

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Work Session  
December 14, 2015  
6:30 PM**

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

**Board Members Present**

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

**Administrators Present**

Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools

The board met from 7:00pm-9:25pm for a work session to review proposed warrant articles for the 2016 district warrant.

**ARTICLE 6**

The board reviewed proposed article 6 regarding the Danville Elementary School sprinkler system and its funding options which included using monies from the capital reserve fund as well as through taxation. It was noted that the voters are expecting the \$250k that was added to the 2015-16 budget at last year's deliberative session to be spent on this sprinkler system. The article was modified as follows and will be subject to legal counsel and DRA review.

**Article 6 – Danville Elementary Sprinkler System**

Shall the voters of the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to \$450,000 for the installation of a fire suppression sprinkler system in the Danville Elementary School. \$250,000 would come from the 2015/2016 budget. The additional \$450,000 would be raised and appropriated from taxes. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Total Project Cost: \$700,000  
Amount to be expended from 2015/2016: - \$250,000  
Amount to be raised by taxation in 2016/2017: \$450,000

[Intent: To install a new fire suppression system (FSS) at Danville Elementary School. All of our schools have FSS, some of our schools only have FSS in the boiler rooms. The schools in Sandown and Danville have ONLY FSS in the boiler room. The \$450,000 requested this year will be combined with the \$250,000 previously raised and appropriated from the '15-'16 budget for a total project cost of \$700,000.

According to the National Fire Protection Association "In educational properties, direct property damage per reported fire was 62% lower when wet pipe sprinklers were present, compared to fires with no automatic extinguishing equipment present. " AND "93% of fires in these properties were confined to the room of origin" AND "Over half of the structure fires in these properties (53%) occurred between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m."

A sprinkler system mitigates property damage until the Fire Department arrives.]

**ARTICLE 3**

Mr. Collins presented two versions of the capital reserve fund article for review. One was the typical language and the second was modified to reflect surplus from equalized property value monies which would align the

process with the provisions of the Articles of Agreement. The board discussed option number two and by consensus was in agreement of its intent.

**MOTION: Mr. Collins motioned the article be set \$250k as the amount to raise and appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Sherman. Mr. Collins called the question. With no further discussion, the motion passed 5-2-0 (Green and Sapia opposed).**

The article was modified as follows and will be subject to legal counsel and DRA review. Mr. Collins will draft an intent statement for review at the December 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**Article 3 – Capital Reserve Fund Board**

Shall the voters of the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to \$250,000 to be placed in the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund established in 1996, with such amount to be transferred ONLY from accounts with funds raised through equalized property value, as defined in the Articles of Agreement, available for transfer on July 1 of this year? No amount to be raised by taxation. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

**ARTICLE 7**

Mr. Collins reviewed the proposed article relative to addressing the lack of natural lighting at the middle school. He indicated he took the liberty of increasing the amount to raise and appropriate to \$40k so as to include addressing the ventilation as part of the study. Concern was noted about the lack of CIP/committee review process for this article.

**MOTION: Mr. Sapia motioned to remove this article from the warrant; seconded by Mrs. Sherman.**

Discussion ensued on the process for promoting facility improvements through the Facilities Committee as well as the article’s original intent which is to get an indication from the citizens about their wishes to improve the school in its current condition or not.

**With no further discussion, the motion failed 1-5-1 (Sapia in favor and Sherman abstained).**

**MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to reduce the amount in the article to \$30k; seconded by Mrs. Sherman. With no further discussion, the motion passed 6-0-1 (Sapia abstained).**

The article was modified as follows and will be subject to legal counsel and DRA review.

**Article 7 – Middle School Renovation Study**

Shall the voters of the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate \$30,000 to be used to study improvements to the educational experience of the students utilizing the 19 classrooms at Timberlane Regional Middle School that currently have no windows or skylights. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

[Intent: These 19 classrooms make up one third of all the classrooms at TRMS. All of our 6th and 7th grade students spend time in these classrooms that do not provide any light from the sun. Studies have shown significant improvement in student achievement when attending school in classrooms with sunlight. This money would be utilized to study available options to improve the experience of the students utilizing these classrooms.]

**ARTICLE 8**

This article concerning the installation of a sprinkler system at Sandown North prompted many questions about

the project as well as the timing necessary to investigate its costs and potential installation phases. More information would be needed to further consider placing this article on the warrant. This item will be discussed at the December 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING PREPARATION**

Dr. Metzler inquired about the board’s preferences for the format and presentation of the warrant at the upcoming public hearing on the budget (January 14<sup>th</sup>). Clarification on the presentation of the warrant as well as the practice for recommendations on each article will be obtained from district counsel. In the meantime, board members were assigned specific portions of the warrant to read aloud at the public hearing and deliberative session. PowerPoint slides will be forwarded to appropriate board members for input and the presentation will be available at the January 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting for board review.

This work session ended at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Belcher  
Recording Clerk

Approved by the School Board on January 7, 2016.