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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 OOL%20BOARD%20MEETING%20AGENDA%20MATERIALS%2f2015%2d16%2f10%2015%202015&FolderCTID=&View=%7b8B0F59BE%2dD93D%2d4E49%2d9509%2dA6F7531FCCAB%7d>*

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting
November 5, 2015
7:30 PM

Performing Arts Center
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order (00:00:04)

Dr. Metzler called this November 5, 2015 Timberlane Regional School Board meeting to order at 7:36pm with the roll call followed by a special video guest of 2015 Timberlane graduate Lucas Appleton leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Lucas recently completed basic training.

Board Members Present

Peter Bealo, Rick Blair, Rob Collins, Donna Green, Susan Sherman, Gregory Spero (8:05pm), Nancy Steenson, and Kelly Ward. Absent: Jack Sapia.

Administrators Present

Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools
George Stokinger, Business Administrator
The entire Timberlane Administrative staff

Timberlane Teachers Association

Lou Broad, President and Ryan Richman, Vice President

Delegates and Individuals (00:03:35)

Madam Chair Steenson announced that Student Representative Jordan DiTore was not able to attend the meeting; however, he did submit an update on high school initiatives and accomplishments to be shared with the board. They included the qualification of 14 musicians to the Jazz All States (the most of any school in the state), the recent Timberlane Players production of You Can't Take It With You; and the football team advancing to the finals.

Current Business

WAL-MART DONATION (00:04:49)

TRMS Principal Mike Hogan informed the board that Wal-Mart, through a random drawing process, selected the Timberlane Regional Middle School as recipient of a \$1,000 donation to be used to purchase items to help students. The donation is to be paid out in \$50 gift card increments. If allowed to accept, he will include students in the decision-making process of how the funds will be used and will incorporate wellness into the decision-making theme.

MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned to accept the \$1,000 donation from Wal-Mart; seconded by Mr. Ward. With no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0-0.

WARRANT ARTICLES (00:06:50)

Madam Chair Steenson provided an overview of the warrant article process whereby no action is expected this evening; just a review and explanation of the articles submitted by board members for consideration on the March ballot. Further consideration and action will take place at the November 19th work session scheduled to begin at 6:30pm.

Mr. Collins reviewed proposals numbered 1, 2 and 3 (relative to changes to the Articles of Agreement), and number 4 (regarding the lack of natural lighting in 19 classrooms at the middle school). Proposed changes to the Articles of Agreement centered on 1) incorporating kindergarten into the language as well as having it count as year one as referenced to the first five years of students attending their resident school, thus providing an option for grade 5 to be centrally located at the middle school; 2) modifying the way capital and operational funding is calculated by town; and 3) aligning Article 9 to reflect the changes proposed in the previous proposal regarding calculating the funding. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding proposal number 4 to address the lack of natural lighting at the middle school. Other lighting options were noted as were ventilation concerns and that further research (study) would be required to move forward. Several motions were made relevant to performing a study and costs, but all motions and seconds were withdrawn to allow clarity for a single motion.

MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned to obtain an estimate on the cost to perform a study on addressing the lack of natural lighting and ventilation in the 19 identified classrooms at the middle school; seconded by Mr. Ward. With no further discussion the motion passed 7-1-0 (Sherman opposed).

Mrs. Green then reviewed proposals numbered 5, 6 and 7 noting that if these items are not included in the 2016-17 budget, then they should be presented as warrant articles. These were facilities projects identified as 1) sprinkler system for Danville Elementary; 2) playground space for Sandown North; and 3) cistern at Sandown North. It was noted these items would be discussed under committee reports later in the meeting.

Mrs. Sherman reviewed proposal numbered 8 relative to providing a tuition free full day kindergarten program. She indicated she would like to see the board explore this option to determine the feasibility of placing it on the ballot. Discussion ensued and positions on the matter were expressed relating to costs vs. developmental appropriateness, concern that the program was originally presented as tuition based, as well as that the district having had two years of full day kindergarten under its belt and is ready to look into providing a tuition free program. Members noted that the state of New Hampshire was one of the last states in the country to implement a kindergarten program and that this has put New Hampshire children at a disadvantage. Dr. Metzler offered to reconvene the Kindergarten Committee to provide data relative to developmental appropriateness, benefits of full day vs. ½ day, challenges upon entering 1st grade, etc. He and Mr. Stokinger would provide the financial statistics of the program. This item will be placed on the November 19th agenda for further discussion.

Discussion continued on the timeframe to finalize articles (late January) for the warrant as well as drafting intent statements.

YMCA BEFORE CARE PROGRAM (01:13:25)

Mr. Rolph presented plans to begin a YMCA before school daycare program at Timberlane Learning Center at Sandown Central and introduced Tracy Fuller and Julie Grunder from the Plaistow Community YMCA to provide details. Ms. Fuller reported the YMCA has identified a need for a quality learning center program at Sandown Central that would provide breakfast, indoor and outdoor play, as well as science, math, and engineering opportunities. No family would be turned away for lack ability to pay; the YMCA is a private, non-profit organization that partners with other community organizations to improve and enhance opportunities for children and families. Mr. Rolph indicated the program would be housed in the school gymnasium and another designated room. Traffic flow has been addressed, and they need only to send out flyers to Sandown families to generate interest. Fielding questions from the board Ms. Fuller indicated the before care program is licensed by the state for up to 40 students and that the space at TLC@SN is being offered at no cost at this time as the program is designed to help members of the community. She noted 1/3 of all families associated with the Y are on some type of assistance; the before care program supports the community. Dr. Metzler informed the board the project does not require board approval, the presentation is being provided to keep the board informed of

the great partnership between the school district and the YMCA.

BUDGET UPDATE (01:26:08)

Madam Chair Steenson opened the presentation of the department budgets noting that all budget information has been provided to the board in advance and instruction was given that questions were to be submitted prior to this meeting so they could be incorporated into the update. Further questions shall be submitted to her after the meeting for appropriate response. Mr. Stokinger then provided an overview of each department's proposed operating budget for the 2016-17 school year noting the budget drivers for each. He indicated he was impressed with the two Sandown schools basically coming in with a flat budget despite their challenges with the recent consolidation. He stated the budget committee has only to receive presentations from the middle and high schools and the music and athletic departments. As of right now, the proposed budget is presenting at a reduction of \$430k. This does not include staffing or facilities projects.

Dr. Metzler then asked the board to weigh in on whether or not schools should fund playground projects through their operational or district capital budgets or continue to ask school PTSA's to fund them. Members discussed a plan to rotate playground projects through the CIP process thereby creating a fair way to address this important necessity. Dr. Metzler stated that despite their efforts to present a conservative budget, healthcare costs came back very high making it a challenge to keep the overall budget numbers low. He is looking at other opportunities to reorganize within the district that will provide further budget reductions.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (01:50:06)

Dr. Metzler requested the board reconsider a release from contract request whereby the condition on the release was to find a suitable replacement first. It was noted the staff member in question was leaving due to a promotion to another school district. Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion providing positions and rationale for removing the previous stipulation as well as holding firm to their previous decision. Removing the previous stipulation would also require the board to transfer up to \$90k to the Special Education operational budget to cover the cost of securing a contracted service to provided necessary student services.

MOTION: Mr. Ward motioned to release the staff member and move money for the contracted services that are needed; seconded by Mrs. Sherman.

Discussion continued with arguments made that the needs of the students supersede staff members' promotions as well as being philosophically opposed to holding individuals back from advancement.

MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned to amend the motion to move up to \$90k to fund the contracted position needed; seconded by Mr. Ward. With no further discussion the motion to amend passed 6-2-0 (Bealo and Green opposed).

With no further discussion, the motion now amended passed 6-2-0 (Bealo and Green opposed).

PERSONNEL REPORT (02:15:40)

Dr. Metzler recommended the board approved a one year leave of absence request by Leeanne Hatch.

MOTION: Mrs. Sherman motioned to approve the one year leave of absence request of Leeanne Hatch; seconded by Mr. Collins.

Discussion: It was noted that an approved leave of absence holds the position for one year with no loss of seniority.

With no further discussion the motion passed 8-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (02:18:10)

Madam Chair Steenson opened the committee reports segment of the meeting noting her concerns about lack of school board representation at some of the Board/SLT committee meetings. She questioned whether or not 1) board members should step back from this committee work; 2) the policy defining the requirement that two board members be present to conduct a meeting be amended; or 3) have members rethink the committees on which they are serving. Members opined on these options as well as holding a single committees' meeting night once a month, producing committee meeting schedules in advance, assigning alternate members, and asking board members to recommit to their committee responsibilities. Further discussion on this topic will be taken up at the next board meeting.

Facilities Committee Update: Madam Chair Steenson presented the facilities projects list for board consideration in moving projects ahead to the 2016-17 proposed budget and then on to the Budget Committee. Projects not approved for the budget may be forwarded for warrant article consideration. Discussion focused on several specific projects related to generators at the high school and PAC as well as brickwork and flashing, and fire suppression.

MOTION: Mrs. Sherman motioned to continue the meeting past the agreed upon fast stop of 10:30pm to 11:30pm; seconded by Mr. Collins. With no further discussion, the motion failed 3-5-0 (Ward, Sherman and Blair in favor).

MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned to continue the meeting past the agreed upon fast stop of 10:30pm to 11:00pm; seconded by Mr. Bealo. With no further discussion, the motion passed 7-1-0 (Sherman opposed).

MOTION: Mr. Ward motioned to not move any of the facilities projects to warrant thus keeping them in the proposed budget and moving them forward to the Budget Committee; seconded by Mr. Blair.

Discussion: Positions were made that it was premature to move items to warrant when the board hasn't even seen the entire budget. Mr. Stokinger stated he would need facilities projects information prior to the November 24th Budget Committee meeting. Madam Chair Steenson moved the question.

For clarification, the motion on the floor shall reflect a facilities and site budget total of \$1,981,800 that will be moved forward to the November 24th Budget Committee meeting. This reflects moving line #47 (\$62k AC in HS computer lab) to CIP, removing line #58 (\$20k for AC in second HS computer lab), and moving line #28 (\$98k HS air handlers) to CIP.

The motion passed 6-2-0 (Green and Spero opposed).

CIP Committee Update: Mrs. Sherman stated the CIP Committee has finalized their documents (adopted October 28, 2015) and has presented them to the SLT, Facilities Committee and the School Board. She is now looking for board approval on the final version of all three documents (CIP text, CIP request form, CIP spreadsheet).

MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned to approve all three CIP documents as presented; seconded by Mr. Ward. With no further discussion, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Clarification was provided relative to the CIP Committee's role moving forward in that it is not a steering committee to propose capital projects; but will review and make recommendation to the school board for project placements within the CIP. CIP training will be the responsibility of the business department. Dr. Metzler also noted that advisory committee recommendations to the superintendent will also be reviewed by the appropriate parties before approval or denial is granted; advisory committees will not be dictating to other committees.

SWFSC Update: Mr. Collins reported the majority report has been submitted to the State Board of Education and the committee is now waiting to hear back as to whether or not they need to present at hearing. Regarding the \$30k authorized by the board to determine the actual buyout cost, the consultant who validated the preliminary number (2002 - present calculation) is no longer responding to requests for calculations back to 1965. Options are to secure another consultant, hold off for the time being, or not spend the money at all and just use the preliminary number.

MOTION: Mr. Blair motioned to discontinue action on researching the buyout number thus not spending the \$30k allotted; seconded by Mr. Spero. With no further discussion, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Committee Goals: Mr. Bealo announced the Policy Committee updated their goals for the 2015-16 school year. Mrs. Sherman indicated the Wellness Committee has also updated their goals. Committee chairs were instructed to submit their goals to the SAU for online posting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (03:19:34)

Board members expressed some concern over a motion in the October 15th board meeting minutes and discussed deferring their approval until the next meeting so they could watch the Vimeo.

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to defer the October 15, 2015 Board meeting minutes to the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Blair. With no further discussion, the motion passed 8-0-0.

With no other business before the board, Madam Chair Steenson adjourned the meeting at 10:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Belcher
Recording Clerk

Approved by the School Board on November 19, 2015.