

## TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Work Session 11/4/2020

Note: The meeting was not properly noticed due to an oversight by the board chair and as such the Board acknowledges that it did not convene a proper meeting. The minutes were written in the spirit of compliance.

Chairman Farah called the work session on the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:07 PM at which time she read a prepared statement explaining the Governor's order regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that allows meetings to take place electronically.

### **Board Members Present**

#### **The following roll call was taken:**

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.

Mrs. Kiszka was present. She was alone in the residence.

Ms. Lowes was present. She was alone in the residence.

Mr. O'Neil was present. He was alone in the room with other family members in the residence.

Mrs. Savage was present. She was alone in the room with other family members in the residence.

Mrs. Silva arrived at 7:45 PM

### **Administration Present**

Dr. Brian Cochrane, Superintendent of Schools, was alone in his office with other family members in the residence.

Sandy Allaire, Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning (arrived at 7:30 PM)

Lucy Canotas, Director of Elementary Curriculum (K-5)

### **School Re-opening Plan**

The current school re-opening plan was discussed. At the last board meeting, the board had requested that the administration plan for a return of students after the end of the first trimester. Dr. Farah and other board members expressed concern that there was no hybrid option available. Mrs. Allaire and Dr. Cochrane spoke to the difficulty of trying to have three models (remote, hybrid, and fully in school) operating at the same time. Administration discussed the obstacles in having all students in the schools. This include the issues surrounding the cafeteria and meals. It is not yet possible to have all students in at the middle and high school and still maintain a social distance of 6 feet without masks on during the lunch period. The administration is continuing to explore options that can be used to ensure student safety.

Administration spoke to the recent decision to go remote at the beginning of the week. It appeared that Rockingham County was continuing to trend upward. In addition, staffing still remains strained especially for the para-professional staff.

### **SAU Re-organization**

The current organization of the SAU and TRSD administration was discussed. Dr. Farah reminded board members that the withdrawal committee had developed a list of positions for the new SAU. One of the first positions that was suggested to be filled was the TRSD business administrator. Dr. Cochrane, Dr. Farah, Mr. Martin (TRSD financial consultant), and Mrs. Karen Steele (community member and member of the withdrawal committee) interviewed candidates for the position. Board members discussed the need for a period of overlap for the new TRSD business administrator and how the transition would take place.

Dr. Cochrane indicated that per his list of annual goals he has begun having conversations about the administrative structure and function for 2021-2022. He also expects to look at some staffing metrics as part of that process. He also

discussed the current administrative structure with regards to evaluations.

Further discussion centered on the role of the deans in the current structure. New board members were apprised of the fact that there were 3 deans currently employed but that originally when the structure was put in place, there were 6 deans. The administration discussed the role of the deans and their current teaching load. Mr. Boyle discussed the old model using head teachers in place of deans. Dr. Cochrane will continue working on the new structure and provide a recommendation to the board in the next few weeks.

With no other business before the board, Chairman Farah adjourned the meeting at 8:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Farah  
TRSB Chair

Approved by the Board on November 5, 2020.