

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Special Board Meeting  
January 29, 2020  
7:00PM**

**Superintendent's Office  
30 Greenough Road  
Plaistow, NH**

**Call to Order**

Chairman O'Neil opened this January 29, 2020 Timberlane Regional School Board special meeting at 7:02pm with a moment of silence for the soldiers who put themselves in harm's way, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Members Present**

Brian Boyle, Kimberly Farah, Sheila Lowes, Sarah Machemer, Shawn O'Neil, Kristin Savage, Susan Sherman and Jennifer Silva. Absent: Lee Dubé

**Others Present**

Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools  
Kyle Duffy, Student Representative

CFO/Business Administrator Geoffrey Dowd  
TTA Vice President Coral Hampe

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Noting this was not a regular school board meeting where a student report was expected, Chairman O'Neil offered Student Representative Kyle Duffy an opportunity to speak. Mr. Duffy was thankful for the opportunity but had no prepared comments or reports.

**DEFAULT BUDGET**

Without objection from the board, Chairman O'Neil modified the order of the agenda and provided an overview of the reason for the need to re-address the default budget (litigation filed by Rob Collins, pleadings held at court on January 27<sup>th</sup>, the board's right to change the default budget up to the time of the printing of the ballots, and four budget lines being challenged). Board members were asked to opine on the matter:

Dr. Farah spoke to the legal filing being premature, that although she does not believe the removal of moneys from the four budget lines was erroneous as it relates to the statute, the board should concede so as to save voters the cost of further litigation. She noted the last time the matter was addressed in court it cost \$20k.

Mrs. Silva spoke to the whole issue being difficult, there being a need to clarify the statute as the board could also be challenged for developing a default budget that is too high.

Mrs. Sherman spoke to her desire to not see the legal line rise any further noting the email from the district's attorney was clear and concise about what the board needed to do.

Mr. Boyle spoke to his agreement to put the money back into the lines in question as there is more than adequate money in both (proposed and default) budgets to run the district. He noted that the board felt they were following the law as presented at a NHSBA training.

Ms. Lowes spoke to her position to make clear to the public that the lawsuit adds \$400k to the budget, taxing the taxpayer and keeping the money for one year as they (the district) will likely not even spend it.

Discussion ensued on the development of the default budget (discussions held at numerous meetings). Members reviewed the four 2900 budget lines as presented at the January 9<sup>th</sup> and revised at that same meeting and confirmed calculations with the Business Administrator.

**MOTION: Ms. Lowes motioned to add \$455,778 to the 2900 lines for a total default budget of \$72,620,557 in accordance with the January 9, 2020 budget line detail received by the board from the Business Administrator; seconded by Mrs. Savage. The motion passed 8-0-0.**

Discussion ensued on collecting board signatures for the amended default budget, the finalization of the warrant, the lack of notification given to board members by the chairman with regard to the court hearing date of January 27<sup>th</sup>, confirmation of receipt of the court order which is how board members found out about the hearing in the first place, and clarification made that the court did not direct this action (to revise the default budget).

### RENOMINATIONS – ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Metzler presented the renominations of District administrators noting that since the collective bargaining agreement negotiations is at status quo, he thought he could tackle the renominations list earlier in the season from the perspective of it being a housekeeping item; even though the majority of administrators are on 3-year contacts, renominations is still a requirement. He spoke to the elementary principal position at Danville and the search process undertaken in consultation with the Board Chair.

Discussion ensued on the retirement notification deadline (January 1 for eligibility for retirement incentive), and members’ request to go into nonpublic session.

### NONPUBLIC SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS

**MOTION: Dr. Farah motioned the board go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, paragraph II (c) matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; seconded by Mrs. Sherman.**

The board was polled:	Boyle – yes	Machemer – yes	Sherman – yes
	Farah – yes	O’Neil – yes	Silva – yes
	Lowes – yes	Savage – yes	

**The board entered nonpublic session at 7:27pm.**

**MOTION: Mrs. Savage motioned the board exit nonpublic session; seconded Mrs. Silva.**

The board was polled:	Boyle – yes	Machemer – yes	Sherman – yes
	Farah – yes	O’Neil – yes	Silva – yes
	Lowes – yes	Savage – yes	

**The board entered public session at 7:59pm.**

**MOTION: Mrs. Lowes motioned to seal the minutes based on the divulgence of the subject matter would likely affect adversely the reputation of someone other than a board member; seconded by Dr. Farah.**

The board was polled:	Boyle – yes	Machemer – yes	Sherman – yes
	Farah – yes	O’Neil – yes	Silva – yes
	Lowes – yes	Savage – yes	

**The motion to seal passed 8-0-0.**

Dr. Farah announced that the board chose to table the administrators’ renominations list because they wished to remain status quo and support the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations process. They will revisit the list in March.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOF

Discussion ensued on warrant article #6 regarding repairs to the middle school roof, the intent to repair/replace a portion of that roof for under \$500k, a recent quote of \$978k, citing roofing projects in the CIP with concern about the accuracy of those costs due to the date of original quotes, the condition set forth in the article (*should the operating budget fail*) and the ability to modify that condition on the deliberative session floor since the Budget Committee amended the proposed budget after the public hearing. Legal counsel is to be updated on a possible change to the wording of the article at deliberative.

### FACILITIES

Discussion ensued on project priorities, locker rooms at the high school and Title IV requirements, developing architectural plans and using surplus moneys for such (building, fields, and combine cost estimates), the need for

a five-year plan and vision for an architectural firm to develop plans, interviewing architects, waiting until after the March vote to begin planning, continuing to use surplus towards identified projects in the spring as planned, new parking spaces at the high school (paid by parking fees), and providing executive summaries for the February 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting (modular update with safety plan, science cabinet installation update) as well as a presentation update on the Compass program.

Chairman O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

The meeting video can be viewed by logging onto <https://vimeo.com/388226074>.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Belcher  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on March 5, 2020.