

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**  
**July 15, 2021**  
**7:06PM**

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

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Farah called the July 15, 2021 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:06PM and Mr. Boyle then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Board Members Present**

Kelly Bowes, Brian Boyle, Kimberly Farah, Steven Finnegan, Barbara Kiszka, Sheila Lowes and Shawn O'Neil.

### **Seated at the Board Table**

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

### **Others Present**

Sandra Allaire, Director of Curriculum  
Lucy Canotas, Director of Elementary Curriculum (K-5)  
Maria Watkins, CFO/Business Administrator, Timberlane

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:01:31))**

There weren't any minutes in the Board packets so the minutes will have to be reviewed at the next meeting.

<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>Mrs. Kiszka motioned to limit the Delegates and Individuals to 30 minutes at the start of the meeting and to finish them at the end of the meeting; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 6-1-0. (Mr. O'Neil opposed.)</b>
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### **DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:02:36)**

Dr. Farah stated that Delegates and Individuals would end at 7:38PM. She also reminded participants that their comments should be limited to three minutes and that participants would be limited to residents of the four towns in the district.

**Stephanie Apitz of Danville** read excerpts from some books that elementary students are being exposed to at school. She stated they were anti-police, first responder, and sexual content materials.

**Jim Sierpein of Plaistow** stated it was sneaky, manipulative and appeared to be with a political purpose. In the spring of this year, approximately twenty fifth graders across three classes were selected to participate in this instruction. Parents were not notified, and the kids were not told why. Parents found out from their children. He stated the books discuss human sexuality, hatred for police and emergency services. He stated that the books pass the line of HB2. He wanted to know the district's plan & guidelines for HB2 and what the repercussions are if HB2 is violated.

**Liz Sierpien of Plaistow** stated that her daughter was a part of a book review group. The school librarian read and discussed these books in detail with the children. She stated that her daughter was in a live Zoom meeting with

the author, without parental notification or permission. She asked that greater care be taken when deciding on subject matter for children.

**Bonnie Bowley of Danville** stated that the district is due to receive \$1.2m in Federal Rescue Plan Funds designed to support the school in safely reopening and continued operations. She said it sounds like good incentive for the Board to continue to play it safe. She that the Board has stated they will continue to follow state and federal guidelines which is counterproductive since board members do not serve the state and are not federal representatives. Guidelines are not regulation nor law and the guidelines the Board should be following are those requested by the parents of this district. She said, "If your new plan has anything resembling this year, tear it up and throw it away."

**Lisa Barr of Danville** stated she was appalled by the curriculum. Sexuality & CRT have no place in the district. She reiterated that parents should decide for their children, and they should not be taught hate. She urged them to please be more careful and make sure the parents are informed.

**Peter Torosian of Atkinson** (State Representative) was asked by parents to speak about the mask policy. He said that of the top 11 causes of death to children & adolescents, Covid is at the bottom of the list (133). He noted he was pleased not to see a police presence and urged the board to listen to their constituents and drop the mask policy.

**David Kiley of Atkinson** discussed the motions made on 6/3 and 6/24/2021 and reiterated that he wanted the mask mandate eliminated completely and told the Board to stop pointing to a higher authority. He believes parents should make all decisions for the district.

**Emily Hammay of Plaistow** discussed the importance of letting parents and students choose whether to wear masks or not. She said that children under 10 years of age are not transmitters.

**Laura Roy of Plaistow** requested that masking be a choice no matter what. She wanted to know why the board was favoring mask use. She said Timberlane students should not be putting on masks because there is an outbreak in Portsmouth. She asked that the board hear what the state of NH says are and not the CDC and not force controversial policies.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: (00:33:05)**

Dr. Farah read a brief school update provided by Ms. Sheffield.

**POINT OF ORDER:**

<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>Mr. O'Neil motioned to have the Superintendent develop a complete and detailed report of the book review program where twenty-two fifth graders were selected and participated in the review of the book that was discussed by the first two delegates this evening; seconded by Mr. Finnegan The motion passed 7-0-0.</b>
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There was a lot of discussion regarding the motion. There was discussion as to whether the motion would violate the rule that the Board does not involve themselves in Curriculum. Dr. Cochrane felt that an investigation was warranted and should be done by the Superintendent/Administration. Dr. Farah reiterated that the Board does not get involved in personnel matters. Unfortunately, the crowd was very involved in the board discussion, yelling things from the audience and were asked to stop on multiple occasions by various members of the board.

**SCHOOL RE-OPENING UPDATE: (00:44:33)**

The Administration is hoping to open in pre-pandemic mode with masks optional however, they will continue to monitor the Covid statistics and make the final decision on the re-opening plan in August. The Superintendent

and Chair have also discussed the possibility and viability of district wide multigrade fully remote elementary instructional model with no more than two grade levels per class and it would require a commitment for the entire school year. Because students under 12 cannot be vaccinated, other districts are allowing for a similar model of instruction.

VLACS is likely already full or close to full and the district would like to offer parents a viable option. Both Ms. Lowes and Mr. Boyle stated they were against any remote instruction unless things drastically change to require it.

**MOTION:** Mr. Finnegan motioned to form an ad-hoc committee including board members and the administration to re-look at the metrics for the school re-opening plan which would then need to be presented no later than August 19, 2021. There was no second; the motion failed.

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Neil motioned to remove the mask mandate; seconded by Mr. Boyle. Motion & second withdrawn.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned that in the year 2021/2022, the Timberlane Regional School District will be mask optional until further notice; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 5-2-0. (Miss Bowes and Dr. Farah opposed.)

The Board had significant discussion and many iterations of this motion. Ms. Bowes and Dr. Farah were concerned that the Administration had not been available to weigh in on this prior to the vote.

#### **FACILITIES UPDATE (01:04:37)**

The new Director of Plant Operations, Karl Ingoldsby, had started and submitted the summer project list for the Board's review.

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST (01:05:34)**

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept those budget transfers in the amounts and in the accounts specified in the CFO/Business Administrator's memo dated July 14, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### **PERSONNEL STATUS (01:06:51)**

The Board reviewed the Executive Summary provided relative to open positions within SAU 106.

#### **POLICIES (01:07:40)**

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept policies CF (School Building Administration), CFA (Individual School Administrative Personnel), CFA-R (Duties of the Principal), CFB (Evaluation of Building Principals), CH (Policy Implementation), CHCA (Approval of Handbooks and Directives), CLA (Treatment of Outside Reports) and CM (School District Annual Report) for second read; seconded by Mr. Boyle. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### **2021-22 PAC SCHEDULE (01:08:15)**

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the proposed 2021-22 Music & Drama Schedule of Events; seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### **PERSONNEL REPORT (01:09:20)**

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional nominations of Michelle Azulay (Chief Executive

Secretary to the Superintendent), Sarah Campbell (Elementary Technology Teacher, Pollard), Kathleen Farley (District Float Nurse), Kerry Gamble (.5 Pre-K Teacher, Pollard), Allison Hutchings (Grade 7 ELA, TRMS), Daniel Larson-Clark (English Teacher, TRHS), Joseph Ruane (Pre-Engineering Teacher, TRHS), Ashley Smith (FT Pre-School, Sandown Central), Adam Sullivan (Special Ed Teacher, TRMS); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the renomination of Jennifer Escobar (World Language Teacher, TRMS); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignations of Amy Champion (Grade 6 Social Studies, TRMS), Joanne Hamor (Special Ed, Pollard), Sarah LaCroix (Pre-K Special Ed, Sandown Central), Michaela LaRoche (World Language Teacher, TRMS); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING LOCATION: (01:11:21)**

The Board will continue to meet at the PAC. The next meeting will be August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: (01:12:10)**

The Energy Committee met last night, and they were joined by the new Plant Operations Director, Mr. Ingoldsby. The LED Light replacement project is going well and is going to save the district a lot of money. Steve Paradis has been changing all the light bulbs himself. The Solar Project is ongoing.

The Board has entered into negotiations with the TTA. Negotiations continue with the Administrator's CBA. They will also be entering negotiations with the other three bargaining units as well. The Board is continuing to negotiate with Hampstead on the MOU regarding SAU 55.

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Neil 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 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 8:21PM.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bowes motioned to exit the non-public meeting; 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 re-entered public session at 8:50PM.**

**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 Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 6-1-0. (Mrs. Kiszka opposed.)

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to appoint Kurt Schweiss as Interim Director of Music; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to appoint Sarah Galligher as Assistant Principal of Atkinson Academy; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignation of Jennifer Michitson with gratitude and best wishes; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (01:19:40)**

Stefanie Dube of Danville was called but was not present.

With no other business before the board, Chairman Farah adjourned the meeting at 8:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 8/5/21.