

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:
<https://public.timberlane.net/sau/trsb/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fsau%2ftrsb%2fShared%20Documents%2fSCH%20OOL%20BOARD%20MEETING%20AGENDA%20MATERIALS%2f2020%2d21%2f05%2020%202021%20Meeting&FolderCTID=&View=%7b8B0F59BE%2dD93D%2d4E49%2d9509%2dA6F7531FCCAB%7d>

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular Business Meeting
May 20, 2021
7:00PM**

Teleconference via Webinar Link
<http://www.timberlane.net/zoomtrsb>
Technology Assistance: 603-382-6541 x3955

The Board attempted to hold an in-person meeting at the PAC. Due to persons not wearing masks to the meeting as required under district COVID protocol, Chairwoman Farah directed the meeting be relocated to zoom webinar. Accordingly, that meeting started at 7:33PM.

Call to Order (00:00:00)

Chairman Farah called the May 20, 2021 Regular Business Meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:33PM at which time she read a prepared statement explaining the Governor’s orders regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic that allows this meeting to take place electronically. This type of meeting also requires that roll call votes be taken on all motions and all meeting members must also state whether anyone is with them in the room where they are participating in the meeting electronically as required by the Right to Know Law.

Board Members Present (00:1:15)

Accordingly, the following roll call was taken:

- Miss Bowes was present. She was alone in the residence.
- Mr. Boyle was present. He was alone in the room with other family members in the residence.
- Dr. Farah was present. She was alone in the residence.
- Mr. Finnegan was present. He was alone in the room with other family members in the residence.
- Ms. Gentile was present. She was alone in the residence.
- Mrs. Kiszka was present. She was alone in the residence.
- Ms. Lowes was present with other family members in the residence.
- Mr. O’Neil was present with other family members in the residence.
- Mrs. Savage was present. She was alone in the room with other family members in the residence.

Others Present via Videoconference

- Dr. Brian Cochrane, Interim Superintendent of Schools
- Sandy Allaire, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning
- Lucy Canotas, Director of Elementary Curriculum (K-5)
- Geoff Dowd, CFO/Business Administrator
- Dana O’Gara, Director of Human Resources – TRSD
- Mark Pedersen, Director of Secondary Curriculum (6-12)
- Maria Watkins, CFO

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the vote on the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (00:03:34)

The board reviewed the public minutes of the May 6, 2021 Regular Business Meeting:

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the TRSB public meeting minutes of May 6, 2021; seconded by Mr. Boyle. The motion passed 8-0-1 (Mrs. Savage abstained.)

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS (00:04:40)

Taylor Aprile of Plaistow spoke about her love of music and the excellence of the music program.

James Slipp, of Sandown, is a Senior who participates in Band, Chorus, and the Timberlane Players. He will be studying Music Education in college. He spoke of the amazing music teachers and Mr. DiBartolomeo. He requested that the Board find a similarly amazing replacement.

Elizabeth Amorelli, of Danville, president of the HS Band, spoke of the benefits of the music program for students. She urged the Board to reconsider their position of only posting the music director position internally.

Cece Romano, of Sandown, who is also the President of Chorus, Treasurer of Tri-M and a Players Leader. She also spoke to all the benefits of the music program and how many students excel on the statewide stage. She advocated for the students coming behind them and urged the Board to reconsider the internal posting of the Music Director position.

Kathleen McGuirk, of Plaistow, spoke to the history of the Timberlane Music Program and all the various duties/events/productions that Mr. DiBartolomeo currently oversees as the Music Director.

Nolan Pelletier, of Plaistow, expressed his frustration that the meeting was moved to an online format. He stated that kids need to be unmasked and if that is not going to be an option in the fall, then parents need to be told that so they can make informed decisions for their kids.

Melissa Marr, of Plaistow, spoke about her three-year-old son's special needs. He is not doing well. He has basically missed 14 months of early intervention services. She begged the Board to unmask the children today.

David Kiley, of Atkinson, demanded a motion be made to remove masks tonight. He stated that forced masking is a violation of their Constitutional Rights.

Kathy Elliott, of Atkinson, spoke to Mr. DiBartolomeo's influence on the school and the kids in it. She stated that the program that he created superseded any other in the state. She said that Mr. DiBartolomeo is the only one qualified to decide who will take over.

Coral Hampe of Danville TTA President reminded the Board that there is still an MOU in place until June 30th. Any possible changes in the school's mask mandate need to go through the TTA by contract. She also stated that they have not received their contracts for the 2021-2022 school year. She also stated that staff is being driven out of the district.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (00:40:38)

Dr. Farah read a report prepared by Ms. Sheffield who was unable to attend the meeting. She gave detailed accounts of what is going on at each school as the year begins to wrap up.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING (00:44:57)

On May 3rd, the district released a survey to families of Pre-K through grade 11 students to obtain information for the 2021-2022 school year. Families were informally asked their preference for either in-person instruction or unenrolling for options such as homeschool and/or VLACS. 56% of families responded to the survey. Of those responses, 96% (1686 students) chose in-person instruction. TRSD administration recognizes that this survey did not require a commitment from parents, that our response rate is not a good representation of our student numbers, and that those who didn't complete the survey are likely waiting for more information from both the health and safety community and the district.

As a secondary data point, TRSD administration reviewed the number of students currently engaging in remote instruction or a homeschool model. Across the district, our current Preschool-Grade 11 numbers for remote instruction represent 11% of the student population [349] and homeschool represents 2% of the student population [78].

At this time, based on information received from the survey, in addition to current enrollment data, we anticipate minimal interest in remote-only learning options for the 2021-2022 school year. Therefore, we do not know if remote learning will be a viable option next year, as we consider how to appropriately allocate our staffing levels and resources. Further analysis and discussion regarding staffing and effective developmental approaches to learning would need to continue, should the district choose to offer a remote-only option for families next year. For these reasons, it is our recommendation that we move forward with planning for a full return to in-person learning for all students and schools in the fall. If parents wish to have their child fully remote for the 2021/ 2022 school year, they should inquire into alternative options to in-person learning.

As the metrics of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to trend in a favorable direction, TRSD continues to take steps to respond to and adapt to the changing conditions. Although we all wish to get “back to normal” as quickly as possible, we must make sure that it is done so safely with the health of all community members in mind. All along, TRSD has followed the guidance of the CDC, NH DOE, NH DPHS, the Governor's office and state and local health officials, to determine TRSD operating procedures. At this time, all those entities are still recommending multiple layers of protection be implemented in schools to ensure that all community members remain healthy. Those layers include but are not limited to masks, social distancing, cleaning protocols and vaccines.

Intense discussion ensued regarding the current mask mandate and how it effects recess, athletes, etc.

MOTION: Mrs. Savage motioned to authorize the Superintendent to adhere to the current NHIAA guidelines regarding masks at sporting events; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 9-0-0.
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More conversation was had on the topic of masks inside the schools and CDC Guidance. Dr. Cochrane stated that the current expectation is that the district will open in as close to normal as possible in the fall. Mr. O’Neil requested that the MOU with the TTA & TTSU be reviewed to determine if language is during “state of Emergency” or 2021 school year.

MOTION: Mr. O’Neil motioned to adhere to the CDC Guidelines and allow people that have been vaccinated to not wear the masks anywhere in Timberlane properties that the Board oversees. There was no second to this motion.

Mr. O’Neil feels that the Board is picking and choosing what pieces of mask guidance to implement. Ms. Lowes reminded the Board that there is an MOU in place with the TTA & TSSU. Those unions have to be notified and spoken to prior to any action by the Board.

Facilities Update (00:56:08)

HVAC Capital Equipment Replacements Recommendations Mr. Fournier has crafted a draft RFP for the replacement and installation of the 7 HVAC units listed in the spreadsheet dated 4/14/21 and provided to the Board on 4/15/21 to enable us to issue a bid for the replacement of this equipment ASAP. We still need some background information for two HVAC units in Pollard and we need to determine the unit ID for the equipment listed for replacement in our CIP as FACB0038 in Pollard School at a cost of \$95,000. We need to research how much capital funding we would like to spend before July 1, 2021.

Trane Projects HVAC general maintenance and repair work- Trane continues to work in the Middle School and expects to move to the High School later this week or early next week. They are providing detailed weekly progress reports listing the work performed and before and after pictures.

In-house LED Re-Lamping Project It was decided in the TRSD Energy Committee that will perform the balance of the LED re-lamping work inhouse due to the low incentives provided by the utility companies. An award to North-east Electrical Distributors in the amount of \$215,337.68 has been processed and Steve expects to begin work during the week of May 24th.

CPower Demand Response Project The agreement has been signed and the meters have been installed by CPower. Marc has sent a Zoom link to TRSD staff regarding a presentation by CPower that explains how the program will work. We also have received a confirmation from Unitil confirming our participation in the program.

Director of Plant Operations Position Description The position of Director of Plant Operations has been advertised and several applications have been received. Interviews should be held during the week of May 24th.

Solar Energy Project Mr. Fournier has reviewed the Solar Energy proposal from Revision Energy and has reached out to the Nashua School District (SAU 42) and Dover to speak with them about the projects they have worked on with Revision Energy. Mr. Fournier obtained the RFP from Dan Donovan used by Nashua and has forwarded it on to TRSD staff to assist us in crafting our own RFP. Mr. Fournier will forward any information he receives from Dover.

SAU106 ORGANIZATION (01:04:30)

The Board discussed the new proposed Organizational Chart for SAU 106.

MOTION: Mrs. Kiszka motioned to approve the SAU 106 Organization Chart as written; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 8-0-1. (Ms. Lowes abstained.)
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There was lengthy conversation on the Principal & Assistant Principal structure within the Org chart. The Board would like to revisit this topic again.

The Board revisited the Org Chart later in the meeting (01:30:50). The Board requested that the Administration confer with counsel as to whether another vote is needed on the 2nd Coordinator position/because of the RIF.

POLICIES (01:17:51)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to approve the accept policies JI (Student Rights and Responsibilities), JIA (Student Due Process), JIC (Student Conduct), JICD (Student Discipline and Due Process), JICD-R (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Timberlane Regional School District and the Police Department), JICI-R (Modification of Weapons Expulsion) and CCB (Line and Staff Relations) for first read; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 9-0-0.
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SCHOOL BOARD GOALS (01:24:25)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the Timberlane Regional School Board Goals for the year 2021-2022; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 9-0-0.
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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (01:25:45)

The NHSBA Student Scholarship Recipient is Billy Savage in the amount of \$2000. His successful essay was "The Steps my School Board can take to promote student achievement." The Board asked to see the essay.

There is a Donation from Health Trust in the amount of \$150 to support the high school's wellness program.

There is another donation in the amount of \$750. At the Tri-State ASBO conference, Timberlane's CFO Maria Watkins' name was drawn for the annual Simmons Smart Infrastructure STEM Scholarship. Ms. Watkins can award this scholarship to a Timberlane senior choosing to further their education in STEM.

MOTION: Mr. O'Neil motioned to accept a \$750 Tri-State ASBO Simmons Smart Infrastructure Scholarship Donation; seconded by Mrs. Kiszka. The motion passed 9-0-0.
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PERSONNEL REPORT (01:34:50)

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the resignation of Michelle Grimm (HS Pre-Engineering/Math Teacher) with gratitude and appreciation for her service; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. The motion passed 9-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned (reluctantly) to accept the resignation of Maegan Koelker (Principal TRSD Middle School) with gratitude and appreciation for her service; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 9-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the nomination of Kathy Lipton (HR Generalist); seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 9-0-0.

MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to accept the nomination of Kelley Brooks (Director, Special Education); seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The motion passed 9-0-0.

MOTION: Mrs. Savage motioned to accept the nomination of Christopher Kellan (Assistant Superintendent); seconded by Ms. Lowes. The motion passed 9-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REPORTS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD (01:46:37)

Mr. Boyle will be working on the search committee for the Director of Plant Operations.

The Board has been notified of CBA negotiations by the TTA. Mr. Boyle, Ms. Lowes, and Ms. Gentile will be on that negotiating team.

The 2020 Timberlane Audit will hopefully wrap up next week. THE 2020 SAU Audit is complete. Mr. Dowd stated that the 2021 SAU55 Audit will begin in July. It is expected that balances should be available by the end of July.

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS, CONT (01:53:12)

Mark Sherwood, of Sandown, also spoke on behalf of the Music Program and the benefits to students.

With no other business before the board, Chairman Farah adjourned the meeting at 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on June 3, 2021.