

Timberlane Regional School Board

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown
New Hampshire

Minutes of the Deliberative Session

February 09, 2012

Call to Order

At the Timberlane Performing Arts Center, Moderator Steven Ranlett called the February 09, 2012 Deliberative Session to order at 7:01 PM. He then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Ranlett asked the members of the School Board and Budget Committee to introduce themselves.

Budget Committee Members in attendance: Michelle O'Neil (Chair), Catherine Rochford (Vice Chair), Heidi Chaput, Cathy Lisi, Gregory Spero. Absent: Michele Conte, Tricia Holt

School Board Members in attendance: Lori Aubrey (Chair), Lisa Withee (Vice Chair), Peter Bealo, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, Louis Porcelli, Nancy Steenson. Absent: William Baldwin, Robert Collins

Others present: Richard LaSalle (Superintendent of Schools), Winfried Feneberg (Assistant Superintendent), George Stokinger (Business Administrator), Gordon Graham (District Legal Counsel)

Moderator Ranlett read the following list of non-voters that may speak or present information at the Deliberative Session.

Richard LaSalle	Superintendent of Schools
George Stokinger	Business Administrator
Gordon Graham	District Legal Counsel
Kelli Killen	Director of Elementary Education
Scott Strainge	Director of Secondary Education
Roxanne Wilson	Director of Pupil Personnel
Beth Rincon	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel
Nancy Danahy	Director of Human Resources
Michelle Gaydos	Principal - Pollard
Douglas Rolph	Principal - Sandown Central
Michael Hogan	Principal - Timberlane Regional Middle School
John Holland	Director of Technology
Tony DiBartolomeo	Director of Music
Jim Hughes	Director of Facilities
Linda Heuer	Technology Coordinator
Renzo Binaghi	Assistant Principal - Evening Division

On a motion by Michelle O'Neil, seconded by Michael Mascola

- **Voted:** To accept the non-resident list as stated above.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

Moderator Ranlett made the following announcements:

- Deliberative Session information is posted on the District website
- The School Board and Budget Committee will meet separately following the Deliberative Session
- The March 1, 2012 School Board meeting is cancelled

He also stated that Roberts Rules of Order would be followed, and asked that anyone who speaks state their name and town and spell their last names.

Review of the proposed Warrant and 2012-2013 Budget

Article One – Election of Officers

Moderator Ranlett outlined the Election of Officers that will be voted on March 13, 2012.

Atkinson Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term

Atkinson Voters	Budget Committee Member	2-Year Term
Atkinson Voters	Budget Committee Member	3-Year Term
Danville Voters	Budget Committee Member	2-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	Budget Committee Member	1-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	Budget Committee Member	2-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	Budget Committee Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	Budget Committee Member	3-Year Term

Article 2 – High School Physical Education/Athletic Locker Rooms, Team Rooms and Mini Gym Renovation and Reconstruction Project/5-Year Bond

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,800,000** for the *renovation and reconstruction of the Timberlane Regional High School Physical Education/Athletic Locker Rooms, Team Rooms and Mini Gym* and to authorize the issuance of not more than **\$4,800,000** of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the District to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to further raise and appropriate an additional sum of **\$82,000** for the first year's interest payment on the bond? (3/5 MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0

A motion by Michelle O'Neill, seconded by Elizabeth Kosta, to place Article Two on the floor for discussion.

Superintendent LaSalle gave a power point presentation on Article 2. Resident Todd Barbera of Atkinson noted that it was his third time seeing the presentation, and questioned why capital reserve funds were not being expended on the project. Superintendent LaSalle responded that the capital reserve funds had already been expended and that it was felt that at this time the capital reserve fund should be replenished. Mr. Barbera queried the difference between the interest rate on the bond vs. the rate of return on the capital reserve funds. He expressed concern that the facility in question was being deemed "end of life". Superintendent LaSalle

responded that in recent years there has been a greater focus on building maintenance and that overall the District buildings were in good repair. He said that in some instances however, small repairs could not be made because it would trigger more upgrades to be building code compliant. Mr. Barbera questioned how it could be ensured that the work being done will be of better quality so that the same situation does not re-occur.

Representative Debra DeSimone of Atkinson expressed concern about presenting a bond for renovations in the current economy. Superintendent LaSalle stated that the renovations had been put off for a long time and that the High School athletic facility is substandard when compared to other local school districts. Representative DiSimone stated that she will not support the renovation.

Resident Donna Green of Sandown asked what the student enrollment is projected to be over the next ten years. Superintendent LaSalle responded that the projected enrollment is a 400 student drop over ten years. He stated that the enrollment is tied to the economy because the current students age out but families are not purchasing homes and moving into the District towns. Ms. Green questioned the logic of building a new High or Middle School if the population is dropping. Superintendent LaSalle responded that the issues for building new schools are qualitative, not quantitative. Ms. Green questioned why the focus is on this particular area instead of on core academic areas. Superintendent responded that there have been upgrades done to the Science labs. Ms. Green asked what other medium sized projects could be put forward to the voters. Superintendent LaSalle noted that the recombining of Sandown Central/Sandown North had already been put forward. He also noted that steps were being taken to reduce the costs of a future conversion of the High School to a Middle School. Ms. Green asked for specifics on that conversion and Superintendent LaSalle referred to the power point presentation he made earlier. Ms. Green asked for projected costs, and Superintendent LaSalle estimated the cost to be approximately the same as the amount of Article Two. Ms. Green then asked if the District has sufficient staff for a weight training room and dance facility. Superintendent LaSalle responded in the affirmative.

Resident Eric Kimball of Atkinson asked if the project would qualify for state aid once the moratorium on state aid was lifted. Superintendent LaSalle stated that under the old rules the project would need to be 25% of the building value to qualify and that this project would not qualify under that rule. Resident Kimball stated that in view of low NECAP scores he does not support putting resources into this project.

School Board member Michael Mascola of Atkinson stated that the future status of the economy cannot be predicted, so the District should take advantage of low interest rates while it can. He stated that all students are required to take two semesters of Health Education and Article Two does not affect just students involved in athletic sports.

Resident Ralph Millard of Sandown stated that he felt the District should have a maintenance plan in place to prevent buildings from getting in such bad condition. Superintendent LaSalle stated that over the past seven years the improvements in District maintenance has been remarkable.

Budget Committee member Cathy Lisi of Sandown informed the audience when public tours of the facilities are scheduled.

Resident Dave Hammond of Atkinson suggested that money could be found to fund the renovations by making cuts in the budget.

There being no further discussion the Moderator directed Article Two be placed on the ballot as written.

A motion by Michelle O'Neil to restrict reconsideration of Article Two, seconded by Michael Mascola. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article 3 – Operating Budget

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$62,821,817**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$62,568,852** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Timberlane Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: Warrant Article 3 (the operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0

A motion by Elizabeth Kosta, seconded by Catherine Rochford, to place Article Three on the floor for discussion.

Michelle O'Neil presented the proposed operating budget that voters will consider in March.

Resident Donna Green of Sandown asked for clarification that the teachers will be getting no raise, but that SAU administration will be receiving a raise. Michelle O'Neil explained that the SAU salaries are set by the SAU board which is comprised of representatives from both the Hampstead and Timberlane school boards. Superintendent LaSalle responded that the teacher salaries are negotiated through the collective bargaining process and that there was no raise negotiated.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator directed Article Three be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 4 – Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to **\$200,000** 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 from the June 30, 2012 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

(The funds for this article come from the 2011-2012 school budget surplus, not from additional taxes.)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0

A motion by Peter Bealo, seconded by Elizabeth Kosta, to place Article Four on the floor for discussion.

George Stokinger stated that the current balance in the capital reserve fund is \$203,000.

The Moderator solicited questions or comments, having none he directed Article Four be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 5 – Collective Bargaining Agreement (Timberlane Teachers’ Association)

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District approve the cost items included in a one-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Timberlane Teachers’ Association and the Timberlane Regional School Board which calls for a \$0 increase in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels

Year 2012-2013 \$0 estimated increase

and to further raise and appropriate no funds for the upcoming fiscal year such sum representing the fact that there are \$0 in additional costs attributable to increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in the current fiscal year? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 8-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0

A motion by Elizabeth Kosta, seconded by Nancy Steenson, to place Article Five on the floor for discussion.

The Moderator solicited questions or comments, having none he directed Article Five be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 6 - Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District, if Article 5 is defeated, authorize the Timberlane Regional School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 5 cost items only?

(Without this Article the District would have to petition Superior Court for a Special School District Meeting. This saves the District the expense of attorney fees and court costs).

Recommended by the School Board 8-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0

A motion by Catherine Rochford, seconded by Lisa Withee, to place Article Six on the floor for discussion.

The Moderator solicited questions or comments, having none he directed Article Six be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 7 – General Acceptance of Reports

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District accept reports of agents, auditors, and committees as written in the 2011 Annual Report? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

A motion by Elizabeth Kosta, seconded by Michelle O’Neil, to place Article Seven on the floor for discussion.

The Moderator solicited questions or comments, having none he directed Article Seven be placed on the ballot as written.

Michelle O'Neil thanked members of the Budget Committee for their service and listed the Budget Committee vacancies. She explained that if no one runs, and no one accepts a write-in vote, anyone who would like to fill a position may submit a letter of interest after the vote to the SAU.

Michael Mascola of Atkinson thanked Michelle O'Neil for her service.

Having no other business to present Moderator Ranlett adjourned the Deliberative Session at 8:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorna Walker
District Clerk