from that. The rebate checks will offset the costs of energy.

Freedom Energy Net Metering: TRSD signed an agreement with an energy services provider. They are going out and contracting with energy producers. TRSD has signed on to purchase a portion of our electricity from hydroelectric dams in the area and will get paid to use economical energy through them. This will probably equate to about \$5K per year.

Lighting Upgrade is about 85% percent complete. The cost of that was about \$200K. After rebates are received, it will be a short payback for the switch to LED.

High School and Middle School batting cages: the batting cages have been properly installed however, due to the weather, final grounds work to install seed and loam and general beautification around the cages have been put off until the spring.

Ms. Lowes thanked Mr. Ingoldsby, Facilities Director, for the very detailed summary of projects he provided to the Board.

RECORDING SECRETARY/DISTRICT CLERK POSITIONS (00:13:18)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to reappoint Sharon Boyle as District Clerk through February 16, 2022; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Boyle abstained.)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to appoint Kat Lancaster as District Clerk effective February 17, 2022; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 9-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to appoint Cori Zueli as Recording Secretary; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 9-0-0.

SMART PASS SYSTEM (00:16:15)

Students and staff access smart pass from their school provided device. They do not need a personal device though there is an app that can be used by students and staff. There was some concern that the school would be tracking students but it does not use GPS tracking but instead automates the where and when of students using a pass. It gives the Administration the ability to monitor in real time where students should be and allows for greater safety and accountability during the class period for all students.

The Board asked some questions with specifics to find out exactly what would happen if a student asked to go to the bathroom, etc. Mrs. Kiszka also read the description from a HS bathroom repair bill as evidence for why smart pass is needed.

PAC POSITIONS (00:20:26)

The Board was looking for an update on the Interim Music Director and PAC Coordinator positions. A middle school music teacher salary and a middle school music director stipend both still exist within the budget. Mr. Schweiss assumed the Administrator position of Mr. DiBartolomeo. Mr. Schweiss is currently teaching 60% of the time when his current contract states he should be teaching 40% of the time. Based on enrollment numbers and logistics in the music department, it is likely a MS music teacher will need to be hired. Mr. Kellan proposed removing the interim titles from their current titles and then look to the future to make a more informed decision on whether we need to fill the other Middle school position.

MOTION: Mr. Finnegan motioned to remove the “interim” title to both Mr. Schweiss and Mr. Constantineau’s current titles; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (00:46:00)

Mr. Kellan stated that there continues to be challenges with heat in the district. Mr. Kellan and Mr. Ingoldsby went to Sandown Central on Monday morning. Mr. Kellan was able to spend some time in the kindergarten classrooms. It was very exciting for him to see the five-year-old students and the way that they approach learning: the structure, the organization; it was really a great testament to all the great work that the folks at Sandown Central/TLC are going with our students.

The Administration is working on Middle School and High School drop off and pick up. Some improvements have been made and information will continue to be made available as adjustments are made. A new traffic control/crossing guard will be starting next week. Some mobile signage will be added. Mr. Kellan suggested that the use of traffic signals by all vehicle drivers would also be very helpful!

The Deliberative session is at 7pm on February 10th, 2022, in the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Finnegan also thanked Mr. Kellan for the noticeably increased level of communication. Mr. Kellan thanked Mr. Henderson in helping him with that.

PERSONNEL REPORT (00:32:17)

Nothing this week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD (00:32:31)

Barbara Kiszka, the Energy Committee: The Performance Contract building team met on Tuesday. In addition to facilities director Karl Ingoldsby and BA Maria Watkins, we were joined by a citizen who stepped up to attend the meetings, Jim Sierpien of Plaistow. He has a lot of HVAC experience and added a helpful point of view.

EI will not be done with their full audit until early fall, however they don't want to let a summer go by without getting some work done. We can't spread it out over multiple schools due to the overhead of running a project that has to meet ESSR funding guidelines. They suggested focusing on the middle school because all towns will benefit from that. We can get a nice \$1M project there that will add energy efficient 100% fresh air circulation systems to replace the older inefficient systems. With the new, smaller systems there should be some more room available for storage, and with some creativity we might be able to provide more space in the cafeteria.

We expect that after the full audit we will be able to address some of the other schools. We really want to get to the roofs and restrooms after the HVAC, but unfortunately it does not look like the funding is going to stretch that far. Of course, we will try to get the most we can out of the ESSR funds, Performance contract, and capital improvement funds.

Amy Gentile, Curriculum & Assessment: The committee met on Tuesday. They got an update on the TRMS schedule. They sent out a video to parents to gain their perspective on the schedule switch. They found that over 90% watched the video and had over 180 participants in the thought exchange. There were three highlighted comments that Mr. Mencis stated were areas of concern for parents. One was lunch and ensuring that there is more time in the new schedule to ensure adequate time for lunch. The second concern was that all four core classes might result in more homework for students. And lastly, parents were concerned that eighth graders may not be prepared for the HS block schedule. When they looked at the participants, they found that 50% were in favor of a switch to a different schedule, 40% were unsure and 4% were opposed.

A preliminary review of assessment data, state testing and iReady data, identified some trends. There are some areas of student growth and some areas for growth. Needs vs. requirements were also discussed. A presentation to the Board will be forthcoming.

Dr. Farah anticipated that the Board would start to review the elementary school's assessment data and the next meeting. She also expects to determine how to use the ESSR funds to help students that perhaps are a little further behind than they should be.

Steve Finnegan, Policy Committee: Policy met tonight. Three policies will be coming to the Board for review at the next meeting.

Kristin Savage, Safety: Mrs. Savage thanked Mr. Boyle for stepping in when they needed a second board member. Smart Pass was discussed in detail. They are continuing to work on CPR training for the staff and implementing that. They are working with Verizon to get enhancers for cellular service in

the buildings. Verizon will still own the equipment.

MOTION: Mrs. Savage motioned to go into non-public under 91-A:3, Paragraph II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 9-0-0.

The Board was polled:

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

The motion carried 9-0-0 and the Board entered nonpublic session at 7:44PM.

MOTION: Mr. Finnegan motioned to exit the non-public meeting; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 9-0-0.

The Board was polled:

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

The motion carried 9-0-0 and the Board re-entered public session at 7:52PM.

With no other business before the Board, Chairman Farah adjourned the meeting at 7:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 2 17 22.