

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/trsd>
Materials presented at the board meeting may be viewed at:

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Business Meeting
August 5, 2021
7:00PM

Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Chairman Farah called the August 5, 2021 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:00PM and then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present

Kelly Bowes (arrived at 7:03PM), Brian Boyle, Kimberly Farah, Steven Finnegan, Barbara Kiszka, Sheila Lowes and Shawn O'Neil.

Seated at the Board Table

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

Dr. Farah informed the audience of the passing of Mr. Stokinger, former Business Administrator of the District for many years. She requested a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:06:28)

MOTION:	Mrs. Kiszka motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of June 24, 2021; seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 5-0-1 (Ms. Lowes abstained.)
----------------	--

MOTION:	Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of July 15, 2021; seconded by Mr. Boyle. The motion passed 6-0-0.
----------------	---

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:07:55)

Dr. Farah stated that Delegates and Individuals would be limited to three minutes per speaker. She advised that the audio team would be shutting the microphones off at that time.

Melissa Marr, of Plaistow, stated that her son got into the summer program and while the staff at TLC has been great, he really needed more time than he got. She stated that she feels like she had this very same conversation a year ago. She said there will always be variations of this virus and masking small children is not the answer.

Len Angelo, of Plaistow, stated he was speaking as a parent and a teacher. He said he works in a middle school with over 850 kids. He doesn't support masking students and said that the past year has been very difficult. He asked the board to stop the insanity.

Bonnie Bowley of Danville brought her children to the meeting. She opened by saying "I am here for my daughter's, and you are here for us." She said she knows most of the board are on their side, but it worries her that a few of them were not. She said the Board does not have to follow what the CDC says. She said that she has yet to see a parent advocate for masking or social distancing. She is here to say NO WAY!

David Kiley of Atkinson, said people are not hearing that since April 15th, the day the New Hampshire mask mandate was lifted, the mortality rate is down 63%. Cases are down 76%. You will not hear the growing 33 hospitalizations in New Hampshire right now from COVID 19 – 4 times lower than April. You will not hear if any kids are hospitalized at all. You will not hear about the context or the drivers or that the Delta is 3 times less lethal than the Alpha. If you're scared, turn off the TV, do your homework on COVID and the children.

Kevin Dube, of Danville, stated that no man or woman has the right to violate or trespass on the rights of another man or woman. So, the illusion that board policies, RSAs, or even local laws take precedence over constitutional rights is not the case and that is backed by several Supreme Court decisions. He went on to "notice the board" of his intent to remove their "plausible deniability" so they can be sued as regular persons.

Stefanie Dube, of Danville, asked the Board to provide the documentation that gives you the authority over a person's bodily autonomy. She said she was there to advocate for parental choice and making masks optional, without caveats because the pandemic is over. "Let me repeat that, the pandemic is over." She further stated "Should you as the School Board members decide to push for masking children twelve and under or any segment of the school children, understand this, we will not stop. Myself and these parents behind me will exhaust every single avenue up to including additional lawsuits to ensure their parental rights are respected. You do not have the authority to mandate masks for any child in this District."

Joanne Toomey, of Plaistow, thanked the Board for voting to remove masks for ESY students. She said her student has come out of school for five weeks with a smile on his face and he has made documented progress where before he was regressing. She respectfully requested that the masks remain optional.

Laura Roy, of Plaistow, stated that they were not going to stop until the Board supports parental choice. Mask mandates on low-risk populations are not reasonable. Parents know best what is going on with their children; the Board does not. When is this going to end? We want answers; we want choice.

Dennis Griffiths, of Danville, explained that they had chosen to homeschool their daughter last year due to the mask mandate. He understands that people are divided but explained that not committing to a policy for the year will drive him and others like him away from the public school because of the possibility of their daughter having to wear a mask.

The Board then had to recess because Mr. Griffiths would not yield the floor when his time was up. The crowd then began to make a scene insulting the school board. The Chair continued to ask the public to behave respectfully.

Jen Bisson, of Sandown, spoke in favor of returning to school safely. She spoke out in favor of masks last year and is in support of it again this year. She said students policing themselves in a mask optional environment is not a workable situation. She stated she was more afraid of this crowd than she was of Covid.

Linda Brown, of Sandown, declined to speak.

Kathleen Blood, Atkinson, attempted to speak on behalf of the book Flight of the Puffin. She said she had two non-binary students who had attempted suicide. She hoped that in 2021, we are not banning books. Students should feel represented in their literature and the things they consume at school. When you aren't represented, you feel like you don't belong, you feel like you don't exist, and you start to feel like you shouldn't.

Emily Hammay, of Plaistow, stated that Mrs. Blood's statement was crazy to her. She thanked for board for voting for mask optional and stated that she hoped it continued for the entire school year. She said if it does not, she will do everything in her power to fight it because it's an attack on her child's human rights and unconstitutional. She

also stated masks are not effective and not needed.

Anne Copp was asked what town she was from, as she did not put it on the request to speak form, and she stated that she was the “Honorable Anne Copp and she represented all of NH, thank you very much”. When the Chair explained that she would not be allowed to speak, because she didn’t live in district, she said this is America and she will speak anyway because her voice is loud and she “doesn’t need a damn microphone”. She proceeded to turn her back to the board and scream out her comments. The live stream had to be recessed again due to her outburst. During her outburst, the Chair asked if the rest of the board would like to retake their previous vote and allow her to speak and all declined.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING UPDATE: (00:51:04)

The Board reviewed the informational sheet provided by the Administration. Mrs. Kiszka questioned what the current social distancing policy was and after some discussion, Mrs. Kiszka stated she would like to propose that the Board use more local criteria for our social distancing policy. Specifically:

- If no town in the district has 50 or more positive cases per 100k over 14 days, then we have no mandatory social distancing.
- If the town with the most positive cases per 100k is between 50 and 100, then we go to 3-foot distancing or masks.
- If the town with the most positive cases per 100k is 100 or over, and if we are still in person, we go to 6-foot distancing.

Dr. Farah stated that this would need to be shared with the Administration, the Board, etc. prior to any vote. She also stated that this was likely more restrictive than the one being proposed by the Administration. Dr. Cochrane pointed out that the Executive Summary is not a plan. It was put together to show that various sources have conflicting information. There are a few weeks left to make decisions.

FACILITIES UPDATE (00:59:42)

Mrs. Watkins could not be here and provided an update in the agenda packet. Part of the update speaks to another item on the agenda. The MCL for Arsenic has been lowered. The High School does not meet the new standard so the filtration system will need to be improved. Pennichuck currently maintains the filtration system. This will likely necessitate waiving the bid policy to get it rectified before school starts. The Board agreed to get more than one quote for the work.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to waive bid policy DJE in regard to the Pennichuck water company; seconded by Mr. Boyle. The motion passed 6-1-0. (Mr. Finnegan opposed.)

Mr. Ingoldsby is requesting to have Dude Solutions conduct a Facilities Condition Assessment. They would do a complete inspection of all our facilities, HVAC systems, all roofs and parking lots, vehicles, equipment that we use and get a condition assessment of everything and then populate that into our preventative maintenance plan and into our capital forecasting plan. The bid policy would need to be waived because we already use Dude Solutions and there is no point in hiring two companies: one to do the assessment and then Dude Solutions to populate the data into our program. Dr. Farah publicly noticed it during the meeting that this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

STATUS UPDATES (01:10:17)

The food service contract is up, and we are in a one-year extension. The bus contract is past its contract and is

on its first year of extension. First Student has a 3+1+1 contract and Durham has a 5+1+1 contract. Dr Cochrane pointed out that new contracts are coming in with significantly higher costs and it might be prudent to ride out the +1 years of our existing contract. The Board discussed putting it out to bid now in an effort to attract more bids. First Student has been up for sale for a couple/few years. The Board also agreed to reach out to Hampstead to see if better terms are available together.

ATHLETICS (01:18:50)

MOTION:	Ms. Lowes motioned to approve the Soccer Boosters proposed plan for sign sponsorships; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.
----------------	--

MOTION:	Ms. Lowes motioned to accept a donation of a trace tracking camera as well as Soccer to be handling the annual subscription of \$4600; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.
----------------	--

MOTION:	Mr. O'Neil motioned to accept a Football Boosters donation of an end zone camera; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.
----------------	---

MODULAR CLASSROOMS (01:22:38)

Dr. Farah stated that the enrollment in the HS has dropped by 400 students and the enrollment at the MS has dropped by 250 students. Dr. Cochrane handed out the 21-22 Room Schedule, summary of empty classrooms. The Board had a lengthy discussion with Mrs. Allaire and the Administration relative to the fact that the board has been trying to remove these classrooms for several years and what it's going to take to get there. Dr. Farah requested class sizes, number of students, and number of class offerings to come back in Oct/Nov with the goal of working toward getting rid of them between first and second semester. Mr. Ingoldsby said the cost to haul them away is the same as it was to buy them. It would cost \$50K to keep them as storage. They would be free to just give them back, the district would just have to pay to disconnect the power and plumbing. Dr. Farah asked Mr. Ingoldsby to find out if they are metered.

CIA SPECIALISTS (01:45:45)

The district is looking to create 12 stipends called CIA Specialists (Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment) Content Specialists who will come from the ranks of the secondary schools and perform some functions at the High School and Middle School but will also provide content specific support for all teachers Grades K-12. The TTA has no objection to these positions moving forward to the board level.

MOTION:	Mr. O'Neil motioned to approve the stipends for the Cia Specialists; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.
----------------	--

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST (01:48:15)

MOTION:	Mr. O'Neil motioned to accept those budget transfers in the amounts and in the accounts specified in the CFO/Business Administrator's Budget Transfer Request dated August 5, 2021; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.
----------------	---

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (01:52:51)

Dr. Cochrane advised the board that he had accepted a \$500 donation from the Atkinson Women's Club. The High School very much appreciates the donation.

PERSONNEL REPORT (01:53:22)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional nominations of Emily Beaulieu (Special Education Teacher, Pollard), Jasmine Beltran (Life Science Teacher, TRHS), Jocelyn Dion (Speech Language Pathologist, Sandown North), Alyssa Guilment (School Counselor, TRHS), Susan Kostandin (Speech Language Pathologist, TRHS), Jessica Marrone (ELA Instructional Coach, Atkinson Academy), Nichole Palmer (Grade 5 Teacher, Danville), Diana Perry (Spanish Teacher, TRMS), Courtney Pilcher (Occupational Therapy, Sandown Central TLC), Alexandra Roschewski (Grade 6 Social Studies), David Russell (Mathematics Teacher, TRHS), Laura Spingel (Grade 3 Teacher, Pollard); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the renomination of Julie Blomberg (Kindergarten Teacher, Pollard Elementary); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignations of Brooke Belmont (Occupational Therapist), Erin Brewitt (Grade 6 Social Studies, TRMS), Kami Douglas (Grade 1 Teacher, Sandown North) with thanks and gratitude; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. (Kami Douglass, thank you for 22 years of service.) The motion passed 7-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (01:55:40)

Mr. Boyle inquired as to the state of hiring within the district. Mrs. O’Gara stated there are about 120 in all. The HR department has two people. They have not been able to find qualified people to hire for HR so their focus is the fill the positions and once the bulk of that is done, they will begin to pull the postings down.

Plaistow is the only town who does not have their numbers in for the annual forms. A courtesy reminder was requested.

The board would also like to set up a joint meeting between the budget committee and the school board at some point early in the budget season so that maybe they could come to an agreement on a number that they would like to work toward as opposed to what’s been done in the past, that the budget comes in and then they try to cut it back.

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 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Bowes – Yes Boyle – Yes Farah – Yes Finnegan – Yes
Kiszka – Yes Lowes – Yes O’Neil – Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the Board entered nonpublic session at 8:58PM.

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to exit the non-public meeting; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

The Board was polled:

Bowes – Yes Boyle – Yes Farah – Yes Finnegan – Yes
Kiszka – Yes Lowes – Yes O’Neil – Yes

The motion carried 7-0-0 and the board re-entered public session at 9:36PM.

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 9:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 8/19/21.