

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Special Emergency Board Meeting
January 26, 2017
7:30PM**

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

Call to Order

Chairman Bealo called this January 26, 2017 emergency meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:31pm and announced that Vice Chairman Kelly Ward would preside over the meeting. Vice Chair Ward announced this emergency meeting was called in order to finalize the district warrant by the January 30th deadline. He explained that at the last board meeting, the board tabled finalizing the warrant until their February 2nd board meeting which would have been too late to meet the posting deadline as mandated by statute. The roll was called followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present

Peter Bealo, Rob Collins, Dan Guide, Susan Sherman, Gregory Spero and Kelly Ward. Absent: Stefanie Dube, Donna Green and Jack Sapia.

Also present was Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Metzler.

Vice Chair Ward announced the board will need to decide whether or not to take recommendation action on the two citizen's petition articles on the warrant. He noted all other articles were addressed at their last meeting. He also advised the board that in the event either of the articles is amended on the deliberative session floor, they will not be able to place a recommendation for either on the ballot; law provides that only existing recommendations can be changed if the article is altered at deliberative.

MOTION: Mr. Guide motioned to not put recommendations on the two citizen's petitions (articles 7 and 8); seconded by Mr. Collins.

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of placing recommendations on the two articles. Pros included providing guidance to the voters, as well as having a sense of obligation to the voters who rely on the board's position on district matters. Cons included concern over how to clarify the recommendations as one of the articles was framed in such a way that a recommendation might mean something different than intended. Arguments were made for both with the overall final consensus to place recommendations on the articles and providing further clarification at the deliberative session.

Mr. Guide withdrew his motion and Mr. Collins withdrew his second.

MOTION: Mr. Guide motioned to place recommendations on the two citizen's petitions (articles 7 and 8); seconded by Mr. Collins. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Article 7 – Change Auditing Firms on Warrant Petition by Donna Green et al

In being subject to RSA 21-J:19, shall the Timberlane Regional School District be required to change auditing firms every four years or fewer, starting with the 2016-17 audit year, and that no auditor or firm be reappointed within eight years of their last appointment? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Discussion ensued on the citation of law quoted in the article in that the law does not compel or even suggest auditing firms be changed; it only states that if audits are conducted, they need to be conducted annually. Concern over changing auditors in the summer a new business administrator was hired was raised, as was micromanaging, the restrictiveness, and timeline constraints to comply with the article. The current auditor

rotates 16 staff members on an annual basis to ensure that fresh eyes are used during each audit. Also noted was the group rate and systematic order for auditing two school districts and the SAU that is currently practiced. Though no one was opposed to changing auditors as a matter of business, they were not in favor of changing beginning summer 2017 as indicated in the article.

Vice Chair Ward called a vote to not recommend Article 7. The vote was 6-0-0.

Article 8 – Vote of Confidence in Timberlane Regional School District Superintendent on Warrant Petition by Shawn O’Neil et al

Do the voters have confidence in Timberlane Superintendent, Dr. Earl Metzler?

Discussion ensued whereby each member expressed his/her confidence and support of the Superintendent noting the accomplishments in student achievement and improvements to the organization as a whole since his hiring. Concern was noted over the tone and negative intent of the article in that it does not move the district forward in any way and solves nothing.

Vice Chair Ward called a vote to recommend article 8 in that this recommendation would reflect the board’s confidence in the Superintendent. The vote was 6-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned to approve the warrant as finalized for deliberative session; seconded by Mrs. Sherman. The motion passed 6-0-0.
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Dr. Metzler corrected the record on the deadline to submit an intent to retire notice and be eligible for the retirement incentive as provide in the TTA collective bargaining agreement. The deadline for professional staff is January 1st although special considerations may be given by the board for extenuating circumstances.

MOTION: Mr. Guide motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Spero. The motion passed 6-0-0 and the meeting ended at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Belcher
Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Board February 2, 2017.