

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://vimeo.com/589925636>
Materials presented at the board meeting may be viewed at:
<https://public.timberlane.net/sau/trsb/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fsau%2ftrsb%2fShared%20Documents%2fSCH%20OOL%20BOARD%20MEETING%20AGENDA%20MATERIALS%2f2021%2d22%2f09%2002%202021%20Board%20Meeting&FolderCTID=&View=%7b8B0F59BE%2dD93D%2d4E49%2d9509%2dA6F7531FCCAB%7d>

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Business Meeting
September 2, 2021
7:00PM

Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Chairman Farah called the September 2, 2021 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:00PM, took roll call and then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present

Kelly Bowes, Brian Boyle (exits 8:42PM), Kimberly Farah, Amy Gentile, Barbara Kiszka, Sheila Lowes, Shawn O'Neil and Kristin Savage (arrived 7:41PM).

Seated at the Board Table

Dr. Brian Cochrane, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Christopher Kellan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:00:56)

MOTION:	Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of August 19, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 7-0-0
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DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:01:26)

MOTION:	Ms. Gentile motioned to limit the Delegates and Individuals to 30 minutes at the start of the meeting and suggested that students should not speak at this venue; seconded by Mr. Boyle for discussion. (Motion Withdrawn; see below.)
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Mr. O'Neil requested fairness in calling the delegates to the microphone, alternating sides, etc. Dr. Farah stated that they are taken in the order in which they are received. There is no information on the sheets relative to stance or topic to be discussed by the delegate. Mr. Boyle asked how many delegates had requested to speak tonight and Dr. Farah stated that she had received five thus far.

In light of so few delegates, Ms. Gentile withdrew her motion and Mr. Boyle withdrew his second.

Michael Boucher (Atkinson) spoke in favor of masking, increased mask breaks and a detailed contingency plan for remote learning, should it become necessary to close the schools.

Lorryn Kinkaid (Plaistow) asked if people should be wearing masks in the building, and she would like that dealt with prior to speaking. Mr. Kellan indicated that some members of the public had requested accommodations for their disabilities that required they not be masked. Dr. Farah pointed to a section of the audience where many sat unmasked and asked if all those people were claiming a disability. Dr. Farah also advised the audience that this is a public meeting, and they could be on camera, even if they sat in the audience.

Mrs. Kinkaid spoke in favor of masking. She discussed the number of child deaths in the country and advocated for people to work together.

Jen Bisson (Sandown) thanked the Board for taking a safe approach. She requested that both sides work to find common ground, especially more mask breaks. She also requested that the temperature come down. People are scared of the personal targeting and harassment.

Igoe Davis (Sandown) advocated for combining universal masking and testing in schools. She also stated that Covid vaccine mandates for teachers and staff should be required.

Due to conduct in the audience when Mrs. Davis was speaking, Ms. Lowes requested that Dr. Farah remind the audience what the rules of order are for the meeting. Dr. Farah read the rules that were also read at the last meeting.

David Kiley (of Atkinson) accused the Board of hiding behind the matrix and not listening to the science.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (00:23:05)

Ms. Kaylie Sheffield gave a detailed update on the happenings at the elementary schools during the first week of school. The HS also had a successful opening. She described freshman orientation in full detail. The high school also has thirty-seven clubs and organizations up and running. Fall sports have begun and the high school and middle school levels. Ms. Sheffield also informed the Board of a petition making its way through the high school and middle school relative to the dress code.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING UPDATE: (00:26:37)

The Board reviewed an executive summary on the school re-opening plan. Numerous questions were reviewed relative to masking, hybrid & remote learning, and the feasibility of each to implement, blizzard bags vs. remote learning, availability of Chromebooks in a remote environment, ADA mask accommodations and the laws surrounding those accommodations via IEP or 504 plan. The Board also discussed community members creating accommodations for their participation and replacement masks being offered to children by teachers.

ATHLETICS UPDATE (001:01:21)

The Board reviewed the Executive summary. Mrs. Savage asked the Administration to set up a committee to preliminarily review the feasibility of a turf field, grants for it, etc. Dr. Cochrane stated he would meet with Angelo and Karl and see what a committee structure would look like and have it ready for the next school board meeting.

FACILITIES UPDATE (01:07:12)

The board reviewed the Facilities update. Mr. Ingoldsby, Plant Operations Director, indicated that Trane is on the last building and should be finished within the next two weeks. We have the machines to measure air flow, but we don't have someone with a certification in house. It would cost another \$80K to re-test again. The board felt it would be prudent to take measurements again with the in-house team to confirm that the changes we've been making are working. Temperature was also discussed as an ongoing issue. The water system has not been installed yet due to parts not having arrived. Ozone, UV lights, bipolar ionization were also discussed. Mr. Ingoldsby asked the board for another working leadership position. This individual would have six other positions working under him/her. The Board requested figures to include the approximate amount with benefits for review at the next meeting. Mrs. Watkins was asked to review the budget to determine where that line item could be funded. Dr. Cochrane stated that he felt the next step was to review the feasibility/cost benefit to staff up as opposed to continue to contract out.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (01:28:57)

The Board announced a joint tour of the High School next week with the budget committee. The Board is also looking to schedule a joint meeting with the budget committee in November. Mr. O'Neil requested that the Administration review the recent fraudulent situation that happened in the Town of Peterborough. He requested a review of the loss mitigation strategy to determine if it needs to be enhanced or expanded upon.

FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT (01:16:09)

The School Board approved the contract for food service in March of 2021. At that time, we did not know that the State was going to extend the free lunch option, so the agreement was created under the assumption of regular operations. Now with the decision of providing free lunch to students and the national job market for cafeteria workers challenge, Whitsons has reached out to us with a new proposal that reflects the new Federal and State reimbursement rates for free meals, an increase in their employee's hourly rate and the addition of an Assistant General Manager to assist with the gap in workforce and arising personnel challenges.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the Food Service Contract update that Maria has proposed with Whitsons for year 21/22; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 8-0-0.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (01:39:35)

Due to the resignation of Miss Bowes, there are seats available on Curriculum & Assessment and Wellness. Mrs. Kiszka agreed to attend the next Curriculum committee on September 14, 2021. Wellness has not met but will be getting back up and running shortly.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (1:42:31)

Dr. Cochrane advised that all schools can accommodate three foot social distancing for lunches.

PERSONNEL REPORT (01:43:43)

MOTION: Mr. O'Neil motioned to accept the professional nomination of Lindsay Steranko (.5 Pre-K teacher, Danville); seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignation of Karen Lovering (Special Educator, Danville Elementary); seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Ms. Gentile inquired as to the status of the teachers that were approved for hire at the last meeting. Candidates were located and offers made but unfortunately, the candidates accepted offers with other districts. The position will be advertised again. Ms. Gentile again suggested they consider re-purposing existing staff and backfilling those positions. Dr. Farah requested this come back before the board for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (01:50:36)

Ongoing union negotiations with five Collective Bargaining Units

Dr. Farah requested a moment of silence for the thirteen Marines killed in Afghanistan.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes 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 Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Bowes – Yes Farah – Yes Gentile - Yes
Kiszka – Yes Lowes – Yes O'Neil – Yes Savage - Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the Board entered nonpublic session at 8:53PM.

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

The Board was polled:

Bowes – Yes Farah – Yes Gentile - Yes
Kiszka – Yes Lowes – Yes O’Neil – Yes Savage - Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the board re-entered public session at 9:32PM.

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 Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

With no other business before the board, Chairman Farah adjourned the meeting at 9:33PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 9/16/21.