

*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/SCHOOL%20BOARD%20MEETING%20AGENDA%20MATERIALS/2021-22/08%2019%202021%20School%20Board%20Meeting/Agenda%20Packet%208%2019%202021.pdf>*

## **TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular Business Meeting  
August 19, 2021  
7:00PM**

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

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Farah called the August 19, 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, Kimberly Farah (left at 10:10PM), Steven Finnegan, Amy Gentile, Barbara Kiszka, Sheila Lowes, Shawn O'Neil and Kristin Savage.

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

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

Dr. Farah informed the audience that she had spoken to counsel and wanted to address the rules of order for the board meeting.

“First, these meetings are meetings specifically for the board to conduct its business. As a board we have duties and responsibilities that we have to address for the district to continue to operate. While our board meetings are open to the public, except non meetings and non- public meetings, our board meetings are not public hearings where the public has the right to speak out. In other words, board meetings are not public meetings, but meetings held in public.

Second, while the board welcomes participation of all interested citizens, all attendees are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner, and the board will not tolerate interruptions, harassment, discrimination, threats, or other conduct that interferes with these meetings. There's an appropriate time and a specific manner for citizens to be heard at board meetings. This is during the delegate session. Board Policy BEDH governs the process for citizen participation in board meetings”, and she read it into the record.

“Third, because some members of the public in attendance of our meeting have not followed the rules of order, I do want to put everybody on notice that the Board intends to strictly comply with policy BEDH. It requires that all citizens do the same while attending our board meetings. Interruptions, name calling, booing, and speaking/making intimidating and bigoted remarks during the meeting will result in removal from the meeting. Violations of policy BEDH, shall also result in immediate removal from the meeting. Thus, please only speak during your allotted time, limit yourself to three minutes and refrain from speaking about employees, or students, and conduct yourself in a civil manner.

Finally, failure to abide by these rules of order will, at a minimum, result in your loss of speaking privileges. If, after losing your speaking privileges or receiving a warning, your conduct continues to interfere with the meeting or otherwise violates the rules of order, law enforcement will be asked to physically remove you from the meeting. As you may be aware, once detained by law enforcement, you may be subject to criminal charges.”

Officer Pat, the School Resource Officer, reiterated to those in attendance, that the police were there to keep the peace. He stated that he understood the sensitive nature of the topics at the meeting but asked people to abide by the rules as they have just been explained to them.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:07:11)**

**MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of August 5, 2021; seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 7-0-2 (Ms. Gentile and Mrs. Savage abstained.)**

**DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:07:56)**

Dr. Farah advised the Board that there were thirty -three forms of individuals wishing to speak during this session.

**MOTION: 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.**

**AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Finnegan motioned to limit the Delegates and Individuals to 60 minutes at the start of the meeting and to finish them at the end of the meeting; seconded by Mr. Boyle. The motion to amend passed 9-0-0.**

**MOTION: Mr. Finnegan motioned to limit the Delegates and Individuals to 60 minutes at the start of the meeting and to finish them at the end of the meeting; seconded by Mr. Boyle. The motion passed 9-0-0.**

**The following individuals spoke in favor of masking/employing advanced safety measures when the schools reopen:** Alexander Gray (Sandown), Daniel Quimby (Plaistow), Brad Shaw (Plaistow), Terri Walsh (Sandown), Deirdre Steinfort-Rivas (Sandown), Ellen Moore (Danville), Parker Davis (Sandown), Jen Bisson (Sandown), Jennifer Seavey (Sandown), Laura Kinkaid (Plaistow), Anthony Weeks (Sandown).

Steve Cronin also spoke to the water systems/arsenic remediation, the bus contract and agreed with mask wearing.

**The following individuals spoke in favor of parental choice and the district remaining mask optional:** Tia Ann Travers (Sandown), Melissa Marr (Plaistow), Sophia Loik (Atkinson), Jaqueline Wydola, Bonnie Bowley, Grace Valley, Haeyoon Jacobus (Danville), Nolan Pelletier (Plaistow), Peter Terosian (Atkinson), David Kiley (Atkinson), Liz Sierpien & Daughter (Plaistow), Jim Sierpien (Plaistow), Gracie Griffiths (Danville), Dennis Griffiths (Danville),

**SCHOOL RE-OPENING UPDATE: (01:13:48)**

The Board reviewed an executive summary on the school re-opening plan. Each Board member had questions relative to the documents and there was lengthy conversation on various logistics of/in classrooms, the cafeterias, etc. Mr. Pederson (and Mrs. Canotas to a lesser level) answered numerous questions from the board. This year is very different in terms of logistics and the Administration feels that having a few weeks to monitor the application of the matrix model is prudent. The Administration feels this is a relatively short-term compromise. ADA exemptions were also discussed. Kindergarten camps were briefly discussed. Masking on buses is mandatory. Once the below motion was made, there was more lengthy discussion.

**MOTION: Mrs. Savage motioned for the board to approve the school re-opening plan based on the NH DPHS NH DOE recommendations as presented on 8/11/2021 with the terms and statements as**

contained in that document with the understanding that it be reviewing on a daily basis and if the levels change, that will be communicated with parents. It will be reviewed on 9/16/2021 at which time all the data available to us, including data from our own school, neighboring schools and communities as well as the county numbers and whether or not that still continues to apply to us or we want to make adjustments will be discussed at that time; seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 7-2-0. (Mr. Boyle and Mr. O'Neil opposed.)

#### **ATHLETICS UPDATE (02:23:22)**

THE NHIAA members have agreed that the visiting team will adopt the mask requirements of the home team.

#### **FACILITIES UPDATE (02:24:32)**

Mr. Ingoldsby, Plant Operations Director, provided the Board with an explanation of a performance contract. Essentially a contracted company would come in and review everything that potentially impacts energy usage. They then make recommendations for changes and once the recommended upgrades are made, the cost savings over time creates a cost neutral situation. Mr. Ingoldsby is in the process of forming the RFP for the evaluation.

He also stated that the electricity and water could be removed from the Modular classrooms by existing staff at no extra cost to the district. They could also be removed at no cost. He did mention, however, that if substantial work was going to be done in the HS, perhaps it would be prudent to keep the Modulares for now.

#### **FINAL BUDGET & ANTICIPATED SURPLUS (02:34:30)**

The Board reviewed the summary provided by Mrs. Watkins, CFO/Business Administrator. Mr. O'Neil thanked her for the great work she did in developing the document. Mrs. Watkins reminded the Board that the District is set to lose approximately \$500K in advocacy aid this year. The Budget Committee has reached out and wishes to set up a meeting for both boards in September to begin the budget process.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Kiszka motioned to renew the fund balance retention amount of \$500K; seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 9-0-0.

#### **FALL ENROLLMENT CLASS SIZE UPDATE (02:47:35)**

The Board the numbers as provided by the Administration. These numbers continue to fluctuate due to the on-going student enrollment and withdrawal process. Conversation centered around three classrooms that have a large number of students in them and the need for three new teachers. Ms. Gentile suggested that the enrichment teachers could be pulled in to teach these three classes and that Library could become a special.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Kiszka motioned to hire three teachers for the fourth and fifth grades for the classes that are highlighted; seconded by Ms. Gentile. The motion passed 7-2-0. (Mr. Boyle and Mr. O'Neil opposed.)

Ms. Lowes requested that Mrs. Cantos provide new TLC early education numbers in December.

#### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (03:09:39)**

Dr. Cochrane advised the board that the SAU 55 sign is being changed to a new SAU 106 sign at a total cost of \$1400. Students were involved in the design.

#### **PERSONNEL REPORT (03:11:10)**

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the professional nominations of Cheryl Clark (Speech Language

Pathologist TRSD/Danville Elementary), Kansas Ferguson (Grade 1, Sandown North Elementary) Denise Georgoudis (Grade 1, Danville), Cheryl Goodman (Pre-School Teacher, Sandown Central), Brian Nicoll (Social Studies, TRHS), Laurie Runions (Grade 6, ELA, TRMS) and Lisa Vadala (Special Ed Case manager, Danville Elementary); seconded by Miss Bowes. The motion passed 8-0-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignations of) Mia Brennan, (School Nurse, TRHS), Karen Milone (Reading Specialist, TRMS) and Kristin Soltis (Language Arts, TRMS) with thanks and gratitude; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 8-0-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: (03:12:54)**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS (03:13:39)**

Returning to Delegates and Individuals.

**The following individuals spoke in favor of parental choice and the district remaining mask optional:** Laura Roy, Stefanie Dube, Kevin Dube, and Emily Hammay.

Kate Bossi came to the microphone and disrupted the end of the meeting.

With no other business before the board, Vice-Chairman Savage adjourned the meeting in haste at 10:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 9 2 21.