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<https://livestream.com/trsd/trsb/videos/229407988?fbclid=IwAR0lPXg3RQc546WLy5Mf8FJDVVbzbz7OJSiBYoqibCN87luZDldl7q-EdYw>

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%2017%2022%20Board%20Meeting&FolderCTID=0x0120004312551B46136E4BA51A2C05822A071C&View=%7BD71C77CA%2D529B%2D49D7%2D8C91%2DE62575BBB707%7D>

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Regular Business Meeting
February 17, 2022
7:02 PM**

Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order:

Vice Chairwoman Kristin Savage called the February 17, 2022 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:02PM, took roll call and then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present

Brian Boyle, Kimberly Farah (arrived 7:09PM), Steven Finnegan, Amy Gentile, Barbara Kiszka, Katie Knutsen, Shawn O'Neil and Kristin Savage

Seated at the Board Table

Mr. Christopher Kellan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Kaylie Sheffield, Student Representative to the TRSD School Board

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:06:42)

MOTION: Mrs. Kiszka motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of February 3, 2022; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:07:15)

Laura Roy, Plaistow, came to speak regarding the updated Reopening Plan and requested clarification for face mask usage, bullet point #5 which states that if clusters and/or outbreaks are determined in a school, masks may be implemented per NH DHHS guidance regarding the case(s). As the districts are no longer reporting cases to the state and in turn the state is no longer investigating new cases and determining clusters and/or outbreaks. She would like clarification on who is determining clusters and outbreaks if the state isn't and with what data if there is no new data. What is the reason for this bullet point being on the updated Reopening Plan if new data is not being collected any longer.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (00:08:23)

Kaylie Sheffield, Student Representative, provided a biweekly report on the student activities.

Pollard Elementary: On February 14th, Pollard Elementary Second Graders participated in STEM activities organized by Mrs. Rodriguez. Students worked with each of the second-grade teachers to complete the following tasks: making the tallest candy heart tower, creating a holder to carry 30 candy hearts, and making the largest possible heart out of one piece of paper. Students also made tissue paper flower cards. It was a fun filled day for the students and Pollard would like to thank everyone involved. Mrs. Borisko's Kindergarteners and some first graders celebrated the 101st day of school by dressing up like dalmatians. In addition, on February 9th, the PTA hosted a breakfast for Pollard staff, and faculty would like to sincerely thank those who donated and coordinated the event. If you are visiting Pollard School any time soon, make sure you go on a winter Story Walk. Pollard School, funded in part by a NH Humanities Sharp Grant received in conjunction with the Plaistow Public Library, had a story walk created outside for students and their families. Ms. Collins and Ms. Tozier have installed the inaugural story THE HAT by Jan Brett. The Story Walk begins on the playground outside the car drop off door and ends on the other side outside the entrance to the yellow building.

Sandown North: Sandown North hosted a Family Literacy Night on January 27th, and would like to issue a huge thank you to Sherry LeBlanc who put together personalized literacy resources and activities for students who attended. Since February is Kindness Month, Sandown's Star Council is helping to coordinate students and staff writing letters or drawing pictures to send to others to brighten their day. Each classroom has a "Kindness mailbox" on their door where these special letters are delivered. On Monday, staff delivered letters from students with cookies to members of the Sandown community to thank them for all they do. These community members included the police and fire departments, post office, town hall, highway department, and library.

TLC at Sandown Central: The students at TLC have also been learning all about kindness. The students are reading books and engaging in structured play that focuses on developing the kindness skills of cooperation, sharing, listening to each other and being a good friend. The kindergarten classrooms celebrated the 100th Day of School on the 9th. Students made art work representing the number one-hundred, counted 100 items by sorting into 10 groups of 10, and made hundred's crowns. This week, students celebrated Valentine's Day by being extra kind to each other. All students continue to practice TLC's new outdoor playground rules and look forward to being outside for recess when the weather allows. Additionally, the students and staff at TLC are happy to be able to support Pollard's own Kid Governor, Charlotte Cotti's initiative of collecting socks for homeless shelters in New Hampshire. The sock drive runs from February 18 through March 11.

Atkinson Academy: In grade 5 at the Academy, students celebrated their last elementary school Valentine's by hosting a fun day surrounding the Olympics. Students worked cooperatively to play games and have an exciting day with one another. Grade 4 students worked on writing compliments to each of their peers to decorate their Valentine Bags. This was a fantastic way to continue with the Kindness Movement in many of the elementary schools district wide. Fourth graders also read with their first grade Reading Buddy teaching them all about the theme. Last week, first graders celebrated the 100th day of school. On this special day, students had the opportunity to use their math skills and their imaginations to create representations of 100 in a variety of fascinating ways. Additionally, students took part in a read-a-thon where they were challenged to read 100 books to raise money for Children's Hospital. The students took on this challenge and reached their goal with great pride. Mrs. Stewart's first grade read 111 books in under 100 minutes on the 100th day and raised over \$1000 dollars !!

Timberlane Regional High School: The Timberlane High School Players are currently performing in their opening night of their winter play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime." Three more performances will take place tomorrow night and Saturday. Information can be found on the PAC website or on the Timberlane players Facebook page. The Timberlane Unified Basketball Team

concluded its season with a fun game against the faculty. Students and the athletic department would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff that participated, and to Ms. Bird for coaching. Further in athletics, the winter season is winding down. The Gymnastics, swim, and ski teams competed well at the NHIAA State Meets, and the wrestling team will compete this Saturday in the NHIAA Division 1 State Meet. The athletic department would also like to thank coaches and schools for creating a modified Indoor Track Season. Timberlane's track team was able to compete in 4 meets this winter. Boys and Girls basketball finished up with incredible effort from both teams, and cheerleading held a friends and family showcase last night in the High School gym alongside the middle school cheer team. This past weekend, the student council traveled to all 4 towns throughout the district and collected cans and non-perishable items for St. Luke's food pantry. At the conclusion of this event, nearly 700 items were collected and were brought to St. Luke's yesterday afternoon. Timberlane's Project Hope organization is hard at work preparing for the "Strut for a Cure" fashion show at the beginning of March. This is one of the biggest events of the school year up at the high school and students are eagerly anticipating this wonderful event for a great cause. Continuing, Students are being educated on the new SmartPass system being implemented in the High School in their math classes this week. So far, students have found this easy to use and convenient. Many students feel that this will be a positive change for the student body and bathroom safety- and absolutely a more sanitary substitute for traditional hall passes. Lastly, Juniors are completing SAT prep in core classes to prepare for upcoming exams.

(00:14:00) Steven Finnegan requested to make a statement before moving on to current business regarding the question by Laura Roy about New Hampshire tracking Covid-19 data and in his opinion, he feels that it will be very unlikely we ever go back to masks and he thinks the statement in question is in there, in the event they somehow reinstitute tracking Covid-19 data again.

(00:14:59) Kim Farah requested clarification on what proposed reopening plan was being discussed. Upon further discussion, it was discovered that the Meeting Agenda on the public website mistakenly attached the materials to be discussed at tonight's meeting.

CURRENT BUSINESS (00:17:56)

Curriculum Presentation, Sandra Allaire, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Professional Learning

Upon Kim Farah's request, Sandra Allaire provided an informational summary of the Curriculum Presentation for the board to get a better understanding of the assessment data. She provided graphs showing areas of concern, the data collected over the span of a few years starting with the 2016-2017 school year and how Covid-19 has affected the participation percentages and overall stats in the areas of Math, ELA and Science. She went on to discuss new programs that are working very well and are helping teachers and administrators to identify at-risk students quickly to implement changes to improve their ratings.

Participation is typically used as an important data point as the state uses this tool to ensure all districts that received Title 1 funding, which TRSD does, have a minimum of 95% participation rating. Districts that fall short of that would receive a participation rating of zero for the number of students that fall below that level. Last year, due to Covid-19, this was not taken into consideration due to the high volume of remote students and parent opt-outs which impacted the performance data. Mrs. Allaire discussed the levels of concern that were to be focused on and how they will be working to improve the ratings moving forward with programs like the new benchmark assessment program iReady the district has piloted at the elementary level this year and will be utilizing for grades K-8 in 2021-2022, which have had great results to date and are helping teachers and administration to provide intervention to any students notified as Red, in need of further intervention to obtain grade level skills.

Mrs. Allaire discussed different options they will work on for grades 9-12 which are not able to utilize the iReady program. She also discussed the focus on Geometry for grades 3-5 which was recognized as an area of need, through deep analysis of NHSAS and iReady data from the Fall-Winter data as well as a new Middle School program called What I Need (WIN) Block which is a targeted intervention/enrichment block that was implemented in Trimester 2 (December 2021.)

Mrs. Allaire discussed changes for the Middle School from the A/B schedule currently in place to a schedule with core classes across every school day each week.

New updates to move to a digital SAT prep program and PSAT for grades 9-11 to engage in this assessment is being discussed.

(00:51:36) Barbara Kiszka thanked Sandra for the graphs and stated they were very helpful and it obviously is disappointing to be below the state average in so many places although we did have some bright spots with the SAT scores in Atkinson. She then proceeded to ask two questions. The first was regarding the special needs percent where she wanted further information on this area as she believed our percentage of special needs was higher than the state average and asked if Sandra knew the specific percentage for this subgroup. Sandra did not know the specifics however she confirmed this subgroup was included in the data presented and it is included in the larger packet and offered to come back if the Board would like to discuss further. She then went on to inform the Board that the two most common subgroups that the state collected data on were special needs and low-socio economic status. Subgroups with a population under 10% are not collected on the state's website.

(00:53:21) Kim Farah asked for clarification on the data that could be pulled out of the subgroups. Sandra clarified that they could identify subgroup performance however they could not look at school performance not including the subgroups. Our comparison of the subgroups against the state varies however in some instances we are underperforming and in some we are outperforming the state at different schools and grade levels.

(00:54:53) Barbara Kiszka asked since 2017, has the percentage identified as special needs decreased, increased or stayed the same, which Superintendent stated it is higher, however in his years of evaluations, Timberlane was always one of the highest in the region.

(00:55:54) Steven Finnegan thanked Sandra for the presentation and while the numbers are not at the level desired, based on the latter part of the presentation had some areas of optimism such as the iReady data from the Fall/Winter is positive and encouraging. As Math and ELA are the focus in these assessments, he requested information on what we were doing regarding Science, which seems to not be a focus. Sandra agreed that this needs to be an area of focus and gave some ideas of what they are starting to discuss to bring this back into focus.

(00:58:04) Steven Finnegan mentioned that Sandra highlighted the elementary data days and that it was his understanding that this week is to focus on the data and asked if there has been any conversations on doing these data days more often with elementary students and to expanding it to the middle school and high school students as well. Sandra advised they have not discussed it as of yet for the middle and high school levels however, that process has started to happen so that teachers share classroom-level data with the administrative team to identify students that are at greatest need, the ones in Red. Data days are focused on the individual students, with a team approach to discuss what is working and what is not working, and what the next steps should be.

(00:59:50) Katie Knutsen asked about students that are identified as special needs and inquired if they are taking the same iReady test and asked if there are other tests the special needs students take. Sandra confirmed the iReady tests are the same and the classroom teachers share the data with the special education teachers and confirmed there are additional testings for special needs students as well based on why they are identified.

(01:00:38) Brian Boyle commented about what Timberlane students have gone through over the past two years, along with the world and he believes what they have to do is get the masks off the kids and get back to work so they can regain some normalcy as these have to be factors in how the kids are learning and testing.

(01:01:11) Steven Finnegan wanted clarification, thinking of the past meeting regarding iReady, he wondered if these numbers presented were excluding Sandown Central. Sandra reminded the Board that iReady is a K-8, so you will see Kindergarten data for all the schools in the graphs provided, including Sandown Central.

(01:02:08) Kim Farah asked in regards to the new middle school daily schedule, are they looking to have math and foreign language every day. Sandra confirmed this is the case, that they would have the core subjects every day.

(01:02:16) Kim Farah confirmed they had the Fall/Winter iReady data and inquired when they would have the Spring data. Sandra advised the Spring testing would be May/June and the deadline for the data to be available for the Board is the last day of school however, they would have the data available before then for the Board. Kim would like to have something sooner if possible to see where the data stands before the end of the year.

(01:03:14) Kim Farah inquired about summer programs that would be available. Sandra advised in addition to the typical summer programs available, they were looking to implement additional programs for a wider range of students for after school and summer. Kim Farah brought up that besides Title 1, there were other programs that could utilize the ESSR funds and Sandra clarified she was using Title 1 as an example for the process. They discussed the ESSR3 funds which could be used for other programs. Kim Farah requested an estimate on how much is in the ESSR3 funds currently that would be used for education. Sandra stated it was a minimum of 20% or a full ESSR3 allocation which she believes is upwards of \$800,000. Maria Watkins is looking into the exact amounts and will provide later in the meeting.

(01:05:16) Amy Gentile requested clarification if participation needs to be at 95% for the NHSAS testing, what happens if you are not at 95% in normal years (non-Covid years). Sandra reminded this was a federal requirement so the US Department of Education, in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act, that provides funding to states and districts has these requirements as they are used for accountability. Districts that received Title 1 funds, which Timberlane does, are required to meet 95% of participation in state assessments. If we do not, in a normal year, that percentage would be calculated as a zero in our scores. Due to Covid, the US Department of Education gave the New Hampshire Department of Education a waiver due to Covid because it was a remote-only assessment, because of everything that was going on with the pandemic so our participation levels did not impact the achievement, which was a one-time waiver which may not be in place this Spring.

(01:07:14) Amy Gentile also requested clarification on if the goal-setting presentations building principals or administrators made to the Board recently based on iReady or NHSAS data. Sandra stated each school has different goals so she would have to go back to that however it was based on iReady

data, what were the school's specific goals as a building, what is achievable and then they would try to set goals realistically.

(01:08:31) Amy Gentile then asked if the iReady program ESSR funds were set aside for next year. Sandra explained that when she presented to the Budget Committee iReady, they used to budget for a different program that they did not use last year so they did have some funds but not the cost of ESSR in the budget. We have a 3-year contract for iReady that they were able to fund so iReady is funded through ESSR2 for 3 years but she did speak to the Budget Committee about the potential of coming back for additional funds if the program proves successful.

(01:09:26) Shawn O'Neil asked about being able to segregate subgroups out of the overall group and with the data that is provided, if we have complete access to the database that holds all this information or does the state share the data with each district. After much discussion, it was clarified that the state is determining what the average student knows at the end of the year based on their calculations after seeing the whole state's data, which does include subgroups.

(01:15:36) Kim Farah questioned the Board, as the Middle School schedule is clearly changing because she had wondered where the Middle School was getting additional time in the schedule for core subjects and the answer had been there are two blocks of "non-instructional" time that is now going to be reduced to expand the core instructional time. Sandra clarified that it is reallocating time to have more time for the core instructional subjects and will provide the requested informative video to the Board that was distributed to the Middle School parents to explain the upcoming schedule changes. Kim Farah thanked Sandra for the presentation and that they may call her back after they have reviewed the full data report.

01:17:04 Maria Watkins, Chief Financial Officer provided the Board the ESSR funds for ESSR2 and ESSR3 allocated for the district is \$1.8 Million and 20% of that is \$353,000. We have paid for iReady out of ESSR2 so ESSR3 alone is \$1.2 Million that was allocated to Timberlane and 20% of that is \$245,000 so we are looking at about at least \$500,000 for academic learning support. Kim Farah asked what the timeline on spending ESSR3 funds. Maria stated that the ESSR3 funds have until the Fall, 2024.

01:18:38 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Kim Farah states the Board approves the school calendar every year and looks for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Barbara Kiszka advised that in November, Election Day has a typo. Kristin Savage asked Superintendent Kellen if this was the format that would be used moving forward as she prefers the existing format. Kellen agreed the existing format was better however he put it to the Board to see what format they would rather. Kim Farah asked if Election Day was not a day off as she believed they had to close schools as Pollard was being used for polling. Kristin Savage advised that it was not using the Pollard school for elections. Kellen stated it was something to consider moving forward as the national elections come that if they change the locations to any of the schools, that will be something to consider.

Motion: Mr. Finnegan motioned to accept the 2022-2023 school calendar; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 8-0-0.

01:20:11 RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Kim Farah advised this is the updated school plan based on new guidance that has come out from the state regarding face masks usage in addition to other guidance that was put out by the state. She asked Mark Pederson for clarification if there was additional guidance put out. She is aware the state put out new guidance recently and inquired how this informed the change in the plan that they will be voting on tonight.

Mark Pederson advised that the state has retired the school tool kit that we had previously been using and there have been interactions of that document since it went into effect. Now the state has shifted their focus to sustainable surveillance and the name of the new guidance that they have is Responding to Covid-19 in K12 Schools and Childcare Facilities. That combined with the data metrics going down, and conversations as an administrative team, we have put together the new Return to School Plan which has been provided.

(01:21:51) One of the key data changes with the new guidance is that:

- Schools are no longer required to notify individual Covid-19 cases to the state which were previously required to report said cases to the state
- Schools are no longer asked to contact trace and inform families
- School comparative data is no longer published at the state level

Rates have been coming down since about mid-January, 2022.

(01:22:29) Barbara Kiszka asked if we still receive the numbers at the county level on transmission rate. Mark Pederson advised the numbers he produces in his daily Covid reports are all from the state level so those levels are still coming in. Some caveats to that are that at the local level, if the numbers are too low, it does not record it. If there are active cases between 1-4, they do not record those active cases so if it drops below five, it doesn't produce any data and in producing the rate of new cases per 100,000 population, if it has cumulative cases less than 25, they don't produce that data as well. He is unsure how much longer the county-level data will be available, however as of now it is still available. The nurse's data he receives daily from every nurse is still recorded.

(01:23:56) Katie Knutsen inquired that if the schools are no longer tracking, how are we determining if we have a cluster or outbreak. Mark Pederson advised that the state's guidance document is not asking schools to report, they are still keeping themselves still open for if schools feel like they have an uncontrolled outbreak, they can call the state and ask for guidance but they are not required to send every case to the state.

(01:24:58) Superintendent Kellen stated that we are not required to report and are not requiring that information is reported to us. We are asking that absences are still reported to the health office, not specifically the reason for the absence. The fact that the state department of health and human services will only be receiving positive case reports from hospitals and doctors' offices and they are not taking home tests into consideration. As it is no longer being collected, it will no longer exist.

(01:26:35) Barbara Kiszka thanked them for being proactive and projecting out when we can go without masks and giving us enough time to stabilize and make sure the trends are staying where they should and thanked them for all their work over the last couple years on this.

(01:26:52) Superintendent Kellen pointed out another one of the important factors of this is there are other mitigation strategies from when the original plan was put in place and now there are KN95 and N95 masks available for sale and they also have some available in the schools for anyone that would like to wear a mask that is believed to be more protective to oneself as opposed to one that is more

protective of others. Everyone above the age of five is eligible to receive the vaccination which has been told to everyone that this is the most effective mitigation strategy so everyone, other than our preschools have had that opportunity to become vaccinated which is another protective measure we can utilize.

(01:28:30) Kristin Savage inquired if the bullet point regarding the buses was federal mandate and beyond our control. After confirming the date currently mandated could change, she would like this bullet point to say currently March 18, 2022 as that date could be extended and wanted this clarified so people did not believe March 18, 2022 is a drop dead date as this is a federal mandate, this could be extended which is out of our control. Kim Farah suggested that when this is brought to motion, that Kristin make a motion to amend the wording with “we will continue to follow the federal mandate on all public conveyances (this includes school buses).”

(01:29:53) Shawn O’Neil is requesting guidance regarding the bullet point regarding clusters and outbreaks, and what the metric is going to be at NH DHHS.

Mark Pederson advised they have different metrics for outbreaks and clusters and went on to provide the definitions for both clusters and outbreaks on the DHHS website. He acknowledged this is a low-bar however this is just a recommendation by DHHS. If we feel we have a cluster, and again our nurses are not actively looking for clusters, but if they feel that they have uncontrolled transmissions in the school(s), that is when they are encouraging schools to contact the state and look for further guidance.

(01:33:53) Shawn O’Neil moves to remove bullet point #5 under Facemask Usage (if clusters and/or outbreaks are determined in a school, masks may be implemented per NH DHHS guidance regarding the case(s)).

(01:34:19) Steven Finnegan agrees with this as there is no data being collected any longer to identify a cluster or outbreak. It feels confusing and there is no bar based on us not collecting this data any longer. Superintendent Kellen stated that it would only be if parents voluntarily provide that data.

(01:35:30) Barbara Kiszka believes it is more of a communication issue. We can notify parents about an outbreak and the parents or teachers/staff can take what actions they deem appropriate given that information.

Shawn O’Neal added that they would be able to make an updated personal choice deciding if they would like to wear masks or based on real time data.

(01:36:41) Barbara asked Mark Pederson how feasible this would be to communicate if there appeared to be an outbreak or cluster or if there is a suspicion, could you communicate to the people that would most likely be affected. In response, Mark stated that the practice has been to communicate with those that have been identified as a close connect or direct exposure and if there is an outbreak the whole school would be notified. We could go back to that practice of notifying parents however the state is no longer requiring this.

(01:37:50) Kim Farah asked if they had an outbreak of measles, would the NH DHHS be notified about that. Superintendent confirmed this would be the case, along with the flu. Based on this information, she does not see how this would be any different. If you had a huge outbreak of Covid, H1N1, the flu, you would notify NH DHHS. She is not in favor of removing bullet point #5 because if you have an outbreak or cluster of any infectious disease, you should be telling the state epidemiologist. Mark Pederson confirmed that their nurses do communicate with the state health officials and he does not

know that exact practice/threshold is for each communicable disease however he does need to assume the school nurses are communicating with local, regional and state health officials when they do have issues with any communicable disease.

(01:39:22) Brian Boyle agrees with Shawn's motion but there always is going to be a certain percentage of parents, and that is their right, to wear masks and have their kids wear masks and this does not prevent them from doing that, which was his problem all along. This is why he hopes this passes the Board's vote because anyone that wants to be protected with a real mask, will always be protected and to have such a low bar of 3 or 4 kids that could affect a whole school is crazy when the whole country is saying it is over.

(01:40:13) Superintendent Kellen provided an update from Nurse Kate that there is a list of reportable diseases to the state, to Kim's point, yes there is a requirement to report some diseases.

(01:40:39) Kim Farah asked Mark Pederson where the language comes from in this bullet point that has a motion pending for removal. Is that the state language or did they write this? Superintendent Kellen advised with the help of his team wrote this. Mark Pederson stated that there is language on the state's website that in essence, says that.

Shawn requests to call a question to this. Kristin Savage requested that they continue the discussion as she would like to hear what Mark Pederson has to say. Kim Farah said it is fine to call a question and asked who wants to call a question now. Shawn raised his hand, Brian seconded.

(01:42:12) Mark Pederson found the exact verbiage the state document he was referencing earlier, reads: NH DHHS is also no longer asking schools or child care programs to actively conduct contact tracing to identify clusters or outbreaks. Rather, if a large cluster or outbreak is suspected based on weekly aggregate reporting, or if a school/child care official is concerned about uncontrolled transmission within a facility, the school or child care program can contact NH DHHS to report the situation and seek advice on mitigating further spread of COVID-19. Superintendent Kellen stated and they synthesized it to what is written under bullet point #5: If clusters and/or outbreaks are determined in a school, masks may be implemented per NH DHHS guidance regarding the case(s).

(01:43:08) Barbara Kiszka asked if their intention would be to mask up an entire school or classroom, would it be targeted or the whole school. Mark Pederson said he was not hoping for, nor predicting that we would have this situation based on the numbers trending down. If parents keep their kids home when sick, there will be no clusters or outbreaks. Superintendent Kellen reiterates this plan is for personal accountability, personal and family responsibility and consideration of one another, to still try and protect one another by doing so by other mitigating strategies besides masks.

(01:45:43) Steven Finnegan stated that based on what Mark Pederson just said, he now has a different question. It did not mention masks at all. It mentioned mitigation strategies and that doesn't necessarily mean masks. He would feel more comfortable with what is in the plan rather than a synopsis. Kim Farah suggested that after Shawn's motion was voted on, Steven could make his own motion. Kristin suggested they bring this to a vote and asked Mark to reread what he just read as it may impact how she votes. Hearing that language, she understands what Steven and Shawn are saying and believes this is a step in the right direction and that relying on the health professionals in these situations is necessary. She would feel more comfortable with adding onto the end "which may mean a potential return to masks" so as not to tie the district's hands if there is a huge outbreak or cluster. She is against the motion, however is not against alternative language.

(01:49:27) Barbara Kiszka would like to point out that there are 2 bullets up, a mask statement. She also mentioned that the verbiage from the state mentions large clusters or outbreaks or uncontrolled transmission, that is not in the wording in bullet point #5. Kim Farah reminded that this was not the motion we were discussing, it was Shawn's motion to remove bullet point #5 completely from the plan.

(01:50:24) Kim Farah questions the Board, all in favor of removing bullet point #5.

Motion: Shawn O'Neil motioned to remove the bullet point #5 under Facemask Usage: If clusters and/or outbreaks are determined in a school, masks may be implemented per NH DHHS guidance regarding the case(s); seconded by Brian Boyle. The motion failed 5-3-0.

(01:50:41) Superintendent Kellen responds to Barbara's mention of the other bullet point that mentions masks on a smaller scale. Individuals will need to continue to wear facemasks as determined by the Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines refers to students or staff who were positive and so upon return, they have to follow those guidelines.

(01:51:05) Steven Finnegan makes a motion to replace bullet point #5 with the state plan language: NH DHHS is also no longer asking schools or child care programs to actively conduct contact tracing to identify clusters or outbreaks. Rather, if a large cluster or outbreak is suspected based on weekly aggregate reporting, or if a school/child care official is concerned about uncontrolled transmission within a facility, the school or child care program can contact NH DHHS to report the situation and seek advice on mitigating further spread of COVID-19. Kim Farah suggests that they start it at "if a large cluster and Steven agreed.

(01:52:29) Kristin Savage seconded the motion with a discussion. She also asked Steve if he would consider amending his motion to, for clarification purposes, so this does not come back to potentially create a nightmare in the future to add some language to that saying which may include use of masks because she thinks they have to have some clarity on that in some circumstances.

(01:54:39) Brian Boyle asks Kristin why she wants to amend the state's language. Kristin stated she wanted it for clarity, just like she amended it on the federal one. As a result of her response, there were comments from certain members of the audience to which Kim Farah asked repeatedly for them to stop or they would recess or he would be asked to leave.

(01:55:33) Barbara Kiszka reminded that they were discussing the motion as Steven wanted to amend it and if Kristin wanted further amendment, that could be done later. Kim confirmed this.

(01:55:57) Kim Farah questions the Board, all in favor

Motion: Steven Finnegan motioned to replace bullet point #5 under Facemask Usage: and to replace it with: If a large cluster or outbreak is suspected based on weekly aggregate reporting, or if a school/child care official is concerned about uncontrolled transmission within a facility, the school or child care program can contact NH DHHS to report the situation and seek advice on mitigating further spread of COVID-19; seconded by Kristin Savage with a discussion on this. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Steven Finnegan motions to approve the plan, Barbara seconded. Kristin requested Steve to remove his motion to approve after Kim clarified now that this was voted in as part of the plan, Kristin could make a

motion to amend the bus mandate language.

Motion: Kristin Savage motioned to amend the bus mandate language under bullet point #6 under Facemask Usage to strike the current language and to add “we will continue to follow the federal mandate on all public conveyances; seconded by Steven Finnegan. Motion passed 6-2-0.

Motion: Steven Finnegan motions to approve the new amended plan; seconded by Barbara Kiszka. Motion passed 7-1-0.

01:59:17 POLICIES REVIEW

Steven Finnegan presented four policies for first read. With Kim Farah’s permission, he grouped the first three policies together for a vote.

1. **ACA Nondiscrimination: Title IX Grievances**
PC recommends revoking/repealing this policy as it has been looped into ACAC Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process which was adopted by the Board on 1/6/22
2. **ADA Special Education Philosophy Statement**
PC recommends revoking/repealing this policy as philosophy statements are not policy
3. **ADAB Timberlane Regional Middle School Statement of Purpose**
PC recommends revoking/repealing this policy as the High School version was previously revoked

Motion: Barbara Kiszka motions to approve policies 1-3 for first read; seconded by Steven Finnegan. Motion passed 8-0-0.

The fourth policy was voted on separately as it was regarding summer learning. First read for IHCA Summer Learning - Policy Committee recommends minor changes changed from: Students ~~will be expected~~ are encouraged to complete summer activities that support student learning. There ~~will~~ may be required summer work.

Kim Farah stated she is not opposed to this change, however she certainly hopes there is some summer homework, reading in elementary and for AP classes. Athletes are expected to work out year-round, she would expect students to as well.

(02:02:25) Steven Finnegan wants the public to know the Policy Committee did have some extensive conversations about that and what you just said is what they would like as well for some to have summer learning.

Shawn O’Neal states he is going to vote no against this due to the dismal performances presented to the Board earlier in the night and then having this kind of stuff and doing the complete opposite doesn’t make sense and he hopes the Board votes against this. Steven asks what Shawn’s recommendation would be. Shawn would like to keep it as is, where students are expected to do work. He understands

some parents do not like this, he spoke with quite a few of them however when a student waits till the very end to do their homework, they should be learning about procrastination which is a building block of life and by showing that and having them overloaded and the parents having to help them out, he can see why parents want to get rid of it but is that the best thing in the grand scheme of things, especially when we have those data metrics that are slapping us in the face with reality.

(02:04:20) Katie Knutsen wanted to confirm that with iReady they were able to see who needed extra help. This is why she would be for this.

Barbara Kiszka reminded why this was revised to say not required was because some of the teachers were using this as part of the grade on two semesters Fall and Spring. The kids in the Fall had to do this extra work however the kids in the Spring did not.

Kim Farah agrees there should be summer homework. She thinks what happened now is the kids have summer homework in every class which she does not feel is helpful. They should have summer homework for the core subjects. Elementary students could have reading and Middle and High school students should definitely have some Math, based on those numbers shown earlier. She suggests instead of disincentivizing, they should rather incentivize students with something, even something as simple as a free ice cream cone at the end of the summer.

Motion: Steven Finnegan motions to approve policy IHCA-Summer Learning for first read; seconded by Barbara Kiszka. Motion failed 3-5-0 and went back to policy to revise.

After the motion failed, Kristin Savage spoke to seeing children just going through school during Covid, she agrees with Steven that there should be some required reading. She feels there needs to be changes to this as kids being penalized for not completing their summer work is not helpful. If kids are waiting till the last minute to do the work, how is this benefiting them or you have kids that get this Math who are not ready for it. They go into Geometry and only knows Algebra and they bomb it. There has to be some sort of balance.

Sandra Allaire came forward to clarify the procedure associated with this, which was developed through the Curriculum Assessment Committee several years ago, is where the grade penalty, the expectation across content areas came from. They would be willing to revise the procedure as well but the flexibility in the language of the policy wording that speaks to would be, this was discussed extensively to help with accountability for teachers.

(02:13:42) Kristin Savage asked what comes first, the chicken or the egg before Amy Gentile mentioned that she has been to these policy committee meetings over this particular policy. You want to leave room so it is not a directive. So we as a Board are not superseding our responsibilities to allow procedure and teachers to determine what is needed in their situation. By requiring it in a policy, there becomes an element of accountability that needs to be considered as well. Kim Farah wants to confirm that some policies have procedures that explain how the policy should be enacted. A procedure is not a Board document, a procedure is an administration document. Katie Knutsen spoke about how it was at her previous school district that if a student was hitting their grades, they did not have to do summer learning, it was only for students that needed the extra work. She asked if all districts do this or is it just Timberlane. Sandra Allaire requested permission to answer this question. As part of the conversation between the Internal Assessment Committee and internally with their admin team, over the past couple years they have collected some data on districts, rates of completion, submission of assignments and what they found is that they are one of few districts in our area that require it. It is promoted and

encouraged. When they reached out to neighboring districts, they discovered it is not required and if you look at the NH School Board Association's sample model policy, that verbiage you see on this plan, summer learning is required, is not part of the sample model policy, it is unique to Timberlane which is why some of our conversations was around providing some flexibility and we know we need to reset some of that policy. We have been waiting for the policy to go through this process before determining how we will amend that but it is time to amend that procedure. Katie Knutsen asked if the other districts that do require summer learning have seen improvement in their testing scores. Sandra stated she would not be able to speak to this right now and was asked by Katie if she could get that data possibly. Sandra stated they can look at it however she is not sure as some changes have been made so she is not sure what districts continue to do this, especially during 2019-2021 (Covid) which even Timberlane waived this. Katie stated she agrees with Kristin to just give homework just to do it. She does think they should read but kids need a break. Sandra stated that how it is written currently in the policy, it is required for all students in Science, Math and ELA for high school. Secondary levels are handled a little differently as well as differently for Elementary level so the procedure has different levels and how it looks like but it is required and there is a grade for this in middle school and high school, for all students regardless of their performance on end of year standing for their current grade level, going into the summer. Superintendent Kellen stated the real goal for summer learning is to engage students in ongoing learning, to prevent regression, to support and encourage them to, along with their families, to engage in the learning process which can be fun so we have to look at the type of activities that we are providing students. There could be a whole host of meaningful ways to engage students like rather than writing a book report, you could read, we could have an online book club. We could have all kinds of things like an art project we make available to the kids and their families so that they stay engaged throughout the summer. Kristin states the current summer learning is not fun trying to get the kids to do what they have to do. Barbara Kiszka wanted to give Kaylie Sheffield a chance to speak to this. Kaylie stated she herself does not mind summer learning as she has benefited from it however she knows a lot of people that haven't. Being an AP student, she understands what a heavy summer workload feels like. She sees her sisters at the elementary level struggling with their summer homework, it is very hard for 10 year olds to manage this however she does feel this is very beneficial for high school students and she also wants to bring up that it does not affect your grade based how well you did on it. From her experience, teachers grade solely on completion and students do have the first week of school to complete this assignment unless you're in an AP class which does affect your grades if you do not complete it. She also stated that if you are taking multiple English classes, they only require one to do summer work at the high school level. Kim Farah reminds that this has been voted down so it is going back to the Policy Committee with more feedback to help with changes. Kristin Savage states that what Kaylie is experiencing and what other students are experiencing are different. Some teachers are grading this on a correct or incorrect, not on completion solely. This is where she feels the inconsistency lies because teachers are handling it differently. Also, regarding if you have three classes, how does that get determined which one it applies to.

(02:23:18) Kim Farah moves on to the Second Read on GCCBC Family and Medical Leave Act. Steven Finnegan states, just for background, this policy came to the Board on November 18, 2021 for first read and it is back now for a second read. Kim Farah asks for a motion to approve GCCBC Family and Medical Leave Act as a second read.

Motion: Steven Finnegan motions to approve GCCBC Family and Medical Leave Act as a second read; seconded by Kristin Savage. Motion approved 8-0-0.

02:23:56 ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Superintendent Kellen reminds that on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, each town will have a chance to vote locally on the School District Budget and Warrant Articles and other town articles and budgets as well.

Our very own New Hampshire Kid Governor Charlotte Cotti has a sock drive to benefit New Hampshire's homeless. It is running from 2/18/2022-3/11/2022. Socks are one of the greatest needs for our homeless residents in New Hampshire and Charlotte is coordinating a sock drive across the whole state. It will be not only in our schools but across all of New Hampshire Kid Governor participating schools. We are hoping to help out Charlotte and the homeless residents of New Hampshire by collecting as many socks as possible.

Barbara Kiszka asks if people outside of the schools can donate and was advised that it will be posted on the school websites or you can bring them to any school participating as well as drop them off at the SAU office which is setting up a box at their office.

02:26:07 PERSONNEL REPORT

Scott Strainge, Assistant Principal at TRHS will be retiring at the end of the year. Kim Farah asks if there is a motion to accept Mr. Strainge's resignation.

Motion: Shawn O'Neal motions to accept Mr. Strainge's resignation; second by Kristin Savage. Motion passed 8-0-0.

Kim Farah thanks Mr. Strange and wishes him well in his retirement and states he has been with the district for a long time and asked if anyone knew how long.

Brigette Chauvette, Special Education teacher from Sandown North school is also retiring at the end of the year. Kim Farah asks if there is a motion to accept Ms. Chauvette's resignation.

Motion: Steven Finnegan motions to accept Ms. Chauvette's resignation; seconded by Barbara Kiszka. Motion passed 8-0-0.

02:27:11 COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports besides Deliberative Session Kim references.

Kim Farah asks who is available for the March 3, 2022 meeting to make sure she has a quorum as she already has heard from some they are not available. Members available for the meeting: Kristin Savage, Barbara Kiszka, Katie Knutsen, Shawn O'Neal, Kim Farah. Members not available to attend: Steven Finnegan, Amy Gentile. Sheila Lowes is not here which would give us five. Brian Boyle may be available to attend.

Next board meeting is March 3, 2022. Reorg meeting is March 17, 2022, followed directly after by the regular board meeting.

With no further discussion, Kim Farah requests that they enter into a non-public under 91-A:3, Paragraph II (c).

Motion: Shawn O’Neal motions to enter non-public under 91-A:3, Paragraph II © Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; seconded by Steven Finnegan. Motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board was polled:

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

The motion carried an 8-0-0 to enter non-public at 9:30 PM and Kim Farah advised this will conclude the public portion of the meeting and they only come up to seal the minutes so we will not come back again.

Motion: Mr. Finnegan motioned to exit the non-public session meeting; seconded by Barbara Kiszka. The motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board was polled:

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

The motion carried 8-0-0 and the Board re-entered public session at 9:49 PM.

With no other business before the Board, Chair Farah adjourned the meeting at 9:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cori Zeuli
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 3/3/22.